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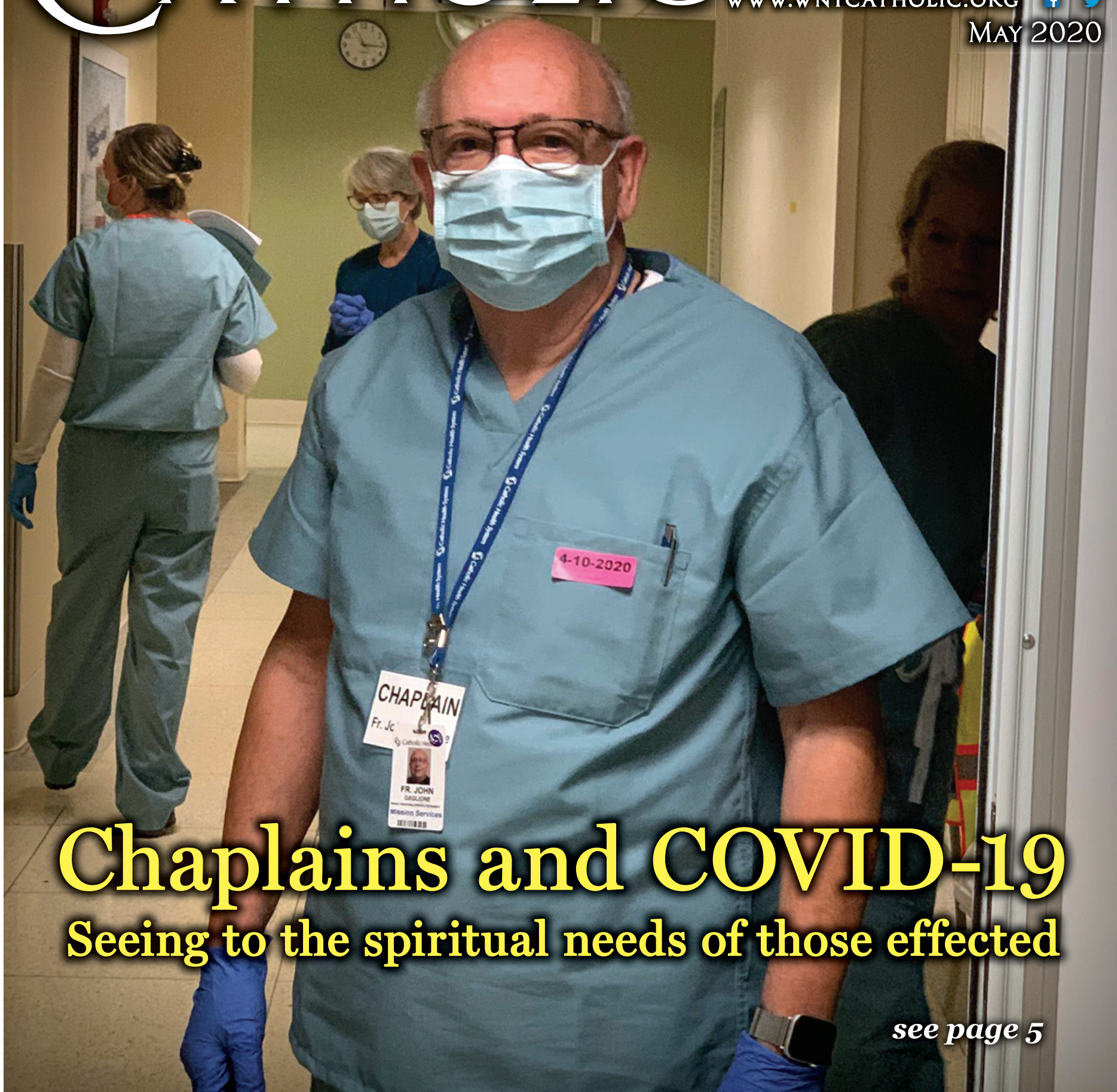
Catholic Charities
adapts services

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MAY 2020



Chaplains and COVID-19

Seeing to the spiritual needs of those effected

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God is with us

BY MIKE MATVEY
STAFF WRITER
THE EVANGELIST

In a wide-ranging interview with The Evangelist, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger said during the coronavirus pandemic it is critical to remember, “that God is with us in everything we are going through.”

Bishop Scharfenberger touched on a variety of subjects including his decision to suspend Masses, the impact of social media particularly through livestreamed Masses, as well as when public worship would return, but the idea of “Letting go and Letting God,” as Bishop so often says, was a paramount thought.

“Allow the feeling of longing and the feeling of separation to stir up in our hearts the desire to come closer to the Lord and one another in every way we can,” said Bishop Scharfenberger during this period of isolation and social distancing. “Allow it to stimulate in us that real part of our humanity that teaches us that we are more than individuals, that we are connected to one another and that we do need to maintain relationships. ...

“... and thank God for the opportunities that we do have to make those connections and to increase the ways that we can maintain those relationships ... through the sacramental life of the church. It increases in us a deep sense that we truly need those connections.”

An area that causes the Bishop some pause are people who don’t have those connections at the moment.

“One of the things that I am conscious of is that a lot of people are getting support from their families and they do have that blessing. But I am also concerned about people for whom family is not a comfort zone,” he said. “What I am encouraging people to do is be conscious of people that you know who may not have family stability, or may be alone and reach out to them the best you can.

“Social distancing doesn’t have to mean social isolation. Many parishes, for example, I know have arranged phone call trees; people who may be in hospitals or homes, they are reaching out to them by phone and that is a wonderful thing. ... Keeping those phone calls and texts

going, any form of contact you can make to overcome the isolation. That is one of the biggest fears, ‘Will I be alone?’ Keep those connections going.”

As to when the faithful of the dioceses of Albany and Buffalo could make those connections in a public way, in a church, Bishop Scharfenberger could only speculate on how the process might look. President Donald Trump has floated different dates; first April 12 and now May 1 is being bandied about. The governors of seven states — New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware — have formed a multi-state council that will implement how the states will gradually reopen. On April 16, Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended the New York State on PAUSE guidelines until May 15, which means all social-distancing rules must be followed at least until then. So as for a specific date on public Masses, it’s anyone’s guess.

“We are probably going to end up doing what seems to be likely across the nation in terms of opening up the country, opening up the state. I think it’s going to be phased in different ways, it may happen in some areas more than others,” Bishop said. “Obviously, people that live in large concentrations, in urban areas, are going to have to be more careful about how that is done.

“I don’t know if that is something that will be done by the snap of a finger, on one particular date. I imagine what we will see, and this is just my speculation, the numbers that can gather right now is 10 in New York State. At some point there will be relaxation of those rules, it may go back to 50, may go back to 100 and as those numbers change, that would also affect our ability to gather.”

He was also pragmatic about suspending public Masses in the dioceses of Albany and Buffalo on March 16; there are 126 parishes in Albany, with about 1 million Catholics combined in both dioceses. Some of the faithful didn’t agree with the decision, but one Erie County executive said the prompt action “saved lives.

“We have to do what is best for the common good, for the greater community. At this point, we are trying to get (the pandemic) under some sort of control as best as we can,” Bishop said. “And so far the regulations that I have

seen have been reasonable in order to get ahead of this curve. So I have been encouraging parishes to do this, to abide by what the regulations are.

“We have been fortunate in Buffalo and Albany not to have to close churches themselves. So people can go to churches, pay visits. So far as we know everybody has been respectful of the rules up to this point. I am very conscious of the real pain that people are feeling from the separation from the Eucharist ... It’s very difficult from an emotional point of view. I had one priest tell me that he weeps every time he celebrates Mass because we are celebrating Mass alone.

“Every time we are at Mass, even if we are blessed to have people as we want it to be, we are linked with the communion of Saints. The same people beholding God in the face are the same people linked to us in the Eucharist. We are always conscious of this communion that is beyond our physical ability to connect. I would also say making spiritual communion is a very strong foundation that is supported by saints and spiritual guides throughout the course of Catholic history.”

One way the Diocese has filled that void is through livestreaming of Masses; 31 parishes in the Diocese of Albany now use Facebook or YouTube to stream Masses on Sunday and during the week to the homes of the faithful. And the Diocese of Albany website (rcda.org) was cited by “America Magazine” as a go-to source for information during the coronavirus. It is no stretch to say that social media platforms have kept the faith alive for many; and will continue to be part of a new diocesan evangelization tool even when things get back to some sense of normal.

“We are all becoming experts in all these online means of communicating, and I think that we are learning,” Bishop Scharfenberger said. “One of the great benefits of this is that it helps to involve the family even more because parents can actually be at home with their children learning along with them. And I see this as something that is doable and very beneficial; creating the links among students and schools and families and strengthening them through the use of this media is a positive thing that we’ll continue to build on.”

Bishop Scharfenberger celebrated

his first Facebook Live Mass on March 30 at Our Lady of Victory parish in Troy. Masses for Holy Week and Easter at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany were livestreamed to YouTube and the diocesan website. The connections Bishop talks about that people make during public worship he experienced, surprisingly, online.

"I found that the quiet of the church and being able to connect with God and those who were viewing was a real sense, I felt, of connection. It was unexpected," he said. "And hearing from people who were on the other side of the camera livestreaming, I can't tell you how many people I have heard from, who said they really felt a sense of connection, so there was something going on there that was more than just watching."

And does he think these virtual connections can lead people back into the physical church?

"That is really possible and I have heard from some people who have been survivors of sexual abuse and different forms of pains and traumas ... that this is an ability to connect with the Church in a way that is less traumatic for them, is safer, and they have actually felt a sense of gratitude that they have been able to connect in this way. It's hard to say, but people have been connecting online. If they feel a little more connected, they may be more inclined to say, 'When we can get back together, I'll join in again.'"

