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# THE ECHO

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## "CATHOLIC WEEK" IN NEW YORK CITY A MOST IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION

### CONGRESS OPENED WITH PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

#### Mass Meeting in Madison Square Garden with Apostolic Delegate and Three Cardinals as Speakers.

The thousands of Catholic men and women who assembled in New York City in the first half of this week to be present during "Catholic Week" were probably undetermined at the close of the business sessions of the various national bodies as to whether the impressive pontifical high mass on Sunday morning at St. Patrick's Cathedral, with the Apostolic Delegate and three Cardinals occupying the thrones and the singing of the mass at Madison Square Garden, would be the most impressive demonstration of an equally imposing array of Church dignitaries and was marked by the exhibition of a degree of spontaneous enthusiasm perhaps never before evoked in this country at similar meetings under Catholic auspices. A matter of fact comparison was difficult, inasmuch as the two incidents were of a different order, the one being a religious celebration, the other a demonstration. At all events, both together powerfully appealed to the emotions of the visiting delegates and made a lasting impression upon them.

The appearance of the venerable Cardinal Farley, 89, dean of the College of Cardinals, in the vestments of the Cathedral, long before the time set for the beginning of the services in the morning, so great was the concourse of the faithful, which burst forth anew when Cardinal Farley appeared almost simultaneously with the other Cardinals.

**Western New York Catholic to go fully digital see page 4**

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# Fear Not

## From the Apostolic Administrator

BY  
BISHOP EDWARD B. SCHARFENBERGER

**Sir Thomas More:** *You threaten like a dockside bully.*

**Thomas Cromwell:** *How should I threaten?*

**More:** *Like a minister of state, with justice.*

**Cromwell:** *Oh, justice is what you're threatened with.*

**More:** *Then I am not threatened.*

This memorable exchange from the movie “A Man for All Seasons” (1966) between St. Thomas More and a henchman from the court of King Henry VIII reveals an all too familiar pattern in statecraft and, frankly, the schoolyard. More is trying to do his job and be a good citizen. Legislation has been passed that has nothing to do with justice but with the preservation of a certain social order, in this case, a monarchical one. The king wants to produce an heir and fears the pope will not grant him a divorce from his second marriage (his first, from which he was canonically released, had proven infertile). Political handlers, essentially bullies such as Cromwell and even the archbishop of Canterbury, fear dynastic wars among the barons. They live in fear themselves and therefore resort to it when they become desperate.

First they come up with legislation authorizing the king to write his own decree of divorce. More will not sign it for reasons of conscience. That, at least, is his argument. More does not reveal the foundation of his refusal: that the law is abhorrent to the law of God. He seeks, rather, to use reason, his best legal and logical skills to avoid a direct confrontation with the authority of the king or of Parliament (the legislature). He uses a legal maxim – that silence betokens consent – to justify both his silence and his refusal to sign. He follows the law. The king and his advisors want more: his verbal consent to their actions. They want conformity. Since More will not submit, they resort to threats and, ultimately, violence. More will lose his head on the false testimony of one trumped up “witness.”

Of all the unspeakable “f-words” in the English language, none is more pernicious than fear. Fear itself – that of which President Franklin Roosevelt famously opined as the only fear we should be afraid of. Fear has always been a political commodity, a tool of tyrants, to impose behavioral conformity. It can take on many forms, some quite blatant, others more subtle.



The movie tracks one example of the evolution of this process. The Gospel narrates another.

The activities Jesus and his disciples both practiced and refused to engage in were a source of dismay and anxiety for the political figures of the time. The crucifixion was, finally, a political execution, the ultimate terror, or instrument of fear that the Roman State was exquisitely apt at employing. Even as threats to life and limb loomed throughout the life of Jesus – from the flight of his family into Egypt to escape the persecution of Herod to many potentially violent mob actions that Jesus escaped – the Gospel message remains essentially one of freedom and liberation from fear and its ultimate weapon, violence.

“Fear not, I have overcome the world,” Jesus says (Jn 16:33). And, in another place, “Fear is useless. What is needed is faith” (Mk 5:36). Jesus counseled against being more concerned about those who threaten bodily harm, than the Evil One who attacks our very soul.

St. Thomas More had no ambitions to become a hero, let alone a martyr. He was a practical man who sought to live a peaceful life in accord with the blessings and talents God gave him. Robert Bolt, the author of the screenplay of the movie cited above, considered himself an agnostic and does not set out to portray the sanctity of More. Rather, he sees him as a champion of conscience.

Many are inclined to view the conflicts in our society in theological terms, conflicts between good and evil or, more dramatically, God and Satan. Of course they are! This has been going on since the Garden of Eden. For Christians, however, there is an even deeper reality, the conviction of the faith that the battle has already been won. As much as Satan and his minions might appear to be in control at times, his game is ultimately a charade, a lie.

We do not minimize the tragic effects of violence and oppression, the suffering that it brings to so many throughout the course of history and in our own time, from the womb to the tomb. Nonetheless, we will not submit to fear or those who deploy its many dark and devious devices. If anything, it is a good way to gauge whether a movement or a messenger is from God or the Evil One.

In the words of the dialogue above, if God threatens, or appears to threaten, it is always with justice and goodness. Like Thomas More, then we are not threatened. If one is in a situation wherein he or she feels used or intimidated – as happens in all incidents of sexual abuse, domestic violence, or by gossip and innuendo in the neighborhood or workplace – take courage. One thing Evil cannot stand is exposure to the Light.

It might sound trite and simplistic to some, but the words of St. Francis endure: “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

The “Little Way” of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a doctor of the Church, remains music to the soul. She had a special love for missionaries, for whom she prayed and sacrificed, offering up her little daily chores for them, sending her heart on an awesome journey by which she could unite with them and connect with their global mission.

Each of us, as disciples of Jesus, is on a heroic mission, to make Christ’s presence felt in the world. Wherever Jesus is, there is peace. That is his enduring gift to his disciples, to those who trust in him. Embrace it. Nurture it. Let it fill your heart. “Lord Jesus, I trust in you!” This is the echo of the prayer of the martyrs, those witnesses for whom nothing would separate them from the love of God – not fear, or even fear itself. Fear not! “For nothing will be impossible with God” (Lk 1:37).



# New Beginnings

A line from the song “Closing Time” by Semisonic has stuck with me over the years: “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” It has allowed me to understand change and how change is really the beginning of something fresh and new.

Well, there have been big changes at the *Western New York Catholic* newspaper. A new beginning is coming from some other beginning’s end.

The September issue of the WNYCatholic is the last issue that will be printed in its current form. The stories and the images of life in the eight-county diocese will still be told, but they will reside on the newspaper’s website, [wnycatholic.org](http://wnycatholic.org). While I’m sure you’re sad to see the physical paper go, as I am, it is for the best.

Over its 150-year lifetime the paper has changed several times. It has been published under different names and in several languages — including Polish and German — serving the immigrant populations that built Buffalo. In 1872, the *Catholic Union and Times* began publication under Buffalo’s second bishop, Stephen Ryan, CM. It became the *Magnificat* in 1964. The paper’s current name, *Western New York Catholic* was started in 1981.

Fresh out of college, I came on board as the staff photographer in 1995. Back then, I shot my pictures on film and developed them by hand in the office darkroom, a process that could take an hour. In 2001, there was a change. The paper purchased a digital camera. My images took five minutes to process and could be sent across the globe in mere seconds. I became managing editor of the paper in 2016 and worked with the staff to update the look and content of the paper. The changes made by us were rewarded by the *Western New York Catholic* being named Newspaper of the Year by the Catholic Press Association in 2018.

During my time here and through many changes, I have enjoyed bringing the stories and news of the Catholic faithful, just as my predecessors had done since 1872.

Each month when the newspaper was published, I would comb through the issue, seeing the stories of the faithful filling the pages. Now, I will click through the WNYCatholic news on my iPhone. This is a big change for me.

Yes, it’s not the same. No ink on the fingers, but the Gospel tells us to go out and spread the good news to the people where they are. As people change, we must change with them in order to reach them. So where are people getting their news? They are getting it online.

Over the summer, the staff of the Office of Communications has been developing a refreshing new look for the WNYCatholic.org. Our content

will be updated daily instead of monthly. We will be including both national and international stories alongside our award-winning coverage of the eight-county diocese. I invite you to continue to submit your stories and photographs so we may share them in our new digital platform.

I am excited to see this transformation of the WNYCatholic. Our job is still to serve you, our readers, and the ministry of the Diocese of Buffalo. We still will be doing this, just in a different form.

While it may be the end of our physical edition, I hope you will join us in our new beginning.



FILE PHOTO

Patrick McPartland started at the Western New York Catholic in 1995 as a photojournalist. McPartland has seen many changes in his years at the Diocese of Buffalo and is looking forward to the new changes to come.

## In this Issue



Bishop Joseph Burke laid to rest at St. Joseph Cathedral  
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### ON THE COVER

Past issue of the Union Echo newspaper that served the diocese from ##.

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Please submit copy for [wnycatholic.org](http://wnycatholic.org) online at [wnycatholic@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:wnycatholic@buffalodiocese.org). No typewritten or hand written materials will be accepted. Submissions for newspaper publication no longer accepted.



