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Before the upcoming election, Bishop Larry J. Kulick issues a pastoral letter on the *Gift of Freedom*.

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See candidates' positions on important issues.

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Register now for the first Diocese of Greensburg Women's Conference.

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VATICAN MEDIA

Bishop Larry J. Kulick meets with His Holiness, Pope Francis.

Bishop meets with Pope Francis in Rome

ROME — The highlight of Bishop Larry J. Kulick's visit to Rome last month to attend the Course of Formation for New Bishops was to meet His Holiness, Pope Francis, and celebrate Mass at St. Peter Basilica with nearly 180 bishops from around the United States and the world.

After Mass, the bishops venerated the relics of St. Peter beneath the Basilica. Following the veneration, Bishop Kulick and the others were greeted by Pope Francis in the Clementine Chapel.

"The Holy Father was so generous with his time," Bishop Kulick said.

Pope Francis spent more than an hour and a half with the bishops, discussing the great priorities for the Church, allowing for comments and answering their questions.

"The Holy Father stressed certain focuses that we, as Bishops, need to be

emphasizing in our Dioceses, such as building up the faith, reconciling people and caring for the marginalized," he said. "I was very pleased and so proud that in our Diocese of Greensburg, we are concentrating on these areas. I left that meeting feeling that we here in the Diocese are addressing the priorities that the Holy Father outlined."

Bishop Kulick affirmed that he is "committed to the work of evangelization, catechesis and welcoming people into the Church."

The Holy Father also reminded them to be "bishops of humility" and to be shepherds who are out among the people.

"He reiterated to us how important it is to show mercy and compassion, especially to those who have strayed from the church or who are feeling

alienated from the church," Bishop Kulick recounted.

The Mass and gathering with Pope Francis ended the weeklong orientation held by the Congregation for Bishops. Previous orientation sessions were postponed due to the pandemic, so the orientation included Bishops ordained from 2019 through 2022.

Bishop Kulick said it was a magnificent opportunity to gather in fraternity.

"I had a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with Bishop Mark Eckman, the Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and Bishop Dave Bonnar, a Pittsburgh native who is now the Bishop of Youngstown," Bishop Kulick said.

Continued on page 18



Bishop energizes the faithful as three-year Eucharistic Revival begins.

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THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Mission: Faith is a gift. Our mission is to share it.

Vision: Create a more connected, accessible Catholic Church, inspire a deep spiritual connection, mobilize clergy as change agents and strengthen faith formation and evangelization.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

NEW KNIGHTS AND DAMES: Bishop Larry J. Kulick, left, and Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt welcome new members from the Diocese of Greensburg to the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Oct 15. Investiture ceremonies were held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, N.Y.

OBITUARIES

Father Vernon A. Holtz, OSB, 91

LATROBE — Benedictine Father Vernon A. Holtz, a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey for 66 years, died Sept. 20, 2022.

Born in Hastings, Pa., Sept. 30, 1930, he earned a master's degree in theology from Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, in 1973. He made simple profession of vows July 2, 1956, in the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica. He made solemn profession of vows July 11, 1959, and was ordained a priest June 2, 1962, in the Archabbey Basilica by Bishop William G. Connare of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Father Vernon was assistant headmaster at Saint Vincent Preparatory School (1962-68); a prefect, teacher, counselor, basketball and soccer coach at Saint Vincent Preparatory School (1958-71); director of the Counseling Center at Saint Vincent College (1971-75); director of the priesthood formation program for Saint Vincent Archabbey (1971-74); chairperson of the Department of Psychology at Saint Vincent College (1975-80 and



Father Vernon

1987-2000); head soccer coach at Saint Vincent College (1968-75); and acting Academic Dean of Saint Vincent College (2000-01). He was named faculty emeritus upon his retirement in 2018.

He received the Alumnus of Distinction Award and the Dean's Faculty Award from Saint Vincent College in 1994; the Boniface Wimmer Faculty Award in 1999; and the Thoburn Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001. He was inducted into the college's Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

In 2010, he was honored by Mental Health America in the field of recovery and received the Saint Vincent Preparatory School Hall of Fame Award, and has a Prep Alumni Scholarship named in his honor. Also in 2010, he was instrumental in founding and implementing the lecture series, "Aging and Spirituality," at Saint Vincent College.

A funeral Mass was held Sept. 26, followed by burial in Saint Vincent Cemetery.

Sister Mary Ann Thimons, CSJ



BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Mary Ann (Jude Thaddeus) Thimons, 84, died July 29, 2022. She was in her 67th year of religious life.

Sister Mary Ann entered the congregation from St. Joseph Parish in Natrona. She taught at the former St. Margaret Mary School, Lower Burrell (1974-75), served in pastoral ministry at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning (1982-89), and was chaplain at Westmoreland Hospital (1989-99).

A funeral Mass was held Aug. 3.

Sister Leah Marie Turberville, CSSF



MOON TOWNSHIP — Felician Sister Leah Marie Turberville, 73, died Sept. 16, 2022. She was in her 55th year of religious life.

She worked at St. Anne Home, Greensburg, in food service for 12 years and as activities aide for 12 years. A funeral Mass was held Sept. 24, followed by burial in the Felician Cemetery.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only) for The Catholic Accent, September 19, 2022.

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Donum Libertatis: The Gift of Freedom

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

One of the most magnificent gifts given to us by God is “The Gift of Freedom” — *Donum Libertatis*. This is most wonderfully expressed in our human nature with the exercise of our free will. In the United States, we are especially blessed in that we have the constitutional freedom as a people and a nation to exercise our right to vote. This affords us the opportunity to use our free will for the good of our families, our church, and the greater community.