As for people, longing to get out of the house and return to Mass, that time will

come.

"Jesus unquestionably wanted us to build his Church on the apostles and continue the celebration of the gift of himself on Calvary through the Mass. The Holy Spirit stimulates this hunger in us to have an intimate relationship with the Lord. It begins in our Baptism. All of us have an intimate relationship with God if we remain in the state of grace. So that's a real presence. The desire to express this with one another is a big part of our humanity."

"So people may be feeling, even though they may be home with their families, there is definitely a sense that, 'I gotta get out of the house,' 'I've got to be with my friends.' People want to go to work; people want to celebrate together. I think the urge, the hunger to celebrate in community with other people of faith is very strong and when we can do this again, I think it will definitely be something that people will want to do. I don't think anybody is going to say that I am happy just to be home with my family doing everything online."

As for any final thoughts?

"I continue to pray for everybody every day," Bishop added, "and, as I celebrate Mass every day, I include the intentions of all of those good people in our dioceses, whatever they are going through, that God will give them the healing, the strength and the courage and the persistence in trusting and not losing hope. Don't get discouraged. That is the most diabolical of all temptations."

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~ Bishop Scharfenberger

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ON THE COVER

Father John Gaglione serves as chaplain to patients, families and staff at St. Joseph Campus COVID-19 treatment facility.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 11, 2020 for the June issue.

Catholic Health responds to combat the COVID-19 crisis

Catholic Health is working to combat COVID-19 in Western New York.

"The Coronavirus pandemic is a completely unprecedented public health crisis that has created a number of unique challenges for health care systems globally, including ours," read a statement from Catholic Health. "Catholic Health's ongoing response to COVID-19 reflects the organization's top priorities during this time, as well as the need to care for our patients, associates and community."

Catholic Health has converted the St. Joseph Campus of Sisters of Charity Hospital into the first dedicated COVID-19 treatment facility. The first patients were admitted into the Cheektowaga facility on March 26.

The site, which is now known as the Catholic Health COVID-19 Treatment Facility at St. Joseph Campus, closed its Emergency Department March 26 and discharged or transferred all remaining patients that week. Services at Sisters of Charity Hospital's Main Street Campus are not affected by this change.

As the first dedicated COVID-19 treatment facility in New York state, the 120-bed inpatient center is equipped to offer acute medical and critical care services. Critical care services are being incrementally phased in over the following week.

Marty Boryszak, senior vice president of Acute Care Service at Catholic Health, is leading the health system's overall COVID-19 incident response. Retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, RN, Catholic Health's chief integration officer, was selected to lead the transition team at St. Joseph Campus and will continue to provide executive oversight of the facility.

"Turning an acute care community hospital into a COVID-19 treatment facility is not just a matter of flipping a switch," said Mark A. Sullivan, president and CEO of Catholic Health. "What we were able to accomplish in just one week was truly an amazing feat thanks to Marty and Rebecca's leadership, the tireless efforts of hundreds of people throughout our system, and the selfless management team at St. Joseph Campus."

Along with other proactive measures Catholic Health has taken to respond to the escalating COVID-19 crisis, Sullivan first announced plans for the St. Joseph Campus on March 19. Lauded by government and community leaders as a bold initiative in the wake of growing health concerns, the plan was designed to alleviate pressure on the system's other hospitals, while responding to Governor Cuomo's call to increase bed capacity throughout the state. St. Joseph Campus' central location in Erie County and flexibility to phase in services and critical care beds, made it the ideal fit



PATRICK MCPARTLAND / MANAGING EDITOR

Kenmore Mercy Hospital staff cheer as a convoy of first responders from the Town of Tonawanda Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services honor the healthcare workers at Kenmore Mercy. With lights flashing and sirens sounding the convoy procession moved through the rear parking lot as a sign of gratitude for those keeping the community safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

to provide this specialized care.

"We were charged by the governor and our county executive to come up with creative solutions to deal with the crisis before us," Sullivan explained. "Creating a central location to care for COVID-19 patients allows us to pool our resources to provide the very best care, while protecting the safety of our caregivers and community in a carefully structured environment."

More than a dozen teams, with designated leaders from Sisters Hospital and throughout Catholic Health, were created to coordinate everything from infection control, staff education and logistics, to building operations, patient care services, and information technology.

"A major focus of our planning efforts has been on ensuring the safety of our care team," Sullivan said. "This means equipping them with the PPE (personal protective equipment), specialized training and ongoing support they need to protect their health, so they can provide our patients with the highest quality care."

Initially, the facility will be staffed by nurses and clinicians from St. Joseph Campus and critical care physicians and specialty providers from throughout Catholic Health. "We had more than 900 associates and medical providers from across our system and 200 community providers

step forward to work at our COVID-19 Treatment Facility," Sullivan said. "Having that kind of bench strength will ensure we are able to staff this facility for as long as it takes."

The St. Joseph Campus site is a "direct admit" COVID-19 Treatment Facility, not a walk-in care facility. That means patients who meet the facility's admissions criteria, and have an approved physician's order, will be admitted directly from other Catholic Health facilities.

Continuing to build on its "COVID-19 Continuum" Catholic Health partnered with the McGuire Group to reopen the former AbsolutCare Nursing Home in Orchard Park and convert it into a dedicated COVID-19 continuing care facility. Working closely in partnership with the New York State Department of Health, Catholic Health received plan approval in less than 24 hours, paving the way for Catholic Health to open the St. Joseph Post-Acute Center at 4659 Duerr Road on April 14.

The first facility of its kind in Western New York, the center will offer short-term rehabilitation and skilled nursing care for COVID-19 patients who are discharged from Catholic Health hospitals but unable to return safely home or to other community based living facilities.

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Chaplains find ways to bridge gap caused by quarantine

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**
STAFF REPORTER

At the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic are the doctors and nurses, treating patients with their medical expertise. But there is another person on the front lines: the chaplain. When all the doctors can do is not enough, it is a chaplain who comes to ease the patient.

Father Richard Augustyn and Father John Gaglione are two of those hospital chaplains. Father Augustyn has served as director of Pastoral Care at Buffalo General Hospital for his entire 43-year ministry. Father Gaglione is Director of Pastoral Care and heads up the pastoral team of five chaplains at the St. Joseph Campus COVID-19 treatment facility. In the past month their ministry to care for the spiritual needs of patients and offering emotional support to families has not changed, but the way they carry it out is now very different.

Serving in a hospital, administering the last rites is a big part of their work. "Every effort is made through social media, to try and give them (the families) an opportunity to connect in some way," Father Gaglione said. Now, they must offer these prayers and ministries in a sterile environment.

"Whenever I go into a COVID room, the nurses gown me up for protection," Father Augustyn explained. "I don't take anything into the room but myself. I put the holy oil on my glove and I have the prayer memorized. I've been doing this for 43 years now. I didn't realize I had them that as committed to memory as I do."

If the patient is alert he introduces himself and explains why he's there. To maintain the dignity of the patient, he asks if they are comfortable with the rites. So far, no one has refused him. To keep the patient's family involved, Father Augustyn uses his Facetime or Skype to create a digital connection among family members.

"Because (families) can't come in, I use my cellphone. I can put my cellphone in a biohazard bag and



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Buffalo General Medical Center Chaplain Father Richard Augustyn is bridging the gap for COVID patients who cannot be with their loved ones in their final hours.

I can Skype with the family as I do the prayers with the phone in one hand and doing the anointing with the other hand. It gives them a sense of connection as best we can do in a very difficult situation," Father Augustyn said. "After I'm finished with the prayers, I just allow them to be with their loved one, talking through the phone, giving the phone to the patient. Even if they're not alert, we believe one of the last senses to go is our ability to hear. So, I tell them to talk to their loved one. Tell them that they love him or her. So, that is really the new side of ministering to patients with this COVID disease."

Father Augustyn said he really doesn't like cellphones in general. He still has a beeper attached to his belt. But, he has learned to adapt as one must in these situations.

Father Augustyn said being able to see loved one last time offers peace.

"There's a lot of emotion. There's a sense of relief. A sense of peace for the folks who have seen their loved ones in a dying situation where they have not been able to be in the room, it's really a way of getting

closure for them. At this point in the grieving process ... I think we as a healthcare facility have to say for their protection, for our protection you can't come in. So this is a very gentle way of bridging that gap and at least allowing them to see their loved one. And for the last time they will see them alive."

"One of our roles is unfortunately when a patient dies is to talk to the family to offer our consolation and see if there is anything we can do," Father Gaglione said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shocked citizens around the world. Entire countries have been told to stay at home and avoid interacting with large groups. Even churches have halted public Masses. People who do leave their homes are required to wear masks and are encouraged to wash their hands frequently to avoid spreading the coronavirus, which causes respiratory illness.

"I compare it to what happened when the AIDS epidemic hit, because it was the same sense of being sterile," Father Augustyn said. "The thing that is the same is the need and desire for human contact. Folks

desire to have God between the context of their illness and for their family members to be a part of that. That hasn't changed. That's still the same. What's radically different is how it's delivered. For an old man using modern technology, it can be a stretch sometimes. But I do see the rewards. I do see the gift in brings in terms of God's presence in a very difficult situation to families who are normally together and cannot be together. That human touch is still the primary concern."

When he is not ministering to patients Father Gaglione is working with the staff in difficult situations. "It's a ministry of presence to them," Father Gaglione said. "To be around for them, to know that we're there if they just want to talk or have a prayer."

At Buffalo General, Father Augustyn tries to hold everyone together in these unsure times.