# Last printed issue of the Western New York Catholic News reporting will continue despite lack of physical paper

By PATRICK J. BUECHI  
Staff Reporter

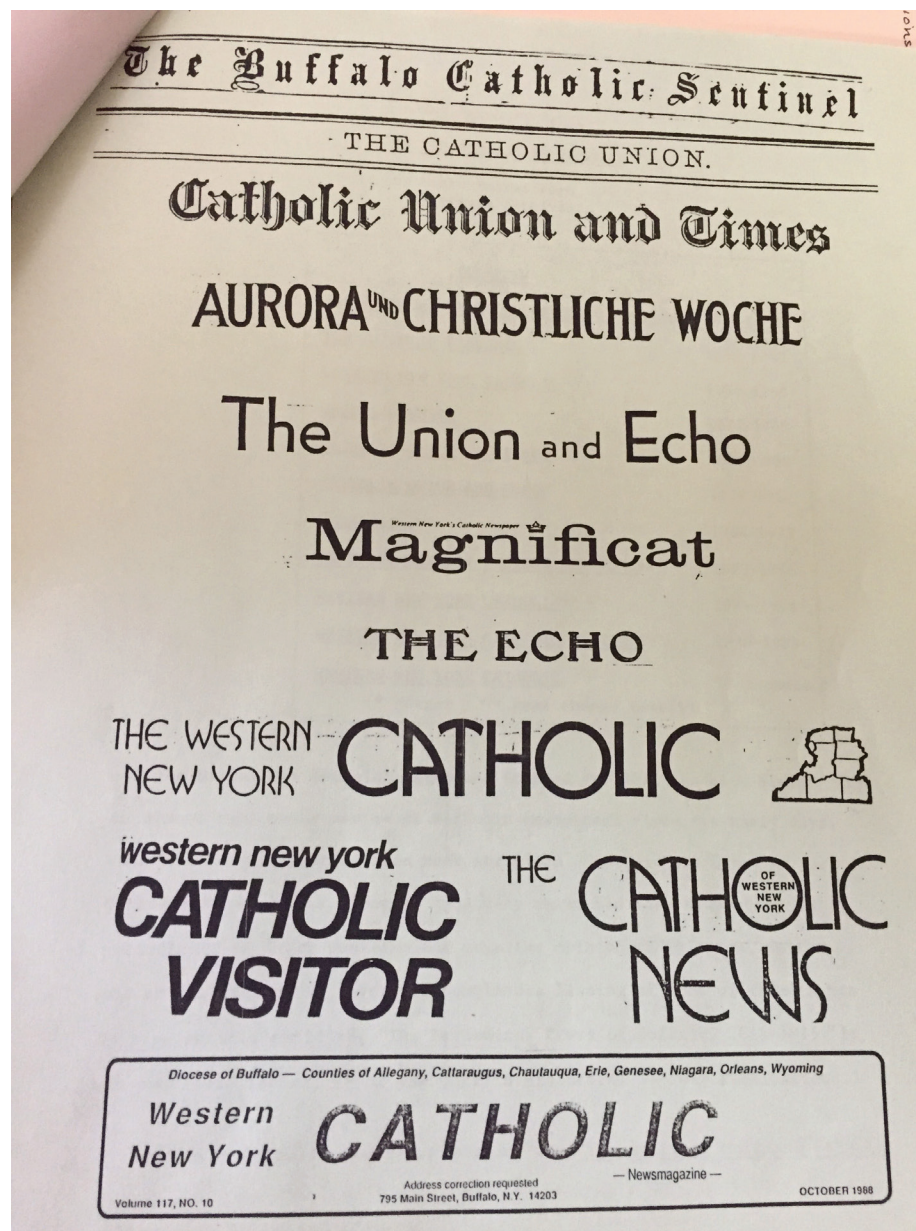
This issue of the Western New York Catholic will be the last printed copy produced by the diocesan Office of Communications. Although we will lose the hardcopy of the paper that traditionally has been read on the ride back home after church, or before Mass, maybe during; the same news will continue to be delivered through the WNYCatholic.org website, as well as social media.

The Communications staff did an unexpected test run of the all-digital format this past spring when the coronavirus pandemic prevented the printing of the May and June issues.

The benefits are mostly financial. It cost \$130,000 a year to print a standard 48-page paper. That cost is covered by parish assessments and advertising. COVID-19 has limited parish events, which cuts into advertising. Having no Masses or 25 percent capacity Masses, makes those assessments harder to manage. Some might have noticed that the past few issues of the diocesan paper have been a mere 20 pages.

A digital news site will cost only a few thousand dollars a year and allow us to the staff of the diocesan Office of Communications to expand the talents into video production, podcasts and slideshows, as well as providing the traditional black and white text stories.

"It's been talked about probably as far back as 2006, when they were merging parishes during the Journey in Faith and Grace," explained Patrick McPartland, managing editor of the paper. "(The Chancery) looked at the building here and thought about what they can do to change things up. There was a real push for the internet. That's when all the departments started getting internet pages.



COURTESY OF DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Historical predecessors of the Western New York Catholic newspaper.

It was looked at as the Western New York Catholic would have two components (physical and digital). Somewhere down the line we would have to go all digital. It was just inevitable with dropping advertising rates, increase in how much it costs to print a paper, and declining readership."

McPartland points to how readers get their news nowadays. His teenaged nephews read the WNYC online through their iPads. They see every issue, but never

picked up an actual copy of the paper.

"That's a group we need to evangelize to more, so we'll reach out that way," he said. "They say preach the Gospel where people are. Well, they used to be in the public square. Now they're online. That's where they are and that's where we have to reach out to them."

The decision to stop printing finally came down October 2018. The original plan called for the last

issue to roll out February 2019. Due to a hold up with the website, the decision was made to extend the contract with The Buffalo News, who did the printing, until the end of the 2020 fiscal year.

"It saves money for the diocese. Hopefully some of the money that's saved can be used to better ourselves in the digital world," McPartland said. "We have a pretty good foothold. We're doing very well with what we have, but with a little bit of this extra money, we can do other things. It would allow us technology to allow us to do things quicker because we have a smaller staff. We used to have an advertising coordinator and a bookkeeper. Now one person is doing that. If we can put a tool in there to help that person do it quicker, it will allow them to do other things. It frees them up."

One drawback of the move is that the large elderly population, who traditionally pick up the hard copy, will not be able to have their news the way they are most comfortable. The new website, which will be up and running by October, will include big photos with large print for easy navigation. McPartland said he is looking into providing a simple way to produce a hard copy of stories for those who want it.

People can expect the same news they have read in the past despite the reduced staff, which now includes only one reporter, a photographer, an online media coordinator and a managing editor.

"The website is going to be a lot more dynamic than we have," explained Nicole Dzimira, the online media coordinator and designer of the website. "It will be much more navigable. It will highlight certain stories on top, other stories on the bottom. It's also going to have a more daily publication turnaround."

Stories, slideshows and videos will populate the site with daily  
*See Readership page 5*



# Bittersweet transition as the WNYCatholic prints last issue

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

My great-grandfather worked for the Courier-Express in the same building I work in now. He was a printer by trade, so I have black ink in my veins.

As we begin work on our last print issue, I think of how much we have advanced in the 20 odd years I've been writing for the Western New York Catholic. (Some years have been odder than others.)

We used to print out each story separately on our black and white Xerox copier then paste them down on blue-lined printer sheets. All the ads would all be pasted separately. Many were reused month after month. We'd hand a stack of pages a half-inch thick to our printer on Friday, then Monday morning the final copy would be delivered. Looking at the printed paper was my favorite part of our cycle. Seeing the final product of our month's work fresh from the presses gave a sense of closure to the stories I wrote. It's now ready to be shared with the public.

Seeing the words on printed paper gave them a kind of value. Details of an event would not have to be shared through word of mouth

with added embellishments in each telling. This was it. This is what happened. It's there in black and white. Gutenberg's printing press is said to have started the modern era of communication. Our paper was a part of that. We created factual consistent accounts of events that could be, and in my case would be, saved for future reference. No one would have to rely on memory or one person's account of a story.

Behind my desk were decades of bound issues. I liked looking through them. I liked the sense of permanence on the printed page. It gave a sense of history. These events – the conventions, the Masses, the lives of the priests and sisters in the obituaries, the activities of the faithful – can continue to exist by being read.

I got in this game to be immortal. Like Twain, Hemingway and Thompson, my words preserved on paper would let future generations know that I had existed as much as they let people know that Holy Angels Academy and Bishop McLaughlin existed. People would know that 2.5 million people gathered for World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, and I was there. I took pride when someone said, "I



FILE PHOTO

Former Managing Editor Rick Franusiak (left) congratulates reporter Patrick J. Buechi on his 2007 Catholic Press Association Award.

read it in the 'Western New York Catholic.'"

Now we're bringing the same passion and desire to a new format – the internet. Gutenberg started in 1600, the internet started in the 1980s, so "new" is a relative term. It's a bittersweet transition. I'll miss seeing the photos and stories in print, but we will be able to share video and slideshows. We will no

longer be limited by column inches or deadlines. If something happens on Monday, you can read about on Tuesday, not a month and half later.

I'll still be writing and I hope you will still read it, now exclusively at WNYCatholic.org. Check in often because it will update frequently. I'd hate for you to miss anything.

I wonder what my great-grandfather would think of this.

## Readership moved to digital the WNYCatholic must do the same

*From page 4*  
updates. A link to Catholic News Service, which will give content from the Vatican, will be included, allowing readers to examine issues of the day through the Catholic lens.

"Our goal is to modernize our Western New York Catholic website to current design standards. Basically, allowing our viewers to access our stories more easily." Dzimira points out that the current site does not have the capability of resizing the page to fit mobile devices, but the new site will. "It's the kind of thing we have to pay attention to because our readership is slowly moving towards phones over the last decade. I read all my news on my phone. I know people

my age and younger who do not even have a desktop computer."

The new site also has long-term benefits in regards to design. Designed on Wordpress, and industry standard, the design of the site can easily be updated.

"I am excited to see the WNY Catholic going digital," said Sister Mary McCarrick, OSF, chief operating officer of the diocese. "The new format will allow us to be more timely in presenting information and ideas of value to the Catholics of the diocese. We will be able to connect with national news through links and present the local connection to national stories as they develop."

People have spoken out against ending the physical copy of the

paper, but in these days of low church attendance, a move towards the future is necessary.

"Times are tough. I don't want to get rid of the newspaper," said McPartland. "You can't hang a news story on the refrigerator with an iPad. At the same time, with the money being spent, I stand back and say, I can help more people with us shifting in this direction. A lot of people are saying, we're losing young people. You lose young people from 17 to their 30s. It's a time of change. Hopefully they can reach out to their faith. They're not reaching for newspapers. They're reaching online. We want to be there for them when they do have do Google they're questions."

The staff encourages everyone to contact them to let them know what is happening in the parishes, schools and organizations throughout the diocese.

"We rely on the Catholics of Western New York to invite us to cover stories through the eight counties," said Sister Mary. "What is happening in the church in your area? Each area has a story to tell and we want to share your story though the diocese so we can encourage each other and learn from one another."

It could be said that the Western New York Catholic will no longer be the paper in the back of the church, but the paper being delivered to your digital doorstep.



# Bishop Burke finds his final, final resting place at cathedral

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

Bishop Joseph Burke found a new home in a familiar place. The remains of Buffalo's ninth bishop, now rest, quite fittingly, in St. Joseph Cathedral, where he was baptized, ordained and served as a priest.

Bishop Burke had been buried in front of the chapel of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora since his Oct. 16, 1962 death. With the future of the seminary in question, the bodies of Bishop Burke and seven others who are buried in the cemetery on the grounds, were moved. Bishop Burke's body was laid to rest in the Bishops' crypt behind the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on Aug. 11.

Born Aug. 27, 1886, Bishop Burke was baptized at St. Joseph Cathedral by Father James Quigley. Eleven years later Father Quigley would be named third bishop of Buffalo. No other bishop of Buffalo has the distinction of being baptized by one of his predecessors.

"It was a historic moment that nobody realized at the time, because as Father Quigley baptized the future Bishop Burke, a priest was baptizing a baby, a future bishop was baptizing a future bishop," said Mariam Shannon, the bishop's grand-niece. "I just love that story. I think it is so touching. It happened right here and that's where he's resting now."

After a series of summer jobs that took him to Lackawanna and study that brought him



DAN CAPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Family members gather in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, located in St. Joseph's Cathedral, for the burial of Bishop Joseph A. Burke. Bishop Burke was buried at Christ the King Seminary, but with the sale of the seminary, the bishop's body was moved to the bishops' crypt in the cathedral.

to Innsbruck, Austria, Bishop Burke was ordained priest on Aug. 3, 1912, by Bishop Charles Colton at St. Joseph Cathedral. Once again, his predecessor conferred a sacrament on him. After serving as a chaplain during World War I, he would serve under Msgr. Charles Duffy at the cathedral until St. Joseph's New Cathedral was built.

When Pope Pius XII

appointed then Father Burke as auxiliary bishop in 1943, few people were surprised. When Bishop Burke was chosen to succeed Cardinal Joseph O'Hara in 1952, many expected the appointment, even though it was a rare case of a native son leading his own home diocese.

A 1962 tribute issue of the Catholic Union & Echo lists a page and



DAN CAPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mariam Shannon holds a picture of her uncle, Bishop Joseph Burke as family members gather in St. Joseph's Cathedral, for the internment of Bishop Burke. The bishop's body was moved to the bishops' crypt in the cathedral alongside the other bishop's who served throughout the history of the Diocese of Buffalo.

a half of new churches, schools, rectories and convents erected during his decade-long tenure as bishop of Buffalo. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the founding of St. John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora, later Christ the King, a decision he made after the Vincentian Fathers moved Our Lady of the Angels Seminary from Niagara University to Albany. Ground broke September 1960. It was fitting that he be buried there after his 1962 death.

Msgr. Paul J.E.

Burkard offered a personal reflection during a small prayer service for the family members of the late bishop, who he served under as a young man.

"I always thought of him as a gentleman before I thought of him as a bishop," he said. "He had a wonderful little smile. And he never left the ceremony

after the Mass was over in the sacristy without going to each one of the servers saying, 'Thank you for serving for this particular Mass.' Just a wonderful little gesture. Here I was, a young guy contemplating priesthood and here was this bishop who was kind and friendly and a warm smile. I have to say in the back of my mind it was the image of that kind of a priest that I wanted to be. So, in some ways he was an inspiration for me all throughout my seminary years."

Shannon also spoke at the service, describing her fascination with the work her grandmother's brother had done for the diocese. "As I got older and older, I'm now 70, I appreciate his life story and his role in our area. That's why I feel very lucky to talk about it today to keep his name alive and



# Bishop Burke laid to rest in cathedral crypt beside his fellow bishop's who served the Diocese of Bishop Buffalo

his legacy alive. I think it's inspiring to the next generation that a kid from South Buffalo did all that."

Shannon wrote a book about her grand-uncle titled, "The South Buffalo Boy Who Became Bishop," which she considers a family memoir and a vocation story.

Joseph Simon, grand-nephew, was very young when his namesake passed away. His biggest memory of him was the chocolate he would hand out to his siblings.

"He's sitting on the marble top table and making us all go wash our hands so we could get our chocolate. Those are my biggest memories – the chocolate." Each of the children could take one piece of chocolate in each hand before running off and allowing the adults to talk. "A lot of chocolate got consumed. And I'm sure it was some fabulous chocolatier he got it from because they were delicious."

The bodies of Buffalo Bishops John Timon, Stephen Ryan, Charles Colton, Edward Head and Edward Kmiec also rest in the Bishops' Crypt.

The bodies of Msgr. Robert Wurtz and his parents, Charles and Ruth, were moved to Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna. As were Father

Peter McGowan and Father Kevin King. Father John Lambert Rowan, OFM, the first rector of

the seminary, was moved to St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Olean.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Msgr. Paul J.E. Burkard speaks to family members as they gather for the burial of Bishop Joseph A. Burke, ninth Bishop of Buffalo at St. Joseph Cathedral.

## Story of a short priesthood, Father Peter McGowan

Among the remains that were removed from Christ the King Seminary in early August were those of Father Peter McGowan, who served the priesthood a mere 37 days.

The 24-year-old Buffalo native was ordained in a conference room at Sister's Hospital in Buffalo while battling terminal cancer. Bishop James McNulty, who conducted the ordination, allowed the young man special dispensation to be ordained a year early due to his illness.

During his 37 days as a priest, Father McGowan concelebrated 37 Masses. Among his main celebrants were four bishops – McNulty, Pius Benincasa, Stanislaus Brzana, Eustace Smith of Lebanon, and one future bishop – Father Donald Trautman. He also heard the confessions of priests and seminarians, blessed

hundreds of hospital workers, and baptized his nephew Michel Francis Liddell. One of the Sisters of Charity who staffed the hospital, mentioned at the time of his death, that Father McGowan led one hospital employee to return to the Church after having a talk with him.

Known as a top student and athlete in school, his classmates at St. John Vianney Seminary said he taught them the meaning of priesthood. He once told his first-grade teacher at St. Joseph School, that not only did he want to be a priest, he wanted to be pope.

Robert Armbruster, a reporter for the diocesan paper, The Magnificat, became so impressed by Father McGowan that he wrote an inspirational biography on him titled, "So Little Time, So Many Graces."

He died July 5, 1965, and became

the second person buried at St. John Vianney Seminary, later Christ the

King. His body was moved to Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The grave stone of Father Peter J. McGowan at the Christ the King Seminary cemetery.



# After discovering Catholic faith, Deacon Achidi plans to serve it

BY PATRICK J. BUECHI  
Staff Reporter

Deacon Denning Achidi has wanted to be a part of the long and rich history of the Catholic Church, ever since he realized the depth of the faith at age 12.

Born in Cameroon, Deacon Achidi was raised in his father's Presbyterian church. He admits it had little effect on him.

"I just went to church on Sunday as a Presbyterian because that's the thing we did," he said. "We just went to church to obey our parents. If you didn't go to church you would be called a pagan and wouldn't be able to eat breakfast or lunch."

During his vacation time, he would visit his maternal grandmother, who took the lad to her Catholic parish for daily Mass. She even had him pray the rosary and sing hymns, which he did out of love for his grandmother.

"As it kept happening for a while, I realized I was having some connection to the new-found faith – the Catholic Church. I knew there was something in this Church that was deeper, that was at least 2,000 years old. This seems to be the longest (denomination) that has



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deacon Denning Achidi will be ordained at Our Lady of Victory Church on September 19th.

existed in the time of Christ. There has got to be something more to it," he thought.

He decided to attend Catholic Mass with his mother one Sunday. That's when the prayers and hymns and traditions started to click with him. "The sight of it just sort of moved me. I saw kids my age going up to receive Communion. I was like, 'They're receiving Jesus.' The reverence that I saw in the Church signaled to me that someone and not something has been consumed.

I told my mom right after Mass I want to become Catholic."

After joining a catechesis program and being received into the Church, he became active as an altar server. He found the group of teens who helped at the church to be a very fraternal group who encouraged each other in the faith. It brought him closer to the Church and closer to the altar. Spending time in a vocations group at the parish helped him decide to become a diocesan priest.

He spent time in a high school seminary in Cameroon, until his family relocated to Washington, D.C. After earning an associate's degree Montgomery College in Maryland. Deacon Achidi, moved by the Oblate charism of service to the poor, came to Buffalo in 2012 to do his pre-novitiate studies at D'Youville while living at Oblate-run Holy Angels Parish. A year of discernment brought him to Christ the King Seminary in January 2015, where he once again decided to pursue the life of a diocesan priest.

During his five years of studying for his master of divinity degree, Deacon Achidi realized the complexities of the Catholic faith.

"I've learned that my faith is not black or white," he said. "It's complex. I think seminary studies

stretches your mind to think beyond and not just limit yourself to one possibility."

Seminarians take classes in theology, philosophy, Scripture, Church history and Canon Law. They also learn where their gifts and talents lie.