"My office is on the first floor, which is a gift. The nurses and the docs and everyone have to pass my doors to come in and go home. I have an open door policy, which I've done for 43 years. So, they're in the habit of stopping in and just saying how their day went and when they come in asking for a prayer," Father Augustyn said. "A lot of my ministry revolves around the nursing units because the nurses are doing this all the time, every day, all day. So, trying to lift up their spirits and sense where they're going, what they're doing, how they're processing all this stuff. So, I make my rounds with the nursing units just to try to lift up their spirits best we can."

With iPads being made available, the digital connection created out of necessity looks like it will become a regular part of hospital life.

"It's changed. We have new ways of approaching people," Father Augustyn said. "We've never had a situation where family members couldn't come in to be with their dying relatives. Now, with what I'm doing and how I'm doing it, for relatives who are out of state or far away. I've gotten used to doing it this way, so we can accommodate people."

Social Services continue ministry in age of social distancing

Catholic Charities adapts services to COVID-19 guidelines

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**
STAFF REPORTER

The Coronavirus has caused an unprecedented reaction through the world. Entire countries are experiencing lockdowns with people told to stay at home. Popular tourist attractions are shut down. Photographs of empty streets and deserted hot spots fill the internet.

Essential workers, such as pharmacists, bankers and cooks still go into the office, but non-essential workers either work from home or don't work at all. The Federal Reserve predicts 32 percent unemployment by the time this pandemic is over. People still in the field now practice social distancing to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Restaurants serve takeout only meals. Supermarkets have installed "sneeze guards" to separate customer from employee.

Catholic Charities of Western New York, which has a long history of person-to-person service, has made some notable changes to its process of carrying out its mission.

"Out of roughly 400 employees, we have 70 percent of the people working outside the office, principally from home," explained Deacon Steve Schumer, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Western New York. "The largest group that we're working to get away from the office right now is the people who work in counseling because those are the people who are typically meeting face-to-face with folks."

On March 16, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo initiated social distancing – measures such as avoiding crowds and standing at least six feet away from others – Catholic Charities began conducting counseling session over the phone rather than face to face. Counselors would sit in the office while taking notes on computers. The Office of Mental Health has specific guidelines on what it calls telepractice – using telephones and internet to conduct counseling sessions. Telepractice can



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The staff at Catholic Charities Russell J. Salvatore Food Pantry & Outreach, Lackawana, work to provide area residents in need with food for the week. The pantry received an anonymous donation of 510 dozen eggs and numerous gallons of milk at their Fulton Street location in Downtown Buffalo. The pantry no longer allows clients to enter the facility to stem the spread of germs. Food is placed at the front door for pick up and pick in allowed once a week instead of daily. Clients are given a generous amount of food to last a week.

hinder non-verbal communications, simultaneous communications, and privacy issues. Those guidelines have been relaxed to allow counseling sessions to be conducted during this time. Catholic Charities employees are now distancing from each other by receiving laptops so they can work from home.

"There are still some counseling sessions that are going on face to face, depending on what the need is, because it's important for the counselor to be in the same room with the client. We just try to find a room big enough. 'You sit on that side of the room and I'll sit on this

side of the room.' That sort of thing," Deacon Schumer explained.

While equipping 60 counselors with laptops has been a challenge, it has been easier to change the process in the food pantries.

Under normal circumstances, a client comes in and sits at a desk with one of the staff to determine the needs through a general assessment of the client's life situation. Then together they go through the aisles, essentially shopping for needed food items. Catholic Charities now uses a slightly different method. Instead of hand-picking their food, the client receives pre-packed bags of food

handed to them through a door, sort of like curbside pickup.

"We're still serving folks, but there is no longer the ability to come inside the building and shop for yourself. We prepare a bag of basics and say, 'Here's what you got,'" said Deacon Schumer.

Catholic Charities food pantries have seen an increase in both customers and donations. FeedMore WNY has designated eight of Catholic Charities' nine pantries as emergency hubs. This means people can travel away from their local pantries to pick up needed food and personal care

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A new day in education as coronavirus forces schools to close

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**
STAFF REPORTER

With very little warning all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Buffalo were temporarily closed March 17 due to an outbreak of the coronavirus. This forced schools to rethink how they educate their students. One school, Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School, decided to simply end the school year early after seeing that the South Buffalo school had already surpassed state requirements for the year.

Other schools continue to provide education through distance learning, a method of study in which classes are conducted over the internet, without the students physically meeting in a classroom with their teacher. Schools are using online resource tools such as Zoom, Google Classroom, Google Meets, Seesaw and Schoology to give the students online instruction and interactive classroom settings to have real lessons as traditional as possible. Some schools are replicating the regular class schedule, even including morning prayers and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The staff at St. Christopher School in Tonawanda had a feeling something much like Gov. Cuomo's stay at home order would happen. On March 13, as students were preparing to leave for weekend, they were told to take everything home from their desks and lockers ... just in case.

The following Monday and Tuesday, the teachers came in to mobilize. Keeping a safe distance while meeting, they formed a plan to keep in touch with each other and their students as they all worked from home. Faculty meetings now take place as Zoom conferences.

"We talked about the delivery of instruction. How are we going to do this? What's our goal?" explained Dr. Camille Pontrello, principal.

The first step in this type of situation is to offer packets of

review work to students. This works on a short-term basis as it helps students retain what they have already learned, but it does not teach anything new.

"A packet will basically keep a student or a learner where they are, but it will not advance them," Pontrello said. "There's no new learning. This was a big concern. How do we keep our children learning?"

With the mindset that they would not be going back to in-class instruction, they launched the online class management systems Google Classroom and Seesaw, where a syllabus and resources could be found.

"When I teach a course, my students all go to this site. Their names are all in it. We communicate through our own email within that little course site. Any videos I want to put up, and articles I want to put up, my syllabus; it's all there for them," Pontrello explained.

Now, the plan involves rolling out the classwork incrementally, allowing parents and children to learn how to learn online. During week, two Zoom Classes and Zoom Bedtime Stories began. The school's YouTube channel now carries prerecorded lessons, so they can fit into the family's schedule.

"There are some parents who work all day, so we have to be mindful that children are not allowed to be on their devices until they get home from work, (they may be) doing this work after school," Pontrello said. "We're doing a combination of live teaching. Direct instruction is the key. If you want children to learn new material, you need to teach it. There is a very big difference between assigning work and teaching new content. That's where we are right now at St. Chris'. We want to teach new content moving forward."

Just after Holy Week, they moved into the next level by providing families with the tools they would need for comfortable



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Christopher School, Tonawanda, administrator Kim Cuddihy walks a Chromebook laptop computer out to second grade student Josie Sedita and her father James. The school provided all their students with the laptops to take home to aid them in completing the school year from home. With the onset of Covid 19 schools across New York State have cut the school year short.

learning online. The staff setup the St. Chris Drive Up Window where parents drove up to the school and picked up Chromebooks. The school specifically reached out to large families to make sure each student had their own device.

"We're pretty excited about this. In the face of all this stuff, the one thing we're thinking is, we need to keep these children learning," said Pontrello.

Pontrello thinks of her own children, now in high school, when planning the new distance learning format. She recalls the first time she realized learning was too fast paced to take her kids out of class for even a three-day trip. "Think of how much instructional time is being lost at this time. The catch up will be incredible," she said.

Nardin Academy, which has four schools under its banner, has all its students in a distance learning format. "Imagine thinking through what that looks like for kids of all ages," school President Marsha Sullivan said.

"They were up and running day one," Sullivan said of the four

principals who handle Montessori, elementary, middle school and high school students. "Our faculty has been able to keep the students completely on schedule, relative to curriculum, so they're not losing any academic progress through this."

Students in the Montessori school and kindergarten through third grade have some Zoom instruction and some instruction delivered through other websites or YouTube videos prerecorded by Nardin teachers. These can be accessed with the help of parents. The younger kids have a shorter than average school day because they should not have too much time in front of a computer screen.

For all other grades, there is one device per student, which allows for a complete interactive learning experience for those students. High school students go through normal class day beginning at 8:15 a.m.

"Because we are in this wonderful environment of having the advantage of years and years of

See Making sure page 8

Making sure students are absorbing the information

From page 7

one-to-one technology; these kids have been able to do a complete course curriculum all the way through June, either from home if they have to, or if we go back to school they pick up right where they are. That continuity has been really a point of pride we have in our faculty," said Sullivan. "It's challenging because it's new, but I think that we were lucky enough to have had that preparation on deck."

The Nardin staff is prepared to continue distance learning until the end of the school year, but hopes to return to the classroom. The high school graduation scheduled for May 18 could be postponed, but Sullivan is hopeful that the eighth-grade graduation scheduled for early June will go one as planned. No decision has been made thus far.

Denis Coakley, ninth-grade religion teacher at Nardin Academy, find himself more exhausted after three and a half hours of teaching online than he was after nine hours in the classroom. The hard part of distance learning for him is making sure that the students are absorbing the information. It's hard to tell if a student is following along when you can only see them through a 15-inch screen. It's even harder if other people are sharing that viewing space.

"When there is the barrier of a screen, you can't necessarily tell what they are working on, you can't really tell where their focus is, what they're paying attention to,"



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Christopher School administrator Kim Cuddihy walks a Chromebook laptop computer out to a waiting parent.

he said.

Instruction is delivered both in Zoom, where students can see their teacher and they can communicate back and forth, and Schoology where assignments are listed along with resources. Schoology has been used at the school for years, but teachers took a crash course with Zoom once they knew the school would be temporarily closing.

The school day has only changed slightly.

"The girls stick to their regular daily schedule. When they normally would have class, that's when they're supposed to be on with the teachers that they have. We're trying to make the assignments a little more independent study types. A challenge that we're facing is internet conductivity,"

Coakley explained, adding that poor weather has caused some Southtowns students to have spotty internet connections. "There are a few that it is a struggle for, but at Nardin we also provide them with their own Chromebooks. So, they have the equipment, but depending what part of the area you're in, sometimes access is difficult."