"I've learned this about myself. That I'm a good speaker. People appreciated my homilies. I've learned that I have some affinity for theology and canon law. I've also learned that I can be very sociable, being friendly with people. But I also learned that there is a lot that I need to learn," he said.

During his seminary life, Deacon Achidi saw the worldwide Church, as well as the Diocese of Buffalo and the seminary itself, come under scrutiny due to abuse accusations. He never turned away, instead he turned to Christ Himself with a 'what would Jesus do' attitude.

"I think Jesus would say, 'Where else would I be.' He didn't come at a time when everything was just plain sailing. He came at a time when the Jews themselves were experiencing Roman oppression. Crucifixion was normal during this time. There were things that were horrible in this time," he said. "Amid the chaos is when Jesus comes. I'm not saying I'm Jesus, but if I'm going to act persona Christi, this is the time to come. This is the time to be here. This is time to be a good witness. And this is the time to encourage people that there is hope."

Now, just days before his ordination, he is proud to not only be a member of the faith, but an active servant of the Lord and His people.

"I hope to be a true servant, to serve people. Not be there boss, per se," he explained. "I believe, which is a theological truth, is that the minister of priesthood, which is what we're being ordained to, he is at the service of the common priesthood. There is no minister of priesthood if there is no common priesthood in the first place. So, when we gather on Sunday at Mass it is God's chosen people who gather to offer a sacrifice."



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deacon Denning Achidi speaks to St. Amelia Church staffers Arlene Meyerhofer and Catie Wagner in the rectory office.



# Tonawanda native finds gives up dream job for priesthood

**By PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

For Christopher Emminger, the road to priesthood wasn't as long and winding as it is for some people, but it did take him to new places. Before entering the seminary, the 31-year-old was content to stick around and serve his Tonawanda home.

"I've learned essentially to trust in God, that He knows what he's doing with me," Deacon Emminger said, shortly before his ordination. "I grew up in the Town of Tonawanda and never really moved at all. Then, during my time in the seminary, I've been sent all over the diocese – Westfield to Wellsville to Orchard Park and now to Lake View for my diaconal year. They've all been brand new experiences, and yet, they've all enriched me in their own ways. I never would have thought my plans would have taken me to these places in the diocese, but they've been so rich and rewarding. A lot of the seminary has been learning how to grow, learning how to trust, and learning how to adapt to things."

Deacon Emminger grew up in a very Catholic household in the Town of Tonawanda, where his father, Joseph, is now town supervisor. Both his parents were very active at St. Amelia Parish. The family always attended Sunday Mass, where Chris served at the altar. He also attended St. Amelia's School and later St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute. But it wasn't until after college that he started discerning a call to the priesthood.

"My father was the first one to bring up the priesthood to me," Deacon Emminger recalled. "My great uncle, Msgr. Joe Hassler, was a priest in the diocese. He said, 'He was a priest who led a great life. A lot of the traits that he had, I see in you. You should consider the priesthood.' He told me this when I was in my 20s. I told him I would think about it, but I thought he was crazy because I didn't see God ever calling someone like me to the priesthood."

By "someone like me," Deacon Emminger means someone who had

other goals in life. He had plans to join the military, then to become a police officer for the Town of Tonawanda.

After graduating from Buffalo State College with a criminal justice degree, he began work in the Town of Tonawanda Parks Department while waiting to hear back on a job in his chosen field. He would often maintain the baseball diamonds alone, where he had time to think. "This was the first period of my life when I wasn't dealing with any kind of classwork and I actually had time to think, what do I want to do?" he said.

Deacon Emminger started going to Daily Mass and began some spiritual reading. Then spoke to Father Leon Biernat, a family friend and former vocation director, who told him about the Response Group at Christ the King Seminary, where men can discern their vocation call. When he finally got the job offer he was waiting for from the New York State Department of Corrections, he



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deacon Chris Emminger will be ordained at Our Lady of Victory Church on September 19th.

turned them down to enter Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. "I had to give the seminary at least one year to figure out am I called to the priesthood," he said. "I never looked back."

He had a couple friends at CKS, who helped him feel accepted, as God calls all different people to the priesthood.

"One of great blessings I had was Father Rob Contarin, who was ordained last year, he was already in the seminary a year when I decided to join, so he was a great mentor to me. So was Father Bob Owczarzak. They taught me that we all have our different personalities and God calls us to use our personalities and traits to minister. It's such a big church that He calls a very diverse group of people."

This year's diocesan ordination was to take place June 6, but was postponed due to COVID-19, which is just as well, because Deacon Emminger himself was sidelined by the disease.

When the pandemic began in March, all the seminarians were sent home. Deacon Emminger moved back in with his parents. During Holy Week, both he and his father contracted COVID-19. "That was three weeks of my life," he said, pointing out that he had a mild case. His father's health was much worse. When the virus had cleared his system, Deacon Emminger moved into St. John Paul II Parish in Lake View where he spent his diaconal year.

"It was scary. My father and I were sick at the exact same time. He did several interviews because he is the supervisor of the Town of Tonawanda. One of the news organizations described me as his '31-year-old son who lives at home.' I laughed, Can we get a little context as to why I'm at home right now," he recalled.

Now, ready to face the next step on his journey, Deacon Emminger reflects back on something Pope Benedict XVI said during an early audience. "Each one of us is willed, each one of us is loved, each one of us is necessary." I come back to that a lot because I think it shows we all intrinsic value that goes beyond anything the world may sometimes say we have. We have value due to human dignity that comes with being a child of God."



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deacon Chris Emminger lights a candle at St. John Paul II Church in Lake View.



# Catholic school reveal plan to reopen for Fall

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

People have been wondering if “Back to School” in 2020 means going back or even going to school. Due to COVID-19 the state of public and private schools has been in question since last March when a pandemic forced students to stay home and learn via digital platforms such as Zoom and Google Classroom.

All New York school districts have had to design a reopening plan for the fall. On Aug. 7, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that he will allow all New York state schools to open.

Michael LaFever, Ed.D., superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Buffalo, outlined the plan for the reopening of parish and regional elementary schools. As of mid-August, the plan calls for the majority of Catholic elementary schools in the diocese to be open five days a week with in-person instruction. Although most schools will have full days, as they had last fall, the schools will look and conduct education differently once the students step inside. Desks will be spread apart to avoid the possible spread of the coronavirus. Lunches may be held in classrooms instead of cafeterias. Gym classes may be held outside.

“Most of our schools, because they’re smaller, are able to do the social distancing that’s going to be required,” said LaFever.

Each student will have their temperature taken as they enter the school. Parents are asked to keep their kids at home if they appear to have any signs of a fever or other illness. Students will wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

St. John Vianney School in Orchard Park is just one school that has brought in an outside company to block off desks with plexiglass. Each desk at the pre-K through eighth-grade school will have two plexiglass walls, placed in front and on the left side of each desk. The right side is open so the student is not caged in. For lefties, the glass will be on their right side. Dividers will be placed on the pre-K tables. The school is also capping classes to just 16 students per

room.

In addition, the school provides smaller things, like lanyards with facemasks on them. There will be seven new hand-sanitizing stations. The water fountains have been converted into bottle filling stations.

“We spent a lot of money, well worth it to keep our kids safe,” said Principal Kristine Hider.

The school has already had every room cleaned and every floor buffed in anticipation of the students return. Sprays will be used every night after class. Even the jungle gym will be wiped down after each group of kids uses it during recess.

Desks were distanced and marked by the parents themselves for their children. The amount of materials that stay in the classroom and go home with the teachers will change.

“The rooms are looking really good. I had five or six teachers in her today, and they’re really embracing all of this. It’s wonderful. They’re thinking outside the box. It’s great. They’re all working together, as we usually do anyway,” said Hider.

Transportation should not be a problem. Public schools are required to provide transportation five days a week to Catholic schools as long as they are providing in-person or remote instruction to their students, regardless of the schedule the public schools choose for themselves.

“If they have a staggered schedule or have odd-even days, or even if they do it all online, they’re still obligated to provide us with bus transportation,” LaFever explained. “Now, how the public schools are going to do social distancing on buses, that’s a big unknown.”

Catholic schools do have several substitute strategies in case of another stay at home order.

“If we need to go online, we have alternate plans,” LaFever said. “Our schools can do odd-even days and staggered schedules, hybrid models – bringing in the elementary children Monday, Wednesday, Friday; the intermediate children Tuesday, Thursday. Those are all back up plans for us.”

If a student is found to have COVID, as with any illness, the student



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Amelia School principal Scott Kapperman (right) and assistant principal Janet Larson (left) look over a protective guard which will be provided for each student on their desk for the 2020 school year.

would be placed in an isolation room and cared for by specially garbed nurses. Parents will be called, the child will be sent home and quarantined for 14 days. The Department of Health would be notified so contact tracing could be done. Every person that child had come into contact with would be notified.

“It wouldn’t mean shutting down the school because one child has COVID or even two or three,” explained LaFever.

If there is an outbreak, it may mean a 14-day quarantine for a school. “We’re prepared for that. We know what we have to do. We’re in a much better position this year now that teachers have gone through the online instruction,” he added.

If they return to online distance learning, it will be a structured schedule more in line with a typical school day, to help the family work around the schedule. LaFever does have concern about kindergarteners being in front of a computer for three hours at a time. He suggests the teachers give them a project to do that would allow them time away from the screen, such as following up nutrition

lessons by helping the parents prepare lunch or a healthy snack.

Principals have spoken with senior staff members who may have health conditions that could be compromised by COVID to see if they are fearful about coming back. LaFever heard that St. Benedict’s lost several teachers who decided to retire rather than face the possibility of illness.

“Ironically, we may lose Catholic school teachers to public schools because they’ll be opening. The same thing is happening in public schools. Senior teachers have decided to retire rather than come back,” he said.

Looking back at last year’s surprise turn of events, LaFever is proud of the way Catholic schools responded.

“We lost hardly (any students) in the entire diocese,” he said. “We, honestly, got rave reviews from parents through the entire diocese about how hard our teachers work. I told the principals as soon as I realized that we would have to close, ‘You’ve got to communicate every day, contact each other, contact parents, be working with them, this is going to be critical for the success of our children and our schools.’”



# Environmental activism blooms at SS. Columba-Brigid

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
STAFF REPORTER

There's a small parish in the inner city of Buffalo that has set a benchmark for environmentalism. SS. Columba-Brigid on Hickory Street has replaced the green of the grass with bright reds and yellows of flowers that generate oxygen and provide food for butterflies and bees. This effort earned the parish a Saint Kateri Habitat designation by the Saint Kateri Conservation Center.

Inspired by their pastor, Father William "Jud" Weiksnar, OFM, who often preaches on Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, "Laudato Si," the parish took steps to care more for creation. Now a team of 15 Gardenin' Angels keep hard at work digging up large patches of grass and replacing it with native plants designed to thrive in the area.

When the current church was built in 2006, two stands of arbor vitae were planted, one of 33 trees, the other 17. In 2019, inkberry and potentilla were introduced. Virginia creeper was planted along a stretch of chain link fence to attract hummingbirds. In 2020, the grass on a parking lot island was replaced with colorful butterfly weed and goldenrod.

"We do not have a masterplan because there is so much that can change. But, we're kind of taking one section a year and transforming it," explained Melissa Weiksnar, one of the Gardenin' Angels, as well as the pastor's sister.

The project has three distinct benefits for the parish: it beautifies the area, it improves the ecosystem, and it builds community.

"One is just visual. People have come through and said, 'Wow, it's so nice to see how things look' and in these tough times, having something beautiful to look at makes a difference," said Weiksnar. "I think it's walking the talk about Care for Creation; really having native species that attract birds and butterflies and bees and so forth. And it's an opportunity to bring the parish community together in a different way. When you look at all the hours that people have put in so far this season. We just enjoy coming to plant



PATRICK J. BUECHI/STAFF WRITER

Tom Talty, parish council president at SS. Columba-Brigid Parish, takes on the role of "Holy Waterer" as he makes sure the butterfly weed and goldenrod do not dry out. SS. Columba-Brigid Parish have transformed the parish's greenspace into a colorful, environmentally healthy garden, earning them designation as a Saint Kateri Habitat.

and weed and water and spread mulch and trim. It brought that part of the parish community closer together."

This has been a learning experience for the angels, as they grew to understand the difference between native and invasive plants. Native plants belong in the particular region where they are planted. They grow there naturally, provide habitat and food for wildlife, and don't cause any harmful effects on the environment. Invasive plants are always non-native. They sometimes take over when introduced to a new habitat causing problems for the local ecosystem. This could cause negative effects on wildlife, insects, trees and other plants. The Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper offers a handy native plant guide.

"I've always done the gardening, but she really put a better emphasis on

natural planting," said Betsy Tirado, referring to Weiksnar's direction. "It's been a learning experience for me. I enjoy gardening, so it was very easy to take part in this."

Tom Talty, parish council president, leads a team of Holy Waterers, who come in every night to water the plants if there's no rain. They are in constant contact with Weiksnar for updates on the weather.

"This is our meeting," he said, pointing to the eight people of all ages digging in the dirt. "We try to keep social distancing going, so we'll have a big circle in the parking lot and communicate as to what we're doing."

Talty and his wife joined the parish in 2017 after moving to North Buffalo. They stopped in to visit and found themselves swept up in the diverse energy the parish offers.

"The culture here and the atmosphere here is dynamic. It's a wide breadth of communities. It's a melting pot. I learned a lot of different things," he said.

The parish is always looking for ways to better its stewardship to the environment. Already, it supports renewable energy through a Community Solar program, uses compost bins, recycles, brings in young environmental activists to speak with the youth. There is even a bike rack to encourage people to cycle to church, rather than drive a car.

The Saint Kateri Conservation Center offers a habitat ministry that encourages individuals, parishes, schools, religious orders, and working landowners to restore their homes in a way that praises God and fosters a

*See St. Kateri page 18*



# Right Cheek? Left Cheek? What does it matter?

These days we often hear “turn the other cheek” with a reference to the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew’s gospel. Understanding a gospel passage involves a consideration of its context in the gospel, and its context in the circumstances of the characters and the audience.

The Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29) addresses the disciples and puts forth a way of life expected in the community. When Jesus introduces his teachings on the Law (5:17), he begins with “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill,” in the sense of giving its fuller meaning. He challenges, “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees (the teachers of the Law in that time) you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (5:20). Jesus’ examples of this greater righteousness follow, including his teaching on anger, adultery, divorce



## Pondering with God’s Word

BY  
SR. MARION  
MOESER

and oaths. His next example concerns retaliation: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek, turn the other one to him as well (5:38 – 39).”

“An eye for an eye” is found in Leviticus 24:20 and in that time this law was meant to moderate vengeance, i.e., the punishment should not exceed the injury done. In regards to “Offer no resistance to one who is evil,” the next sentence explains what is meant, particularly the “turn the other cheek” phrase. The

Greek verb *rapidzo*, usually translated as “strike,” is best translated “slap.” Scholars of the social situation in the first century tell us that to slap on the right cheek was to insult or reprimand a person of lower social status. To slap on the right cheek, one must use the back of the right hand; one would not use the left hand since that hand was considered unclean. The right hand was also a sign of authority and the face was taken to be the seat of honor. Thus, a slap on the right cheek was meant to dishonor or shame one of lesser status. Turning the left cheek to the offender put the offender in an untenable situation because to retaliate he or she would have to punch the inferior. One only traded actual blows to the face with an equal, so if the offender hit the subject on the left cheek it would bring dishonor to the offender. Hence, to “turn the other cheek” stops the process or brings shame to the offender; it is a form of nonviolent protest.

The verb *rapidzo* is also used in Matthew’s passion narrative where the temple priests and members of the Sanhedrin have Jesus on trial. After judging Jesus deserving of death, some “spat in his face and struck him, while others slapped him, saying, ‘Prophesy for us, Messiah: who is it that struck you?’” (26:68). Jesus’ silence is his form of resistance to this evil; he is practicing his own teaching and serving as a warning on the price of greater righteousness.

Jesus’ instruction to turn the other cheek is not an instruction to accept insults or injustice, but a challenge to resist systems of domination and oppression without the use of violence. Disciples should not respond in kind. However, rather than ignoring an evil situation and hoping it will go away, Jesus is telling his followers to find creative, active, and nonviolent ways to resist injustice committed against them – thoughts for reflection amid events in our country today.

# How ‘No Catholic Can Vote For \_\_\_\_\_’ is Wrong

*Note: This is the first of a two-part series that approaches issues for Catholics in the upcoming election. This column deals with the issue of conscience and prudence, and the next column will deal with public policy issues and the guidance from Catholic Social Teaching.*

The two major political parties have finished their conventions, and so the election season has begun in earnest. A great deal of attention, of course, is focused on the presidential election, but there are so many elections for Congress, for state positions, and for local offices that we need to think broadly about how we approach every election and each position that is up for a vote.

In every race for public office, no matter how great or small, we are faced with a moral decision about whom to vote for. We know that there are so many factors to consider – but what is the basis for approaching every box we check on the ballot from a Catholic perspective?

The most fundamental idea that we must embrace is what the Church



## Justice Perspective

BY  
DEACON DON  
WEIGEL

calls the “primacy of conscience.” This was clearly set out in the Vatican II document, “*Gaudium et spes* (The Church in the Modern World),” at article #16:

“Deep within their consciences, men and women discover a law which they have not laid upon themselves and which they must obey. Its voice, ever calling them to love and to do what is good and avoid evil, tells them inwardly at the right moment: do this, shun that. For they have in their hearts a law inscribed by God. Their dignity rests in observing this law, and by it they will be judged.”

Note that the bishops of the council made it clear that a person must obey their conscience. After a person has made the effort to

form their conscience, and has been informed by reason, and Scripture, and Church teaching, they make a prudential decision, in conscience, to vote one way or another.

In one of the bulletin inserts on Faithful Citizenship published by the U.S. Bishops, they say: “The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. ‘Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . (Every person) is obliged to follow faithfully what he (or she) knows to be just and right’ (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.”

All of this is to say that no one – not a bishop or a priest or a deacon or anyone who professes to speak for the Church – no one can say that Catholics can or cannot vote

for a particular candidate or can or cannot vote for a particular party. Each vote cast must be a prudential decision in conscience by each Catholic.

And how does a person form their conscience? Again, the bishops give us guidance as part of their teaching effort for the 2020 election called “Civilize It.” They offer these specific ideas to form your conscience: 1) Begin by being open to the truth and what is right. 2) Study Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Church. 3) Examine the facts and background information about various choices and be discerning in where we gather information. 4) Prayerfully reflect to discern the will of God.

The next column will address the very practical method of comparing issues and using facts, information, and Catholic Social Teaching to guide our decisions.

*Deacon Don is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services and can be reached at [deacondon@gmail.com](mailto:deacondon@gmail.com).*



# The Psalms, a Pathway to Prayer

St. Jerome, the great doctor of the Church, whose feast day occurs on September 30, famously said, “Ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” As an outstanding Latin scholar, he also knew Hebrew and Greek. One of his most important contributions was translating Sacred Scripture from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. Known as the Vulgate, this Bible gave more people access to Sacred Scripture. Considering that most people of the fifth century were illiterate, this was a good starting point.

Through his study and scholarship, St. Jerome encouraged those who read Sacred Scripture to understand the New Testament through the lens of the Old Testament. In order to really know and understand Jesus, it is worthwhile to consider his culture, traditions and the history into which he was born.