He calls the school's tech department a "Godsend." The students themselves help out a lot with the technology. "They're better with technology than I am," Coakley chuckled.

Teachers at Immaculate Conception School in East Aurora are using prepared packets for review and Zoom to teach new material. Email and dropboxes are used to hand in schoolwork. The

school has also incorporated a lot of YouTube into its study, not only created by the teachers, but by the students as well.

Eighth-graders have traditionally done a living Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Conception Church. This year they did it from their homes.

"We gave them each a part to read, then our youth director was able to put it together and provide that as a YouTube video as well," explained Principal Joseph Duttweiler.

Music teacher Glenn Colton sent a request to his students for pictures of what they have been doing at home since the stay at home order has been in place. He's using those photos and stories to make a video for a song he is composing.

Although the teachers have not used Zoom previously, parish Youth Minister Denise York had used it with confirmation classes. She was able to quickly teach the teachers on how to use the video conferencing program. Some upper grades have used Google Classroom. Now, all classes including special education, intermediate and primary grade teachers have been using it.

"We were able to get things up and running fairly quickly and we're learning as we go along," Duttweiler said. "Originally we thought we were only going to be out two and a half weeks, but now that's been extended. So, now we're going to have to regroup after Easter and see where we go from there."

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Department of Catholic Schools still helping educators

The Western New York Catholic took some time while working at home to ask Erica Aikin, assistant superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the diocesan Department of Catholic Schools, how her department is working with parish elementary schools during this unique stay-at-home period of our history.

What is the Department of Catholic Schools doing to help the schools at this time?

The Department of Catholic Schools is working with the schools on finding funding to help them sustain themselves, including finding ways of taking advantage of the new state and federal funds being made available in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

We are working on making sure that any virtual learning is being done legally and safely. The principals are in constant contact with our department to answer any questions they have in regards to teachers, parents, students, with questions, complaints, internet issues, picking up student work, the list go on and on.

We have pushed out various links to virtual learning, kept them up to date with vendors that are offering free resources to help keep learning moving forward. We sent out curriculum and instruction ideas. We're working on math textbook adoption ideas, doing "school visits" by phone. This is a talk with the principal to check in on their needs and how we can move forward in helping with those needs and wants. Professional development is still being planned. Some will

be virtual now. Sports is working on a plan to have the kids do some sort of play when and if we return. This way they didn't miss their entire season.

We are also helping schools to connect students in need of either free school lunches or special education services with the public school districts so that these resources can be made available.

Is there more or less communication with the schools than normal?

In some areas I feel like it may be more as this is such an unusual time. We are all working diligently with the principals to keep educating the students along with guiding the principals and teachers. We always work diligently with the schools, but this seems a little harder as we can't meet with them face to face, and some of this is a learning curve as we never had to teach/guide/support from a distance. Christian Riso, assistant superintendent for government programs, and I have continued to "visit" our school principals via phone or Zoom videoconferencing for our regularly scheduled spring meetings. Also, our department has already held our April principals "Executive Council" meeting via Zoom.

I do feel all is working pretty well considering.

In general, what is the role of the Education Department with regards to the individual schools?

We are a support system for our schools. They come to us with any needs and we help guide them in finding funding, making decisions, government services/projects, advocacy,

curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, athletics, counseling help, grant writing, STREAM Schools, engineering briefs, academies for the classroom, as well as assisting them in interpreting state and federal school and employment regulations.

What is the relationship between your department and the schools? Are you there in case they need something, do you regularly meet with principals and teachers?

The schools know that they can go to our webpage and find our curriculum links to get curriculum, and curriculum maps, standards for all subject areas. We meet with the elementary principals four times a year. We have a retreat for them once a year, and four or five executive council meetings (this includes eight principals elected by four geographic regions. These regions then hold monthly or bimonthly meetings that are attended by one of our assistant superintendents. The high school principals have a meeting once a year with the bishop and our department.

We also host professional development sessions (STREAM, Thoughtful Classroom, Mystery Science, Social Studies, eDoctrina, etc.) for the teachers and work with the teachers directly during the textbook review process. We are always available to our principals via email or phone and try to respond within 24-hours, depending on the complexity of the question. We send out a bi-weekly WED and are always forwarding pertinent information to them.

Catholic Charities sees increase in need for services in community

From page 6
items elsewhere.

"We're seeing folks come to the pantries that we haven't seen before," said Deacon Schumer. "We've been able to increase our service to the community in these special circumstances."

"People who have been living paycheck to paycheck, those people are now saying, 'I don't have a job. I got laid off. I'm not making it week to week,' explained Eileen Nowak, director of Parish Outreach and Advocacy. "Also, people in the past who could have come to a food pantry, but didn't. They figured out a way to sort of make it. Now they're saying, 'I'm not making it.'"

Nowak estimates that business has increased by 25 percent in the

first two weeks after Cuomo's social distancing directive, with 1,200 to 1,300 families being served in that time.

The food comes from Wegman's, Sam's Club, Trader Joe's, the Food Bank of Western New York, and FoodLink of Rochester.

The Catholic Charities-run Lots of Clothes Thrift Store has been closed during the pandemic, but the Ladies of Charity still offers its Fresh Start Program for people who have experienced resettlement due to fire or domestic violence. Clients with referrals can come in and, similar to food pantries, staff will hand the needed items to the client. It doesn't have that thrill that shopping does, but reduces the number of hands and germs that handle the clothes.

One major aspect of Catholic Charities work is helping people who come in off the street looking for help paying for medicine, utilities and personal care items. Central Intake may see 300 people during a typical two-week span come in to the office at 525 Washington, St., in downtown Buffalo, or any of the other nine emergency assistance center across Western New York.

These offices have also implemented social distancing by having clients enter an enclosed vestibule and use an available telephone to call the staff just on the other side of the door for a thorough assessment. Documents are exchanged through a mail slot, while food and personal care items can be given through a side door. While it

may seem impersonal, it allows the Catholic Charities staff to maintain the level of care and aid they have been providing for 97 years.

"We want to continue to meet the needs of the community, while keeping everybody safe," said Joyelle Tedeschi, director of Family and Community Services Department. "Our goal is not to turn anyone away."

Walk-ins are still welcome at all Emergency Service locations.

"I'm really proud of the people here who have been creative and just so dedicated," said Schumer. "They view the work that they do as a mission to care for the folks that we normally see."

Anyone who needs help can call Central Intake at 716-856-4494.

Warsaw pastor fights distancing with digital connection

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**
STAFF REPORTER

The coronavirus has created a new normal for people all over the globe. The term social distancing has entered our vocabulary as people everywhere are advised to stay six feet apart from each other. Even traffic signs are saying “Save a Life – Stay at Home.”

Matthew 18:20 says, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.” But with public Masses canceled due to the coronavirus, area churches may only have one person inside to participate in worship. Thanks to modern technology, namely Facebook, people can still participate in their faith through the internet.

Father Michael LaMarca, who served as honorary chairman for last year’s Catholic Communication Campaign, stays connected to his parishioners at St. Michael Church in Warsaw through his parish Facebook page. He still celebrates Mass, although earlier than usual, and uses the digital interaction to educate and entertain his flock.

“I offer Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday morning at 7:30,” Father LaMarca said. “I do it at 7:30, which is not a normal Mass time for us, because everyone is thrown off their schedule. So, I thought I’d give an opportunity for people who are up in the morning who are looking for something to start their day with Mass.”

Through the use of an iPhone and Facebook Live, Father LaMarca can broadcast his Masses live to anyone visiting the St. Michael’s page. The Mass remains on the site all day, so people can watch anytime.

In the first few weeks, he has received compliments, prayer requests, and even a shout out from viewer in Arizona.

“Once that was all set to go, parishioners were calling other parishioners to let them know, ‘Hey, we know you don’t have Facebook, but tune in on the radio and you can at least hear Father Mike,’” Father LaMarca said.

To avoid the feeling of distance and isolation, Father LaMarca tries new things to maintain a two-way communication with the faithful.

“I did an ‘Ask the Pastor’ segment, which I will probably do a few more times during all this, where people can ask me questions through Facebook Live,” he said, adding he did a livestreamed tour of St. Michael’s, where he explained the meaning and purpose of different items in a Catholic church. Viewers could also ask questions in real time during the tour.

Every day, he calls a few parishioners to see how they’re doing. He also calls friends instead of texting to keep that verbal communication open.

On March 29, he started a partnership with radio station WCJW – CJ Country, to air Sunday Mass around 8:30 a.m. throughout Wyoming, Genesee,



Father Michael LaMarca, pastor of St. Michael, Warsaw, uses his laptop to minister to his parishioners.

Orleans and Livingston counties.

The St. Michael’s website lists resources including St. Gregory the Great’s livestream, Bishop Robert Barron’s Word on Fire, and a Stations of the Cross video for children.

“This is a reminder that we are a universal church. One church doesn’t have to do everything,” Father LaMarca said. “I’m telling parishioners search out other Catholic churches on the internet and watch their priest say Mass. See what their church space looks like. This is an opportunity to visit all these churches and you don’t have to go anywhere.”

Even with social distancing, Father LaMarca does what he can to continue his priestly ministry of visiting the sick. In the early days of coronavirus when hospitals and nursing homes were forming restrictions, Father LaMarca had to go to a nursing home for different end of life situations.

“In those situations, I took the proper protocol,” he said. “I went because the hospital or nursing home itself called me. If the family calls me, I tell them the hospital has to call me. I can’t just go because they ask me. The hospital has to make that decision. So, when I’ve gone I follow the protocol that they put in place. And they’ve been great in my couple of visits there.”

He did find himself making one home visit in a dire situation. He knew it was necessary for him to be there, so we went to reassure the family.