## Called to Abundant Life

BY  
**SR. JOANNE  
SURANNI**



A good starting point for delving into Jesus’ roots is the book of Psalms. The 150 poems that were sometimes set to music were an important part of Jesus’ prayer. He knew them and was steeped in their tradition. As the Psalms permeated the life of Israel into which Jesus entered the world, they also saturate the prayer of the Church today. The Psalms are the only book in the Bible which is part of the liturgy every day of the year. Furthermore, New Testament writers quote the Psalms more than any other book from the Old Testament.

Many, but not all the Psalms, were composed by King David, who reigned over Israel for 40 years. Throughout the years, the people of Israel and their king faced challenges and experienced triumphs. The Psalms are prayers which reflect both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. Through them the psalmist expresses a range of human emotions to God, from joy and gratitude to fear and desperation. Praise, thanks, contrition and petition are all elements of prayer found in the Psalms.

In praying the Psalms, it is possible to discover that the story of Israel and King David is also our story. The victories and defeats of Israel serve as reminders of the sovereignty of God, and that the Messiah ushers in a kingdom that will never collapse, one that is eternal. Scripture scholars sometimes refer to Jesus as the

new David. The Psalms are in a sense Christocentric, meaning that they point to Jesus the Messiah. In Matthew’s Gospel (Mt. 22:43-44), Jesus cited Psalm 110, in his debate with the Pharisees to demonstrate that David was referring to Him in the Psalms. From the cross, Jesus cries out with the words of Psalm 22, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

The Psalms are a pathway to deeper prayer because they were Jesus’ prayers. He knew them and prayed them. He is hidden in the Psalms, inviting us to know him more intimately in prayer. The psalmist’s deep friendship with God is evident from the open, honest and direct dialogue evident in his prayer. As the Psalms shaped the prayer of Jesus, so they shape the prayer of the Church. Plunging into the Psalms in the spirit of St. Jerome can draw all of us closer to God.

## A Letter of Gratitude

As the print edition of the *Western New York Catholic* draws to a close, I wanted to express gratitude in print for the “virtual” support which in reality accompanied me leading up to my recent living liver donor transplantation surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester and the recovery to follow. Much of this support as prayer and words of encouragement rode along the wave of social media platforms, including a website, used by colleagues, friends, acquaintances and strangers, from Western New York and beyond. The Living Liver Transplant team members were overwhelmed with requests for information and offers to be considered for donation between December until the eventual approval of the “perfect match” liver donation. A bright light in the midst of dark and difficult times.

Our transplant team at Strong, the surgeons, hepatologists, residents, nurses and aides, include one-and-all incredible miracle workers. But, the greatest of these miracles is in the generous donation of a significant part of her liver by my “liver partner” Nancy Kascynski and the support afforded to her by her mother and two sons as well as friends and family. She persevered through a process which took several months leading up to our dual surgeries on June 30. I am speechless at this most incredible offer.

Her interest was sparked by the dedicated efforts of Champions, a group of friends and



Father John P. Mack Jr.

colleagues formed after my approval onto the liver transplant list in November 2019 to assist in communicating the message about organ donation and, in particular, living organ donation, including the liver.

Since discharge from Strong Memorial Hospital on July 13, returning home to 24/7 companion-caregivers, the Champions have been joined by a plethora of volunteers whose generosity has been overwhelming through continuing prayer support, including through the CaringBridge website and Meal Train Plus with dining gift cards for meals through GrubHub and DoorDash Food Delivery and Pickup, as well as a few special

deliveries.

Now, a new chapter begins. Benchmarks for recovery are at three and six months post-transplant surgery. As I am two months post-surgery recovery, I have begun to reflect upon this entire journey as nothing short of miraculous, a successful living liver donor surgery performed during a pandemic. Leading up to surgery I stated that in our adjoining operating rooms, Nancy and I would be surrounded by the “great cloud of witnesses” including the saints and all held dear who have passed before us, and countless supporters who were present spiritually and virtually, really embracing and lifting up all of us, especially those performing the surgery and safeguarding us and compassionately caring for us.

With the continuing presence of COVID-19, those of us who are immunosuppressed, without natural immunity or a safe, effective, available vaccine will need to continue to be in a self-protective isolation, probably into 2021. It will be a while before “Mack 2.0” will be able to offer pastoral ministry in person since healthy, happy and holy lives are manifest through presence, relationships of friendship and love in Christ. Meanwhile, let us pray for one another in the midst of these difficult times.

I remain, virtually yours,  
Father John Mack



# Bishop appoints new administrators, welcomes religious order

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, apostolic administrator of the diocese, has made the following appointments:

Robert Grinewich has been appointed temporary administrator of SS. Peter & Paul Parish in Williamsville, beginning July 1, and continuing until the arrival of a new pastor.

Father Edward J. Sheedy will serve as the priest moderator to supervise pastoral care at the parish.

Father Cole T. Webster has been made the administrator of St. Peter Parish in Lewiston and Youngstown, effective July 27. He had been the temporary administrator.

Deacon Gregory Feary is the temporary parish administrator at St. John Vianney Parish in Orchard Park, effective July 28. He will

hold this position until a parish administrator is appointed.

Father Gregory Faulhaber, pastor of Queen of Heaven, West Seneca, has taken on the additional responsibility as priest moderator of St. John Vianney to supervise pastoral care. This became effective July 28.

Father Robert Wozniak has been appointed administrator of St. Pius X Parish in Getzville for a six-year term, effective Aug. 9. He will take over for Father Jay McGinnis, who retired that same day.

Father David Richards, currently administrator of Our Lady of Pompeii Parish in Lancaster, has taken on the additional responsibility as temporary parish administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Bowmansville, effective Aug. 10.

Father Peter Napierkowski

has been appointed administrator of Assumption Parish in Buffalo and canonical administrator of Our Lady of Black Rock School in Buffalo, effective Sept. 1. He has been the administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Boston, and its oratory of St. Mary, East Eden.

Father Samuel T. Giangreco has been appointed chaplain at Kenmore Mercy Hospital for a term of six years, effective Sept. 1.

Father Peter J. Santandreu has been assigned the additional duties as minister to the Spanish Apostolate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Dunkirk for a term of three years, effective July 1.

Faculties have been granted to Father Robert Reiser, SJ, who will be resident at the Canisius College Jesuit Community while on sabbatical from July 1 to Jan. 1, 2021.

The bishop has approved the establishment of a religious house for the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in North Tonawanda. The sisters will provide religious education, ministry of care, and spiritual enrichment ministries.

Holy Angels Parish has merged into Holy Cross Parish. The Holy Angels church, rectory, chapel and former convent will no longer be used by the Oblates. The Oblates remaining in the diocese will reside at Holy Cross and Our Lady of Hope Parishes.

The Provincial Superior of the Franciscans has notified the Diocese that Brother Steven N. Kuehn, OFM, who is in post novitiate formation, will have an internship at St. Bonaventure University until next May.

## Joan D. Thomas appointed interim Catholic School Superintendent *Enters job with extensive experience and long track record*

The Diocese of Buffalo is proud to announce the appointment of Joan D. Thomas as Catholic Schools interim superintendent. Thomas is an education professional with nearly five decades of experience as an educator, principal and interim superintendent and superintendent for two school districts in Western New York.

When asked about her new role Thomas said, "I am very excited and honored to become the interim superintendent of the area's Catholic Schools. With a rich history of top quality education, we cannot forget about our past, but I feel it is important to restructure Catholic education for the future. With the input of principles and parents we can provide a model that is viable and sustainable for our children to have the best education possible, now and for generations to come."

Beginning immediately, Thomas will be working closely

with outgoing superintendent, Dr. Michael LaFever, who announced his retirement last month and effective in October, to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities, particularly in light of the implications of the ongoing novel coronavirus threat for the new academic year.

When asked about her new role as interim schools superintendent

"We are delighted that Joan has agreed to assume the role of interim school superintendent at this critical time and to lend her considerable experience as an educator and administrator to advancing our mission of providing quality education for the young people of Western New York," said Sister Mary McCarrick, chief operating officer of the Diocese of Buffalo. "Joan has dedicated her life's work to educating our youth and has an unrivaled reputation among other educators, state and regional education officials, students and families for working

collaboratively to achieve the highest education standards, while identifying innovative solutions that meet the needs of school districts faced with financial constraints."

Thomas has extensive experience in developing and implementing school budgets, negotiating teacher contracts, developing and overseeing major capital improvement projects, and working successfully with teachers, administrators, parents, school boards and many other regional stakeholders. She also has a strong track record for creatively implementing guidelines and initiatives of the Annual Professional Performance Review and New York State Board of Regents. Her reputation for innovation (especially when having to deal with constrained budgets), and pursuit of education excellence have resulted in several notable honors including the Erie Niagara School Superintendents

Association Award for Leadership and the Western New York Educational Service Council Award for Excellence, among others.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Diocese of Buffalo has appointed Joan D. Thomas as interim school superintendent.



# WACY youth group continue diocesan leadership program

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

In the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic, one parish made sure its youth didn't miss out on the popular leadership program, the Christian Leadership Institute. The Wyoming Association of Catholic Youth, affectionately known as WACY, held their own version of CLI, formerly hosted by the diocesan Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.

CLI has been presented to large groups of high schoolers in the Diocese of Buffalo for over 40 years. This is the first time it has been taken down to a parish level. The WACY program taught the same communications skills, explained the different styles of leadership, and used the same activities to put the lessons into practice. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the WACY CLI was not a weeklong overnight, but comprised of five long days, July 22-26. The attendees used St. Vincent School gym in Attica, allowing enough space to keep a safe distance from each other.

"We used the same lessons. We had to fit a lot of it into a smaller time frame because we couldn't spend the night," explained Elijah Stringham, a small group leader for this event. "We did a lot of the same activities. Some of the more physical ones we couldn't do due to COVID. I think the biggest difference was the size, because there weren't quite as many people. So, the small-group size was three people instead of 10 people. Other than that, we did all the same leadership training."