“We took the protocols as best we could with washing our hands and keeping a safe distance when I visited,” he explained.

Looking into the empty pews during Mass is lonely for the man who was named pastor of the Wyoming County parish a little over a year ago. The people he does communicate with also feel a sense of isolation from their church.

“They want to be back in community. They miss the sacraments. They want the Eucharist,” Father LaMarca said. “This is definitely a desert that we have been thrown into during this season if Lent. We’re not going to be together on Easter Sunday, where we’re able to gather and participate in the Easter sacraments together, but I think the people are growing into the appreciation of the sacraments. I know, personally as a priest, I miss the people. I miss the people at the daily Mass. I miss the people on the weekends. I miss the crying baby in church. I miss the cellphone going off during Mass. Things like that I miss because there is no one in the Church with me. I have a couple people who come on Sunday to help enhance the liturgy that we put out over Facebook, but you miss those real interactions with people.”

Although, he enjoys using the internet to connect with people, he tries to be strategic about his posts and not over do it.

“My philosophy is a post in the morning, and that’s it. People should be out. If it’s a nice day, go for a walk. On Sunday, just watch Mass on your computer then spend the rest of your time doing something else – physical activity, reading. We don’t want to become glued to social media. We have to remember to interact with people.”

Bishop Scharfenberger appoints Chief Operating Officer for Diocese

BUFFALO — Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger has appointed Sister Mary McCarrick, OSF, as Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese of Buffalo. Sister Mary was formerly the Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities of Buffalo from 2010 through 2018.

“We’re delighted to welcome Sister Mary McCarrick, a person of long accomplishment, superior administrative capabilities and uncommon insight, as we form this new Leadership Team to lead the Diocese of Buffalo into an era of renewal, growth and even greater impact,” said Bishop Scharfenberger, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. “Sister Mary, along with the other members of the Leadership Team, will be identifying best practices here and elsewhere, capturing efficiencies and working to ensure that we are providing our parishes with every essential support they need to serve, minister and



Sister Mary McCarrick,,OSF

advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ across Western New York.”

In her capacity as Chief Operating Officer, a role that an increasing number of dioceses are including within their top leadership, Sister Mary will be responsible for creating and implementing an even more consultative process among priests, professional staff, Diocesan councils

and lay women and men to ensure broad input in the development and implementation of strategic priorities and initiatives. Sister Mary will be working closely with Fr. Walter Szczesny, Moderator of the Curia, and Msgr. Sal Manganello, Judicial Vicar and Vicar General, in overseeing all administrative functions of Diocesan departments to ensure that each functional area is aligned with and contributes to the advancement of clearly defined Diocesan priorities which should be primarily directed to the support of parishes.

A Sister of Saint Francis for 50 years, Sister Mary McCarrick served locally as Provincial Minister of the Stella Niagara community, and served nationally as chair of the research committee of the Franciscan Federation and as a retreat and meeting facilitator nationally and internationally.

A licensed clinical social worker

with post graduate certification in family therapy, Sister Mary has spent much of her life serving those in need. Her connection with Catholic Charities began in the 1980s during nine years of service as a social worker for Catholic Charities’ sites in Buffalo and Lackawanna. Years later, in 2007, Sister Mary joined the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities. In 2010, Sister Mary was appointed the eighth Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities of Buffalo, the most comprehensive human service organization serving the eight counties of Western New York. She served in this capacity through 2018. Sister Mary holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Daemen College and master’s degrees in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University and the Worden School of Social Work in San Antonio, Texas, and did post graduate work at the University of Rochester, Department of Family Therapy.

Screenings, monitoring and limiting activities to stop the spread

From page 4

“As we began planning for the governor’s call to action to prepare for the COVID-19 acute care surge in Western New York, we asked ourselves, ‘Where will people go who no longer need hospital care, but may not be able to be discharged home or back to a long-term care facility,’” said Sullivan. “The St. Joseph Post-Acute Center will fill some of those gaps and free up our hospital beds for the surge in COVID-19 patients we expect to see over the next several weeks. We are grateful for the guidance and collaboration we received from the Department of Health in recognizing the urgent need for a facility of this kind and for fast-tracking our request.”

Catholic Health has modeled the Post-Acute Center after the St. Joseph Campus Treatment Facility, including providing all required personal protective equipment and following special safety measures. Along with separate entrances for patients and staff, the center will utilize unique red, yellow and green safety zones, which separate restricted areas requiring personal protective equipment, from unrestricted areas, which do not. The center has its own entrance road, which provides further separation from other buildings on or near the campus.

“The lessons we learned from our COVID-19 Treatment Center at St. Joseph Campus were invaluable,” Sullivan said. “From their unique



20200408 DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Absolut Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Orchard Park reopened to exclusively care for Covid-19 patients. Catholic Health and the McGuire Group partnered to open the facility.

safety zone system to the clinical best practices they’ve developed, we are indebted to the team throughout Catholic Health and St. Joseph Campus for their forward thinking. By creating this ‘continuum of care’ for COVID-19 patients, we are able to care for more patients across our community in the very best settings to meet their health care needs.”

Catholic Health did announced that Father Baker Manor, Orchard Park and St. Catherine Labouré Health Care Center in Buffalo did have patients and residents who have tested positive for COVID-19.

The facility is following all recommended Center for Disease Control and Department of Health guidelines for COVID-19 infection prevention, including restricting visitors, performing daily health screenings on all staff, eliminating group activities and rehabilitation services, and continuously monitoring patients and residents for signs and symptoms, until further notice.

Both are skilled nursing and subacute rehabilitation facilities for residents living with a diagnosed condition or requiring medical supervision.

Jesus the Healer, Emmanuel

The present Covid-19 global pandemic reveals to all of us our vulnerability and the mitigation efforts call us to an awareness of community around us and all over the world. At this time we naturally turn to prayer and ask for help and healing from our God.

Our situation calls to mind the healing ministry of Jesus as recorded in all the Gospels. Not only did Jesus teach the message of God's love and compassion, He showed this love – He cured sickness and disease. His healing actions revealed the power of God working through Him.

We moderns might enter into a discussion on how the healings possibly could be explained on medical or scientific bases as other than “miracles” – signs of God's power. Nonetheless, as New Testament scholar Father Donald Senior observes the number of Jesus' healing stories recorded in the Gospels and in other contemporary non-Christian



Pondering with God's Word

BY
**SR. MARION
 MOESER**

literature, show us that “Jesus' own contemporaries considered him to be a man of extraordinary force and power, a power that could liberate and heal, a power that could come only from God.”

Jesus cured because people were sick. In his own time, sickness was common and would have been known to Jesus; being truly human He might have experienced some sickness. Still, in all but one of the healing stories, Jesus did not seek out the sick ones but those desiring a cure came to Jesus, usually demonstrating faith in Him.

In Jesus' time people prayed the psalms of lament in situations of

sickness and distress. In these psalms the persons did not hesitate to describe their situation and demand that God listen to them, “Look upon me, Answer me, Lord, my God” (13:4). After all we do not complain to someone who does not love us. Expressions of complaint in the psalms include: Suffering and symptoms; “Have pity on me Lord, for I am weak; heal me Lord for my bones are shuddering. My soul too is shuddering greatly, and you, Lord, how long? (6:3-4); “My loins burn with fever; there is no wholesomeness in my flesh. I am numb and utterly crushed; I wail with anguish of heart (38:8-9); Distress: “Do not hide your face from your servant; hasten to answer me, for I am in distress. Come and redeem my life” (69:17-18); The absence of God's presence: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (22:1) spoken by Jesus himself on the cross. All but one lament (Ps. 88) ends with a statement of hope or thanksgiving, e.g., “But I trust in your mercy. Grant my heart joy

in your salvation” (13:6).

In our own situation, believing in the divinity of Jesus, we can use the example of the biblical laments to pray directly to Jesus Christ, expressing distress, fears, confusion and pain, whether that of those afflicted with the virus, or that of our own or that of those around us, around our country, around the world. We too can express our trust in Jesus and give thanks for the recovery of some persons and for seeing God's/Jesus' love and compassion in the persons of so many stepping up to help.

When this pandemic evokes thoughts of the absence of God/Jesus we can recall difficult moments in our life wherein despite all we had a sense of God's presence and dwell in that memory. We can be assured by the title given to Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, “Emmanuel” – God with us – and by the promise of Jesus at the close of this Gospel, “I am with you to the end of the ages.”

Coronavirus, Crucifixion, Resurrection

The coronavirus is not a punishment from God.

It is not a severe chastisement dealt to a world that in so many ways sins against the Almighty – by ignoring his commandments and teachings.

Actually, the punishment for sin, that we surely do receive, is self-inflicted. For it has been wisely observed that sin is its own punishment.

The God who is pure and perfect love, who out of pure love for humanity took upon himself our wounded nature and human flesh in order to teach us the way of perfect love, even to the point of crucifixion, has no desire to retaliate against us, no desire to give back hurt for hurt, no desire to punish us for what we have done to him and others. Rather, from the cross he pleads on our sinful behalf: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

God always says to us “Go and sin no more.” Never does he say, “Go to hell! Now, that doesn't mean that we can't completely turn out back on God and walk our own selves straight



Making a Difference

BY
TONY MAGLIANO

into hell, that possibility certainly exists. But the all-loving Father, I am convinced, never sends any one of his children to eternal damnation.

We were created from Love, called to live in love, and are destined for eternal love. That's the Almighty's plan! But we need to evermore cooperate with his loving grace.

The coronavirus pandemic should serve as a wake-up call to each of us!

On March 27, with the deadly coronavirus increasingly raging throughout the world, Pope Francis presided at a Lenten prayer service and extraordinary blessing “Urbi et Orbi (to the city and the world) – before an empty St. Peter's Square. This strikingly, out of the ordinary, deeply prayerful event, highlighted

in a mystical way a heavenly call to humanity to pay serious attention to what is most important in life.

Pope Francis declared that during this pandemic crisis we are being called to make a choice between “what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not.”

He added, “It's a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others” (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcUqLrbigCg>).

The late deeply insightful theologian Father Hans Urs von Balthasar said, “It is the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it.”

And likewise, Pope Francis during this special prayer service said, “The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us.”

The pope continued, “Embracing the cross means ... finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can

recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity.”

But to whom are we called to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity? The Gospel answer is clear: to everyone! But especially to all those who suffer from the sins of indifference, greed, lust and violence – namely, the unborn, the war-torn, the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the refugees and asylum-seekers, the physically and spiritually sick, the lonely, the dying, the enemy and our wounded common earth home.

By embracing the cross of Christ Jesus and that of our suffering brothers and sisters, we open and ready ourselves to what St. Augustine called “God's supreme and wholly marvelous work” which is “the resurrection of Christ!”

Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated Catholic social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings. Tony can be reached at tmag6@comcast.net.

Solidarity in a Time of Pandemic

Every crisis not only tests the faith and resolve of those who experience it, but it also creates opportunities for both compassion and reflection. This pandemic is no different. In the midst of so many concerns about business, the economy, eating out, and “normal” life, we are called to acknowledge that, as in so many other situations, Covid-19 will disproportionately affect the poor.

One especially hard-hit group will be low-paid and low-benefit workers who cannot work from home, and typically had the lowest levels of protection like paid sick leave, and they are frequently uninsured or under-insured for medical care.

And while we have (rightly) closed schools and instituted quarantines, not every kid has the ability to take advantage of “virtual learning,” and so many poor children rely on school breakfasts and lunches as a necessary part of their nutrition.

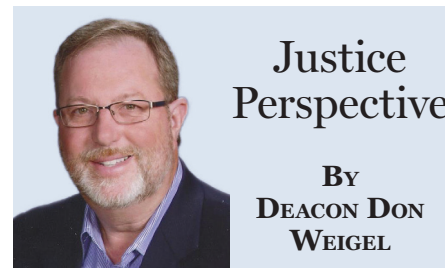
The elderly, too, are among the most vulnerable not only because of their tenuous health situations, but also because they are among our nation’s poorest. And in many cases they rely

on home health aides or others for so much of their food and hygiene needs.

In a joint statement between Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Health USA, these organizations offered a pledge for their continuing ministry “to promote and defend human dignity for all in our care while advancing the common good; to attend to the whole person, recognizing that this pandemic affects not only our bodies, but also our minds, emotions, and spirits; to advocate and serve those who are vulnerable or living on the margins of society; and to work to ensure that in this moment of darkness nobody is forgotten.”

And the situation around the world is even worse in many cases. There are nearly 50 countries who fall under the UN’s Least-Developed Country (LDC) status, home to nearly 900 million people worldwide. Many of these countries lack the economic resources and medical infrastructure to be able to respond to the medical needs of their people during this pandemic.

Catholic Relief Services has been on the front lines in these countries with teams across the world continuing to



Justice Perspective

BY
DEACON DON
WEIGEL

expand their programming to prevent the spread and reduce the risk of COVID-19 in some of the world’s most vulnerable communities.

CRS is adapting much of its programming to incorporate activities that help to prevent the spread of the virus. This includes targeted information campaigns and the provision of hygiene materials for communities, as well as investment in strengthening the capacity of local partners to respond.

During this time of crisis, we are called to embrace and act on the principle of Solidarity in Catholic Social Teaching: We are one human family, we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Whether around the block or around the world. It will be important for us to

support the efforts of Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services as they help our brothers and sisters to cope with this pandemic.

And let us embrace the insights of this excerpt from an anonymous “Prayer in Times of Pandemic”

May we who are merely inconvenienced

remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace

of God to our neighbors.
Amen.

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

The New Fire Within

All of us have had the most unusual Lent and Easter that perhaps we will ever experience. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many of us to work remotely, stock up on essentials and even close our churches for the most important holy days of the year.

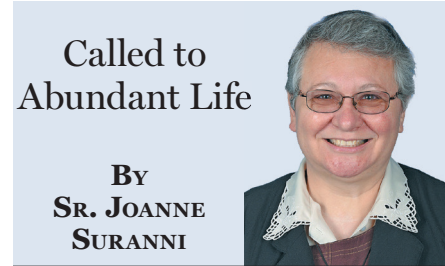
While our pastors scrambled to figure out how to observe these most sacred days, social media outlets were flooded with posts inviting us to prayer, reflection, activity, livestreaming of services and Masses to quell the heartache being unable to gather and celebrate the Paschal Mystery in the way we are accustomed.

In our beautiful Catholic faith, symbols are often used to communicate meaning. Fire is one of the most frequently used symbols in the liturgical and sacramental life of the church. It can communicate different meanings such as the Holy Spirit, purification or bringing light into darkness. Since Easter is not just

a day, but a season, and since we await Pentecost, when the fire of the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, it is appropriate to reflect upon fire as a profound symbol.

Each year, the Easter Vigil begins with a celebration of light, recalling how Jesus Christ, the light of the world conquered death by being raised from the dead. From an open fire, blessed by the priest, the paschal candle is lit as Christ is proclaimed the light of the world after which the people gathered respond, “thanks be to God.” In the ceremonious procession which follows, the candles of the gathered assembly are lit, illuminating the darkened church.

This year, however, it was all different. For some, it began with a livestreamed video. For others, a candle was placed on the kitchen or dining room table and prayers were said. Still other imaginative believers created inspired ways to observe the



Called to Abundant Life

BY
SR. JOANNE
SURANNI

resurrection, and Easter came in a most unique way. And perhaps out of all this chaos, some families began a new tradition.

Amidst the pandemic, God has invited His people to a different experience of the beginnings of the Easter season. Rather than witnessing the external fire of Easter, our circumstances have drawn our attention to an internal one where we are brought face to face with home, family and self. Through all the restlessness, discomfort and anxiety God summons us to consider how brightly Jesus Christ shines through

our lives and our homes.

In 2 Timothy 1:6 St. Paul tells us to “stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.” The flame that every baptized person holds and tends is the gift of faith. For some that faith is a small glimmering ember, while for others it’s a blazing fire. Like the crocuses breaking through untilled soil, our unusual experience of Lent and Easter bids us to reflect upon how God may be breaking through to us in the power of his grace in a new way.

Observing the Easter Season at home gives all of us an opportunity to tend the fire of our faith at home, to nurture it and express in our residences where we are the Church. British author and lay theologian C.S. Lewis wrote, “There are far, far better things ahead than any we may leave behind.” Let’s be attentive to the new fire that God is stoking within each of our hearts.

Baltimore's St. Mary's Seminary and University selected for academic and priestly formation program by Diocese of Buffalo

BUFFALO - Following an extensive review process, St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland — the first Roman Catholic seminary in the United States — has been selected by the Diocese of Buffalo for the academic and spiritual formation program for its seminarians, beginning in the fall of 2020.

"St. Mary's Seminary, operated by the Society of the Priests of St. Sulpice has a longstanding reputation for excellence in formation and academic programs," said Rev. Kevin G. Creagh, C.M., current president-rector of Christ the King Seminary. "Similar to Christ the King, we are confident that the four dimensions of priestly formation (spiritual, human, intellectual, and pastoral) are embedded in the St. Mary's Seminary culture and our seminarians will be formed as servant leaders for the Diocese of Buffalo."

In February, Bishop Edward

Scharfenberger, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Buffalo, announced the decision to cease operations of Christ the King Seminary at the conclusion of the current academic year, as approved by its board of trustees. He also announced the formation of the Revisioning Ministerial Formation Steering Committee to develop recommendations for the continued formation of individuals seeking ordination to priestly ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo. A special subcommittee was subsequently formed to identify prospective institutions qualified to provide for the academic and spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians in accordance with the requirements to ensure intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally mature individuals suitable for priestly ministry.

The diocese currently has 15 seminarians in various stages of

formation. Four diocesan seminarians, along with two seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and one seminarian of the Diocese of Syracuse, will remain at the Christ the King Seminary campus for the final year of their formation and academic studies. Father Creagh will serve as the director of the seminarians' fourth-year program, and Msgr.

Richard Siepka will serve as the spiritual director along with another priest, yet to be appointed, who will serve as assistant formation director. The seminarians' final year of instruction toward facilitating an accredited academic degree will be provided by adjunct professors.

"St. Mary's Seminary and University is deeply honored to be chosen by the Diocese of Buffalo to continue the formation of its seminarians when Christ the King Seminary closes at the end of the current seminary year," said Rev.

Phillip J. Brown, P.S.S., president-rector of St. Mary's Seminary &

University. "The Sulpician tradition of formation at St. Mary's will, we believe, be in continuity with the priestly ideals Christ the King has aspired to. The first Catholic Seminary in the United States, with a continuous 229-year history of priestly formation, St. Mary's is a natural choice for this responsibility. We are grateful for the confidence Buffalo's decision expresses in our formation program. We welcome Christ the King seminarians with an open heart and in the spirit of Jesus Christ."

The Diocese of Buffalo will be utilizing St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, N.Y. for the theological preparation of its lay students and candidates for the diaconate program, headed by Deacon Tim Chriswell, director of permanent deacons. Deacon Chriswell will also oversee the lay formation program.



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Notre Dame Academy creates card ministry for Mercy Hospital

St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, “It’s not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts.” At Notre Dame Academy in South Buffalo, this notion is put into practice daily. Recently a small, love-filled gesture of kindness inspired an exciting new school ministry. One of Notre Dame Academy’s Second-grade teachers, Lindsey Carrion created a Christmas card project for her class that has now enveloped the whole school.