Stringham attended CLI two years ago and finds herself using the skills in many facets of her young life.

"I use the leadership skills in Student Council. I use them in our youth group to lead each small group and plan fundraisers. I'm a class officer at school, so I've been able to use a lot of the communication skills in that," she said. "It changed my life a lot in a good way."

The idea to continue the program for her youth group came from Jessica Scharlau, who had



COURTESY OF RACHEL ZIELINSKI

Amelia Fontaine (from left to right), Anne Kochmanski, Sam Liebler (blind folded), Josh Kirsh (blind folded carrying basket), Kate Hardy and Michelle Youngers take part in a team building activity that teaches how to communicate and complete a task with limitations.

undergone the diocesan program in 2016.

"I felt that the leadership training was really important. It gives a lot of life skills. So, I figured why not help out," she said.

Scharlau and Laura Fontaine presented the topics, with assistance from Michael Slish, former program director for the Diocese of Buffalo's Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Teens who had previously attended CLI served as small group leaders. Each day a lesson would be introduced, then explored through small group discussions and activities.

"I thought it was fun. We did lots of games. We did activities," said Oscar Stringham from Immaculate Conception Parish in East Bethany. "We learned lots of communication skills and what kind of leaders there are and what leader you should be depending on the situation and basically, how to lead in the right way."

Stringham, 14, is interested in becoming a small group leader in his parish youth group.

At school, there are opportunities to use his newfound skills on student council and as a class officer. He feels the communication skills he learned can be useful in any situation.

Based in the Wyoming County town of Sheldon, WACY draws in people from 10 different parishes in Erie, Cattaraugus, Wyoming and Genesee counties. About 50 kids show up at an average meeting.

"These kids just want to be together," explained Theresa Zielinski, youth minister for WACY. "WACY is a peer-led youth ministry. We have a lot of adult mentors, but everything we do is youth planned, organized and executed. We guide and direct them some. So, we have a Youth Leadership Team, sort of like the Youth Board. They plan all of our meetings; the topics we're going to discuss; everything we do basically. So, we need leaders. Actually, this year, all of my leaders who have been trained through CLI will be graduating this coming year."

## WESTERN NEW YORK CATHOLIC

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# St. Mark Church is proud to welcome a bronze statue of patron

The 6-foot-tall, 600-pound statue, located on the north lawn of St. Mark Parish in North Buffalo, was created by sculptor Timothy P. Schmalz of Kitchener, Ontario, and depicts the Apostle St. Mark holding a scroll with a lion at his feet.

Speaking proudly of the sculpture Father Joseph S. Rogliano, pastor of St. Mark's, said, "I am so honored that our parish now has an original sculpture by renowned artist Timothy P. Schmalz.

St. Mark was one of Christ's 70 disciples, one of the four evangelists, and the traditional author of the second Gospel, The Book of Mark. He fulfilled in his life what every Christian is called to do: proclaim to all people the Good News that is the source of salvation. In

particular, by writing. Others may proclaim the Good News by music, drama, poetry or by teaching children around a family table. Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains.

Father Rogliano commented on the scroll held by St. Mark in the statue, "The scroll tells the story of the gospel of St. Mark and visually depicts the many parts of his work."

A winged lion is Mark's symbol. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings

come from the application of Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists.

The winged lion is also the symbol and mascot of the St. Mark's School. The church, located on Woodward Avenue in North Buffalo, was founded on June 25, 1908, by Bishop Charles Colton. On Oct. 16, 1921, Bishop William Turner dedicated St. Mark's Parochial School. The school was placed under the supervision of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The statue was unveiled and blessed on July 9, with funding through the generosity of the St. Mark parishioners improvement fund. "My undying gratitude to those parishioners of the parish who contributed to this special project. These funds for this well over two years ago. We

were just waiting for the artist to complete this magnificent

work of art," Father Rogliano said.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The bronze statue of St. Mark stands on the front lawn of the Woodward Avenue parish.

# Corpus Christi use Dominican statues in new grotto

By PATRICK J. BUECHI  
Staff Reporter

The Parish Community of Corpus Christi Church has embarked on an ambitious project that will honor the Blessed Mother and provide a permanent legacy for its parishioners. Father Michal Czyzewski, OSPPE, hopes to build a grotto behind the East Side church with statues that came from the Dominican Sisters monastery, formerly on Doat Street.

"I had frequently visited the Dominican Sisters when they lived at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Monastery," explained Father Czyzewski, the pastor of Corpus Christi. "When I was informed that these prayerful sisters were to be relocated, I was heartbroken. However, it delighted me to find out that the statues of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette and Our Lady Help – Savior of Souls would be made available to the Corpus Christi community. These statues, which were often prayed in front of by these cloistered sisters, would remain here on the East Side of Buffalo as a memorial

to the sisters' presence here."

The Pauline Fathers are now collecting donations to build a grotto to house the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in the east corner of the parish garden located on Clark Street. The grotto will resemble a small cave made with attractive rocks laying by the feet of Our Lady and St. Bernadette. Parishioner Roman Kujawa designed the scene.

The ground has already been cleared for construction and Stanislaw Baltaziuk ran electricity through the yard to allow St. Bernadette to hold a lit electric candle.

An anonymous parishioner bought the statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette and donated them to Corpus Christi. Although smaller than life-size, it took four men to carry the statues in the backyard of the church. A third statue, Our Lady Help – Savior of Souls, which depicts Mary caring for the sorrowful souls in purgatory was a gift from the sisters. It currently rests in the hallway of the church rectory.

This grotto will be a tribute to Our Lady of Lourdes, requesting her intercession for an end to the

coronavirus pandemic. With the pandemic paralyzing the entire world, Father Czyzewski hopes the grotto will play a part in the healing.

"We would like to make this grotto even more meaningful or powerful. We'd like to ask the Blessed Mother to help us to, in this difficult time, survive," he said, adding the design will be "simple, but nice."

The fathers are asking for prayer intentions, which will be placed in a time capsule and sealed in the stone construction. Anyone wishing to have their name and prayers placed in this time capsule, may send this information along with a donation, if possible, to Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark Street, Buffalo, NY 14212 with "Grotto" marked on the envelope. Prayers and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Anyone donating \$30 or more will receive a decade of the rosary created by Diane Kusek and made from beads contributed by the Dominican Sisters in the hope of keeping St. Dominic's spirit alive. Donations are now being accepted and it would be appreciated if all contributions are received no later

than Oct. 10.

The final project will be built based on the funding collected rather than a set budget beforehand. The donations have already begun to come in.

"We want this Grotto to Our Blessed Mother to be a beautiful place where you will have occasions to pray with the Pauline Fathers," Father Czyzewski said.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two of the statues donated by Dominican Sister currently residing in the grotto at Corpus Christi church.



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Kaminski, CSSF



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Buszek, CSSF



Sister M. Mark Janik,  
CSSF



Sister M. Michele  
Mazur, CSSF



Sister M. Thomas  
Frys, CSSF



Sister M. Blaise  
Surlas, CSSF



Sister M. Lorianne  
Tylczynski, CSSF



Sister M. Kenneth  
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## St. Kateri Habitat Program focuses on God and the Catholic Faith

From page 11

greater connection between people and nature by restoring yards, gardens, schools, farms, and wetlands into healthy habitats for people and wildlife. Creating healthy habitats can be as simple as planting a tree or growing wildflowers for bees and butterflies.

With a focus on God and the Catholic faith, the Saint Kateri Habitat Program provides living, sacred spaces for people to engage directly in the care of God's creation at home and in their communities. By restoring habitats with reverence and gratitude for the Creator, the program draws people closer to God and his Church while protecting the integrity of creation.

Saint Kateri Habitats should provide food, water, cover and space for wildlife, as well as native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to promote biodiversity. Food, water and space for people, such as vegetable gardens and farms. There should be ecosystem services, such as pollination, clean air and water, carbon storage for climate regulation, and a control of invasive

species. Clean, renewable energy and sustainable practices for buildings and property should also be included. Lastly, a sacred space for prayer and contemplation, such as a Mary garden or shrine should be included. SS. Columba-Brigid has a monument to Sister Karen Klimczak, SSJ, a tireless supporter of peace and justice. At least one Catholic religious expression is

required, which may include crosses, wayside shrines, grottos, stations of the cross, Saint Kateri Habitat signs, or statues of Mary, an angel, or a saint. This religious expression is a reminder that God – the Holy Spirit – is present and active in every corner of creation.

For more information visit [www.kateri.org](http://www.kateri.org) or [www.columba-brigid.org](http://www.columba-brigid.org).



PATRICK J. BUECHI/STAFF WRITER

Melissa Weiksnar (left) teaches young Ariyanna the importance of using native plants to have a healthy garden. The two are part of the "Gardenin' Angels" at SS. Columba-Brigid Parish in Buffalo, who have transformed the parish's greenspace into a colorful, environmentally healthy garden that earned them designation as a Saint Kateri Habitat.

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the Blessed Sacrament, 3:00pm

### Weekday Masses

11:30am and 4:00pm  
Confessions heard before each Mass  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament:  
Wed. & Fri. 12:00 Noon - 4:00pm

Pilgrimages for September cancelled, including Vietnamese Day, Blessing of Oranges,  
Korean Day & NF Rosary Crusade. Individuals and Families Welcome!



### BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

Mondays w/ Fr. Peter Calabrese, CRSP in Fatima Hall at 7:30pm.