Instead of playing host to the popular Elf on the Shelf this past December, Carrion found a Kindness Elf on Pinterest. Carrion explained. “Every day the elf shows up in the classroom with an instructional card, like smile at someone today, let someone go in front of you or hold the door open.”

One suggestion our elf had was “Make a card for someone who is sick.” Carrion contacted nearby South Buffalo Mercy Hospital to see if a card project would be acceptable. Carrion’s second-grade parents donated Christmas cards, and her students wrote short notes inside, such as “I hope you’re feeling better” and “I hope this card brightens your day.”

“I had my students create Christmas cards for morning work and explained I would be dropping them off at the hospital over the Christmas break,” Carrion said. A Head Nurse at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital sent Carrion’s second-grade a photo of herself with the cards, just before they were distributed to the patients.

“When I showed my students the picture of the nurse at Mercy Hospital with our cards, they were shocked,” Carrion continued. “They couldn’t believe their cards actually went to the hospital and did bring a smile to someone’s face!”

The card ministry ties into several aspects of the students’ educational experience. They focus on the art on the front of the card. They practice handwriting and letter writing inside. They even learn of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy by communicating with the sick and comforting the afflicted.

Gianna, a fourth-grader at Notre Dame Academy, enjoys making the cards because she realizes that the patients are scared and need prayers. “We make people at Mercy Hospital feel that we care about them,” she said. “Whenever they get our cards, they feel happier.”

“This project is very fun because the people in the hospital know we care about them,” added Casimir, Gianna’s second-grade brother.

Notre Dame Academy’s card ministry was created and carried out pre-coronavirus. The world has changed in the last few months. Phrases like social distancing, quarantine, and distance learning are now part of everyone’s vocabulary. Things in the world have truly changed. But the heart and compassion of students at Notre Dame Academy has not, they have shifted, but not changed.

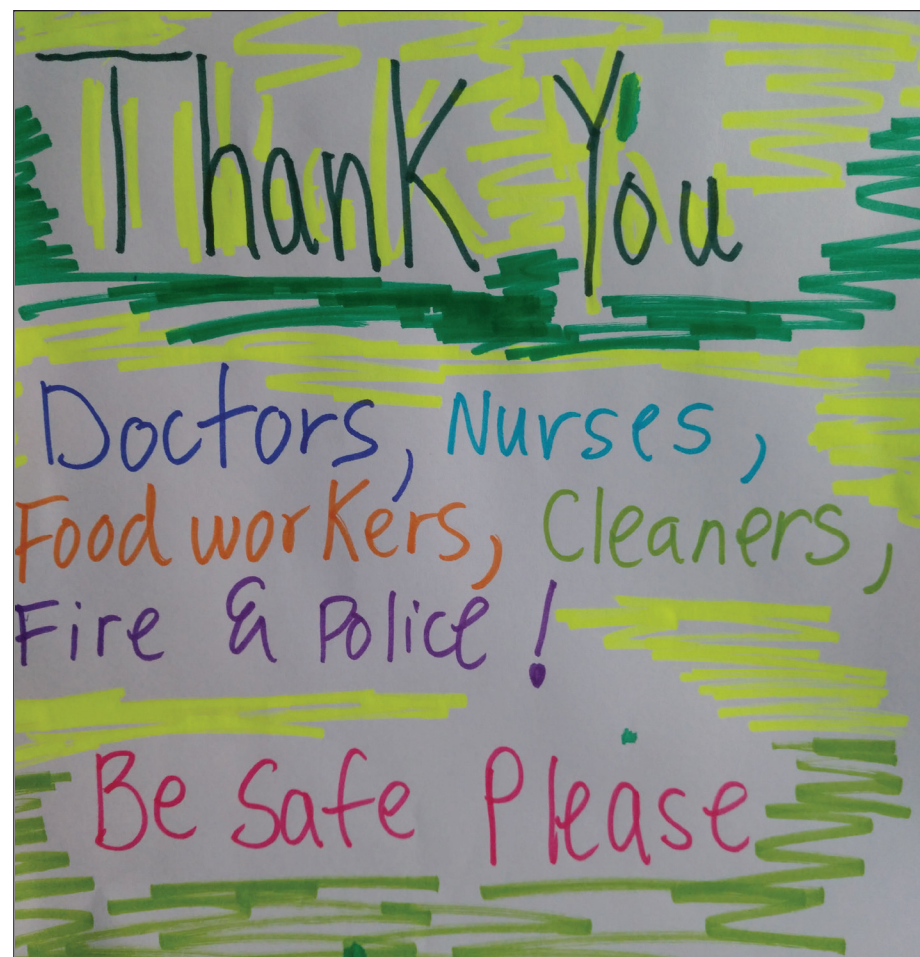
As the students at Notre Dame Academy continue to learn remotely and have Zoom Mass and lessons with their teachers, the card ministry continues. “When we began distance learning, the teachers quickly asked their students to create cards, either digitally or by hand and then take a picture and send them to our Good News email (goodnews@notredamebuffalo.org),” explains De-Angelis-Stein. “These cards are Thank-you’s and Well-wishes to the Doctors, nurses and tireless hospital staff at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital who are now on the front-line taking care of us. And they have been very well received by our neighbors at the hospital.”

“This is a very relatable ministry and one that will continue at Notre Dame Academy,” added Paula DeAngelis-Stein, Advancement/Marketing director for Notre Dame Academy. “Sometimes, as Catholics, I think we try to get too heady with children. But this ministry is tactile and relatable. We all have grandparents. We all know grandparents get sick. We know our school is down the road from South Buffalo Mercy Hospital. Our students know how important it is to be kind and to try to make

someone smile. This ministry, which involves all 500 of our students, makes total sense., and will continue.”

“It’s so important that our future generation understands compassion and caring for others, especially those suffering in the hospital, and especially now with what we are all

facing in our world” commented Tristan D’Angelo, principal of Notre Dame Academy. “Our teachers do an outstanding job teaching lessons and virtues, but as we know, it is more powerful when a student can take ownership of these values and truly feel in their heart they can put a smile on someone’s face.”



COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Notre Dame Academy card ministry to Mercy Hospital.

Mount St. Mary senior is recipient of \$40,000 scholarship

Mount St. Mary Academy senior, Elena DePaolo, was honored as one of only 25 recipients of the College Board's \$40,000 Complete Your Journey scholarship.

More than 500,000 students from all 50 states joined the College Board Opportunity Scholarships program since it launched in December 2018.

DePaolo has consistently challenged herself academically, taking AP and college level courses throughout her high school career. Aside from academics, DePaolo has been an active participant in athletics and in her service to

others. She has played JV and Varsity volleyball throughout high school, even assisting with



Elena DePaolo

volleyball camps over the summer. She is also a member the Service Club, Donate Life Club and Model UN.

DePaolo likes to challenge herself and always takes that extra step to further her co-curricular or educational path. Her service has included volunteering at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy working with their toy drive, food pantry and blanket making drive. She is also a valued member of St. Edmund's Parish Outreach where she collected and donated household goods for families in Nicaragua. DePaolo has shown that she understands the importance of

teamwork and encourages others, something that extends beyond the classroom and into her community and this scholarship will certainly assist her in this process.

Mount St. Mary Academy, founded by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in 1927, is an all-girls, Catholic college-preparatory high school located at 3756 Delaware Avenue in Kenmore. Mount St. Mary is consistently ranked among the top high schools in Western New York. It is an academic institution where young women grow intellectually, socially, and spiritually. For more information, visit www.msmacademy.org.

Hilbert Community Raises Over \$56,000 during Giving Day fundraiser

HAMBURG – The Hilbert College community outpaced last year's totals for its Giving Day fundraiser, with more than \$56,000 coming from nearly 200 donors to help the college carry out its mission. Alumni, students, family

members, faculty, staff, and friends of Hilbert supported the college's new Franciscan Student Resources Fund to help current and future students in immeasurable ways.

The Hilbert community came

together on April 8 for Giving Day despite significant challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am so grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support for Hilbert students on this year's Giving Day," Hilbert President Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D. said. "More than ever this year, our students rely on your generosity to support scholarships, urgent basic needs such as food and housing, remote education assistance, athletic programs and other essential services and programs."

Hilbert students and faculty rallied under difficult circumstances, with many from the community offering

videos and messages in support of the effort from their homes. Students will face additional challenges related to the efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus and the Hilbert community showed up to help prepare for those challenges, demonstrating the Franciscan values that are at the core of the school's mission.

"Together with our dear Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, we renew the spirit of Mother Colette Hilbert 'In all things Charity,'" Dr. Brophy said. "On behalf of the students that will be impacted by your generosity and in gratitude for all that you do for Hilbert every day, we thank you."

St. Benedict student honored with Chinese language learning award



COURTESY OF ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL -

St. Benedict seventh-grader, Justin Maloney, has been awarded the 2020 Award for Excellence in Chinese Language Learning. This award is given each year to the top Chinese language students in Western New York by the University at Buffalo Confucius Institute. Awardees are usually honored during the University of Buffalo's annual Chinese New Year celebration, but this year it was postponed due to Covid-19. Justin will receive a \$100.00 Barnes and Noble gift card in recognition of his accomplishment.



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On behalf of the Ramblin' Lou Family and our WXRL Family & Staff, we sincerely hope that you and your family are staying home, safe & well. And, when you're ready to travel, we're here for you. We can't wait to get back "On The Road Again!" Check our website at wxrl.com for up-to-date information. Stay well, friends.

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July 6-9	Frankenmuth/Mackinac Island/Casino
July 13	Dolly/Patsy/Loretta - Walters Ranch/lunch
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
Sept. 27-Oct. 2	Vermont/N. Hamp/Maine-Acadia Nat. Park/Train Ride
Oct. 6	Spragues Maple Farm/Casino (\$25 free play & \$5 food)
Oct. 10-14	Greenbrier & Elkins - WV 2 Train-Amtrak & Durbin Rocket
Oct. 12-13	Thousand Islands/Boat Cruise/Ron & Nancy Onesong
Oct. 20-26	Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
Nov. 2-4	Amishlands Holiday-Lanc. PA "Queen Esther" & Christ. Show
Nov. 10-12	"Fest. of Lights"-Oglebay Pk/Wilson Lodge-Wheeling, WV
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Nashv. Co. Christmas/Opryland Hotel/Grand Ole Opry

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St. Leo the Great
LIVESTREAM LINK: [STLEOTHEGREATAMHERST.COM/ABOUT-ST-LEO-THE-GREAT/LIVE-FEED/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EwkgwLnn8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ)
MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8:00 AM
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM AND 11:00 AM

St. Gregory the Great
LIVESTREAM LINK: [STGREGS.ORG/LIVE-STREAM](https://www.stgregs.org/live-stream)
DAILY: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM AND NOON
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM AND 5:30 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, & 4:30 PM

St. Martha Parish
LIVESTREAM LINK: [STMARTHADEPEW.ORG/ABOUT-US/LIVESTREAM](https://www.stmarthadepeew.org/about-us/livestream)
DAILY: 8:15 AM
SATURDAY: 8:15 AM AND 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM AND 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Pompeii RC Church
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UC3EWKGWLNN8YAFLP-KOQLPSQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EwkgwLnn8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ)
DAILY AT 10:00 AM

SS. Columba Brigid
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/2315534](https://www.livestream.com/accounts/2315534)
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM (SPANISH) AND 11:00 AM
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church
LIVESTREAM FEED: [HTTPS://NT-OLC.ORG/LIVE-STREAM/](https://www.nt-olc.org/live-stream/)
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 AM

St. Amelia Church
LIVESTREAM FEED: [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EwkgwLnn8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ)
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM
SAT: 4:30 PM

Holy Family
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTP://WWW.HOLYFAMILYALBION.COM/LIVESTREAM.HTML](http://www.holyfamilyalbion.com/livestream.html)
DIRECT LINK: [HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/13498042](https://www.livestream.com/accounts/13498042)
SUNDAY: 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica
LINKS: [OLVBASILICA.ORG](http://www.olvbasilica.org), [YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EwkgwLnn8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ)

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St. John's
LIVESTREAM LINK: [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EwkgwLnn8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ)
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM
SATURDAY: 8:00 AM AND 5:00 PM
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM AND 12:00 PM

Saint Bernadette
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAINTBOPNY.ORG](https://www.facebook.com/saintbopny.org)
DAILY: 7:00 AM AND 11:30 AM
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM
SUNDAY 9:00 AM AND 8:05 PM

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/USER35440082](https://www.vimeo.com/user35440082)
WEEKDAYS: 9:00 AM
SATURDAY: 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Resurrection Parish
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCCLMP56T17RB-GLPWAFVWG](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCLMpTL56T17RB-GlpwAFVWg)

Television Guide

Sunday Televised Mass

Sunday
8:30 am
WNYO-TV
Antenna Ch 49
Cable/Dish Ch 8

EWTN

Daily Televised Mass

Every Day
8:00am, Noon, 7:00pm and Midnight

Spectrum Subscribers

Erie/Suburbs Ch 10
Buffalo Ch 24
Batavia Ch 41
Jamestown Ch 50
Lockport Ch 10
Niagara Falls Ch 10
Olean Ch 35

C-Band
G1-11

Direct TV
370

Dish Network
261

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM, 5:30PM
SUNDAY: 7:30 AM AND 9:25 AM AND 11:30 AM

Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BASILICAOLEAN](https://www.facebook.com/BasilicaOlean)
MASS SONGS CAN BE ACCESSED ON: [HTTPS://SMAOLEAN.ORG/](https://www.smaolean.org/)
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

All Saints
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALLSAINTSLOCKPORT/?REF=HL](https://www.facebook.com/allsaaintslockport/?ref=hl)
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

St. Anthony of Padua (Latin Mass)
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3AW-0MXV](https://bit.ly/3AW-0Mxv)
DAILY: 6:00 PM
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM

St. Joseph University Parish
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UC10BCC1G0ZWRF-M5OYO_CQNQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC10BCC1G0ZWRF-M5oYO_CQnQ)

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

St. Francis of Assisi
LIVESTREAM FEED: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ST-FRANCIS-OF-ASSISI-CHURCH-221506421196977/?REF=BOOKMARKS](https://www.facebook.com/St-Francis-of-Assisi-Church-221506421196977/?ref=bookmarks)
DAILY: 8:00 AM
SATURDAY: 10:00 AM AND 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Niagara Falls)
LIVESTREAM LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/476277555253/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/476277555253/)
WEEKDAYS: NOON
SUNDAY: 11:30 AM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
LIVESTREAM LINKS: [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/olsh) & [YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EwkgwLnn8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ)
WEDNESDAY: 12 NOON
SUNDAY: 10:00 AM



Radio Schedule				
CITIES	PROGRAM	STATION	DAY	TIME
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
	The Ukrainian Catholic Hour	WJLJ-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				



The Catholic Channel
Sirius 129
XM 129

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

Experience the peace of Medjugorje Sept. 24-Oct. 4, 2021 with Father Robert Owczarczak. Call Carolanne 716-491-9431

Prayer

Pray in Interior Silence through the Centering Prayer method "Be still and know that I am God" (PS. 46:10) www.contemplativeoutreach-buffalo.com

Retreat Center

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Sister Joan Marie Benoit, RSM

Sister Joan Marie Benoit, RSM, a teacher and missionary, died April 20, 2020 at Mercy Center, Buffalo. She was 84. Born in Jamestown, to the late Lemier and Mary Elizabeth (McAvoy) Benoit, Sister Joan's father worked at the local newspaper on the printing press, her mother was a teacher and homemaker. After graduating from SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School, Joan continued with the Sisters of Mercy by attending Mt. Mercy Academy, Buffalo. Two Buffalo Public School teachers welcomed her into their home as a boarder. After graduating with honors, she entered the Sisters of Mercy Community September 1, 1953. While earning a bachelor's degree in education from Medaille College (formerly Mt. St. Joseph Teachers College) Sister Joan taught at Holy Family School, Buffalo, St. Joseph, Albion, St. Bonaventure, West Seneca and other Catholic Schools in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and St. James in Jamestown. Sister Joan continued to earn post graduate credits in education from St. Bonaventure University, Niagara University and Trocaire College.

In 1969, Sister Joan joined the Mercy Mission in the Philippines. Her first year included attending the Language and Culture School in Ozamis, Philippines. Being accomplished in languages Sister Joan was assigned as administrator and faculty member of Mercy High School, Iligan City, Mindanao and later administrator and teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. Upon returning to the U.S., Sister Joan also returned to her school, SS Peter and Paul, Jamestown, as assistant principal and Junior High teacher from 1978 to 1985. She continued ministering in several other Catholic Schools in the diocese. As a member of the Middle States Accreditation Team she assisted in St. Teresa School, Buffalo, acquiring accreditation in 1995.

Sister Joan ministered in



Saipan, Mariana Islands from 1995 to 2001 at Mt. Carmel School and was instrumental in that school receiving Western Pacific Accreditation.

The value of education and the love of God's children was a driving force that kept Sister Joan

in the class room for more than 60 years which included teaching GED classes at the Warde Center, in Buffalo and providing instruction for students in the Learning Lab at Mount Mercy Academy.

Sister Joan's ring motto is "Ecce Ancilla Domini" – "Behold the Handmaid of the Lord." Sister lived her life being of service to all those she encountered. Joy for adventure enriched her life and the lives of those she taught.

Sister Joan is survived by brother Richard (Joanne) Benoit, niece Karry Camp and nephew Toby Benoit. She is sister to late Catherine (Gerald) Corkery.

A memorial service to be held at a later date. Burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna. Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 625 Abbott Road, Buffalo, NY 14220. Arrangements entrusted to the Reddington Funeral Home.

**Sister Linda Glaeser, SSJ**

A long-time physical therapist, Sister Linda Glaeser died March 26, 2020, at Buffalo General Hospital after a yearlong battle with cancer. She was 72.

Born in Buffalo June 15, 1947, Sister Linda was the daughter of Francis and Norine (Crehan) Glaeser.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in September 1965 and pronounced her final vows in December 1973.

Following two years at Mount St. Joseph College and one year of teaching at Cathedral School in Buffalo, Sister followed her dream. She completed the physical therapy program at SUNY at Buffalo, earning a bachelor of science degree in physical therapy in 1972.

Joining the Physical Therapy Department at Sisters of Charity Hospital in 1972, Sister worked in her field for 44 years. She served as assistant director for three years and was part of the hospital's Long-Term Home HealthCare Program



from 1994-2013. She subsequently worked at Aspire of Western New York and volunteered at Journey's End Refugee Services.

Concern for others took Sister beyond her career – to Africa. A trip to Kenya with her niece Michele Sprada in 2003

made her aware of the lack of clean water. She consequently founded Future in Our Hands – USA in 2005 to develop wells, support education, and organize multiple services. President of the organization's board, she made several trips to Kenya between 2005 and 2019.

A music lover, Sister sang in the choir at St. Joseph University Church in Buffalo. She also played guitar and sang with Sisters of St. Joseph groups.

Sister is survived by her sisters Karen Sprada and Teresa Ricigliano.

A memorial Mass will be offered in the Sisters of St. Joseph Residence at a time to be announced.



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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.*

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— Excerpt from “What is a Vet”
by Father Dennis Edward O’Brien, USMC



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