### Sat., Sep. 5 FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

11:00am Rosary & Confessions 3:30pm Rosary & Confessions  
11:30am Mass 4:00pm Mass  
12:15pm Benediction

### Sun., Sep. 6 HEALING MASS

6:30pm Following Mass, Individual Blessings with the Blessed Sacrament / No laying on of hands

Sat., Oct. 3 FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS - see above for schedule

Sun., Oct. 4 HEALING MASS 6:30pm Fr. Dan Young / Music Ministry: Mary Palmer

Sun., Oct 25 BLESSING of CARS following 3pm Rosary Procession & Benediction

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June 3-12 Black Hills/Mt. Rushmore/Badlands/Deadwood  
June 21-25 Cape Cod/Martha's Vineyard  
July 6-9 Mackinac Island/Frankenmuth  
July 12 Dolly/Patsy/Loretta Tribute  
July 14 Grand River Lunch Cruise  
July 21 Presley/Perkins/Cash/Lewis Tribute  
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Sept. 8-12 Montreal/Quebec  
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**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](http://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** — Eucharistic 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.

**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**

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**St. Leo the Great**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: STLEOTHEGREATAMHERST.COM/ABOUT-ST-LEO-THE-GREAT/LIVE-FEED/  
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  
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  
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/UC3EWKGWLN8yAfLP-KOqLPsQ  
DAILY AT 10:00 AM

**SS. Columba Brigid**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: HTTPS://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/  
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM  
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM  
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 AM

**St. Amelia Church**  
LIVESTREAM FEED: YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM  
SAT: 4:30 PM

**Holy Family**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: HTTP://WWW.HOLYFAMILY-ALBION.COM/LIVESTREAM.HTML  
DIRECT LINK: HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/13498042  
SUNDAY: 10:30 AM

**Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica**  
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LIVESTREAM LINK: YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
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  
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  
WEEKDAYS: 9:00 AM  
SATURDAY: 4:30 PM  
SUNDAY: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

**Resurrection Parish**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCCLMPTL56T17RBGIP-wAfVWG  
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM, 5:30PM

Television Guide

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

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**Daily Televised Mass**

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

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Niagara Falls Ch 10  
Olean Ch 35

**C-Band**  
G1-11  
**Direct TV**  
370  
**Dish Network**  
261

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  
MASS SONGS CAN BE ACCESSED ON: HTTPS://SMAOLEAN.ORG/  
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM  
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

**All Saints**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALLSAINTSLOCKPORT/?REF=HL  
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

**St. Anthony of Padua (Latin Mass)**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: HTTPS://BIT.LY/3AW0MxV  
DAILY: 6:00 PM  
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM

**St. Joseph University Parish**  
LIVESTREAM LINK: HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UC1OBCC1G0ZWRF-M5oYO\_CQnQ  
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

**St. Francis of Assisi**  
LIVESTREAM FEED: 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/  
WEEKDAYS: NOON  
SUNDAY: 11:30 AM

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**  
LIVESTREAM LINKS: FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE  
WEDNESDAY: 12 NOON  
SUNDAY: 10:00 AM



Radio Schedule				
Batavia	Mass (first Sunday of the month)	WBTA-AM (1490)	Sunday	10:30am
Buffalo	Father Justin Rosary Hour www.rosaryhour.net	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	7:00am
		CIAO-AM (530)	Saturday	8:00am
	Mass at St. Stanislaus The Ukrainian Catholic Hour	WXRL-AM (1300)	Sunday	3:00pm
		WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	Noon
Dunkirk	Mass from Holy Trinity Church	WJOL-AM (1440)	Sunday	2:00pm
Hornell	Marian Hour Radio Rosary	WDOE-AM (1410)	Sunday	8:30am
Jamestown	Catholic News and Views	WLEA-AM (1480)	Sunday	7:00am
Wellsville	Crossroads	WJTN-AM (1240)	Sunday	7:00am
	Lift Your Heart	WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	9:00am
		WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	10:00am

WLOF-FM (101.7) Catholic programming 24 hours a day





### Sister M. Angelica Bielski, CSSF

Sister Mary Angelica Bielski, a Felician Sister for 67 years, who served the diocese of Buffalo in many ministries, died in Blessed Mary Angela Convent Cheektowaga on Aug. 9, 2020. She was 84.

The former Marcella Bielski was born on Aug. 25, 1935, in Buffalo to Frances Bielski. She entered the Buffalo Province of the Felician Sisters on July 16, 1953, and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 3, 1961. She graduated from



Transfiguration School for her last elementary teaching assignment.

In 1965, she began teaching home economics and business courses at Villa Maria Academy in Buffalo. She then taught

business courses at Bishop Gibbons High School in North Tonawanda, and Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda. During her stay at Cardinal O'Hara, she also served at the associate principal and later, assistant principal – a position she held for five years. In 1979, Sister Angelica became the principal at Villa Maria Academy where she remained for 17 years. Though she enjoyed all her teaching and leadership experiences, she did all in her power to help Villa Maria Academy grow and flourish. When she was honored by the Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper for her contribution to education, one of her fellow sisters remarked, "SM Angelica IS Villa Maria Academy."

Following her years of involvement in education, Sister Angelica served as executive secretary and assistant director at Father Justin's Rosary Hour, a project sponsored by the Conventual Franciscan Friars. She also served as editor of the Catholic Directory of the Diocese of Buffalo and was secretary at St. Joseph Cathedral, assistant archivist and chancery receptionist. In 2007, Sister Angelica was a receptionist at Villa Maria College of Buffalo.

Due to illness, she became a patient at Blessed Mary Angela Care Center in Buffalo in 2016. Though she suffered many physical losses, she never lost her interest in the sisters. In a blurb she submitted in an anniversary book on her 60th year of religious life she stated, "I am grateful for the many sisters with whom I lived, and for all the young people whose lives I touched and who touched me as well."

Felician Sisters and family will celebrate a memorial Mass at a future date. Interment will be at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga.



Villa Maria Academy in Buffalo. She held a bachelor of science in education degree from Rosary Hill (Daemen) College in Amherst, a master of science degree in business education from the New York University in New York City, and a master's in education in school administration degree from Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass. Sister Angelica is survived by her cousin and goddaughter, Donna M. Baer.

Sister Angelica began her teaching ministry at Transfiguration School in Syracuse. She continued teaching children at the elementary level in various Catholic schools in the Diocese of Buffalo. She returned to

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**Msgr. Kevin T. O'Neill**

Msgr. Kevin T. O'Neill, longtime pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in East Aurora, died Aug. 11, 2020.

Born July 16, 1935, in Buffalo, the son of Joseph and Margaret (Reidy) O'Neill attended Holy Family, Bishop Timon High School and the Diocesan Preparatory Seminary, all in Buffalo.

He went on to attend St.



Bonaventure University and Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure. Msgr. O'Neill was ordained May 11, 1961, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, Pa., by Bishop John Mark Gannon.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Francis and St. John the Baptist in Erie, Pa. Then, after being incardinated into the Diocese of Buffalo in 1962, he served as assistant pastor at St.

Mary's, Batavia, for five years. This was followed by assignments as assistant pastor of Annunciation, Buffalo; St. Vincent de Paul, Buffalo; St. Teresa, Buffalo; Blessed Trinity, Buffalo; and St. William, Winchester. In November 1976, Msgr. O'Neill was named pastor of Sacred Heart, Angelica and Sacred Heart, Friendship. A four-year term as pastor of SS. Peter & Paul, Arcade, followed beginning January 1979.

In January 1983, he began a 23-year tenure as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in East Aurora. In April 1988, took on added responsibility as chaplain of the Serra Club for two years. In July 2005, he retired, but returned to ministry as canonical administrator of Mary Queen of Angels School in Cheektowaga, where he spent eight years beginning in 2007. He also, served as temporary administrator of St.

John XXIII Parish in West Seneca for two years.

He is predeceased by his parents and brother, Robert, he passed away in June.

Visitation took place at the James Cannan Funeral Home on Aug. 17. Msgr. O'Neill laid in state at Immaculate Conception Church on Aug. 18 with a service beginning at 7 p.m.



**Msgr. Michael J. Yunk**

Msgr. Michael J. Yunk, a longtime Army chaplain, died July 30, 2020. He was 89 years old.

Born May 31, 1931, in Williamsville, the son of Martin and Dolores (Smith) Yunk attended SS. Peter & Paul Elementary School in Williamsville and the Seminary of St. Joseph and the Little Flower in Buffalo. He continued his education at Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure, earning a bachelor's degree. He also studied at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, graduating in 1957. Later, he earned a master's degree from Long Island University.

Msgr. Yunk was ordained April 6, 1957, in Innsbruck by Bishop Paul Rousch.

His first assignment took him to St. Elizabeth Mission in Cheery Creek for one year. He then served as assistant at St. Mary Parish in Lockport. In 1964, he was assigned as assistant at St. Mary of Sorrows in Buffalo.

Beginning in 1966, he served as a U.S. Army chaplain, a role that took him to Vietnam, Korea, Japan,

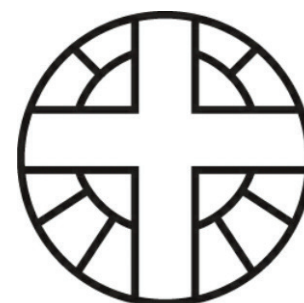
Germany, Georgia, Kansas and Louisiana. He retired from the Army in 1993 as a colonel. He earned a Bronze Star for his efforts.

In 1993, he was named a prelate of honor by Pope John Paul II, taking on the title monsignor.

In 1994, he returned to St. Mary's in Lockport, now as pastor, where he served until his Aug. 31, 2000, retirement. He kept active as a temporary assignment as administrator at St. Leo the Great Parish in Amherst.

He is predeceased by his parents and his sister, Grace Bickel.

Msgr. Yunk laid in-state at St. Leo the Great Church on Aug. 3. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Aug. 4, at at St. Leo the Great Church.



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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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To file a report or to speak with  
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[www.buffalodiocese.org/report](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/report)

Calls can be placed to our Victim Assistance Coordinator at:  
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To file a report of sexual misconduct by  
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