Through the gift of free will, God provides each of us with our own individual intellect, the ability to reason, and the freedom to make choices in our lives. Sometimes our choices glorify God. Sometimes they lead to sinfulness and are inconsistent with Christ’s teachings and His desire and will for each of us. Sometimes we allow our decisions to be based on feelings rooted in emotion rather than the process of informing our conscience by praying and discerning the voice of God and then acting upon it.

As we approach Election Day, as Bishop, it is critically important for me to offer guidance to all the Faithful of our four county diocese in regard to developing an informed conscience and how that informed conscience needs to reflect our faith, our election process, and ultimately the decisions we make concerning the elected officials who protect our freedoms. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1731) teaches us that “Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility. By free will one shapes one’s own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.”

As responsible citizens and members of our faith community, we are called to exercise our freedom, but not without using our intellect and rational abilities. It is our moral responsibility to investigate and understand the positions of candidates on all the critical issues facing us as individuals, a community, and as a nation. As People of Faith, abortion, euthanasia, care for the poor, care for the elderly or infirmed, immigration, the death penalty, and economic and social justice concerns are especially important to us because this is the very intersection of where faith and morals meet society and action. As Disciples of Christ living in the world, we have a civic and moral duty to advocate for a just and equitable society. Each of these individual issues needs to be considered in the context of a moral vision in union with the Church’s teachings. It would be irresponsible to cast a vote for a particular candidate if we do not know his or her position on the issues related to our faith, especially on issues related to the dignity of human life.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, addresses this in *Amoris Laetitia* #265: “Doing what is right means more than ‘judging what seems best’ or knowing clearly what needs to be done, as important

as this is... We have to arrive at the point where the good that the intellect grasps can take root in us as a profound affective inclination, as a thirst for the good that outweighs other attractions and helps us to realize that what we consider objectively good is also good ‘for us’ here and now.”

Oftentimes, we allow emotions to guide these important decisions exclusively. We listen to the pundits on television and the internet and allow the loudest voices to frame our conscience instead of listening to the voice that matters most — God’s. Decisions made absent from prayer, enlightened discernment, and moral certitude can pull us away from actions that will lead to the common good of our country and of humanity at large. Selfishly, we sometimes choose to make decisions that are only in our own personal interests or in line with our political leanings or preferences and fail to consider the needs of the poor and most vulnerable.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that forming our conscience means “formulating its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator.” When we inform our conscience, we come to a level of understanding that incorporates our experience, our emotions and our intellect. Informed conscience involves an interior dialogue that leads to a comprehensive approach to knowing God’s truth in determining the best course of action.

This is where the traditional moral axiom that “conscience is not the ultimate norm of morality, informed conscience is the ultimate norm of morality” comes from.

His Holiness, Saint John Paul II, wrote in his encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* #58, “Moral conscience does not close man within an insurmountable and impenetrable solitude, but opens him to the call, to the voice of God. In this, and not in anything else, lies the entire mystery and the dignity of the moral conscience: in being the place, the sacred place where God speaks to man.”

It is often said that the Church should in no way discuss politics or anything political in nature, leaving it to people’s individual consciences to make decisions. I frequently hear discussions about the separation of Church and State. As a matter of fact, many good intentioned people will often quote this to me, my brother priests, and others. As a point of reference, the First Amendment of the Constitution prohibits the government from favoring one religion over another or advancing or inhibiting religious liberties. It does not separate religion from politics and public life. This is a grave misrepresentation often used to prevent firmly held religious convictions from entering the public arena or to motivate



choices on election day.

The Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* #76 explains the importance of a proper understanding of separation of Church and State: It is very important, especially where a pluralistic society prevails, that there be a correct notion of the relationship between the political community

and the Church, and a clear distinction between the tasks which Christians undertake, individually or as a group, on their own responsibility as citizens guided by the dictates of a Christian conscience, and the activities which, in union with their pastors, they carry out in the name of the Church.

The Church, by reason of her role and competence, is not identified in any way with the political community nor bound to any political system. She is at once a sign and a safeguard of the transcendent character of the human person.

The Church and the political community in their own fields are autonomous and independent from each other. Yet both, under different titles, are devoted to the personal and social vocation of the same men (and women). The more that both foster sounder cooperation between themselves with due consideration for the circumstances of time and place, the more effective will their service be exercised for the good of all. For man’s horizons are not limited only to the temporal order; while living in the context of human history, he preserves intact his eternal vocation. The Church, for her part, founded on the love of the Redeemer, contributes toward the reign of justice and charity within the borders of a nation and between nations. By preaching the truths of the Gospel, and bringing to bear on all fields of human endeavor the light of her doctrine and of a Christian witness, she respects and fosters the political freedom and responsibility of citizens.

As Catholics, we have a right and a moral obligation to advocate for the things that we believe are important to us, particularly when it comes to our faith and morals. Now more than ever we need to understand how policies affect issues near and dear to us as Catholics, such as health care, religious liberty, Christian anthropology, and freedom of religion and speech. This is especially important when we investigate and educate ourselves on candidates’ positions on human life at every stage of its existence.

Far reaching consequences of positions and policies held by particular candidates who are elected and govern can impact the effectiveness of the Church’s mission and its ability to be of service to the faithful, our communities, and the entire country, now and into the future. The election of certain candidates can also be a part of a gradual erosion of religious freedom, which is a danger that we should

always be conscious of when reviewing candidates’ positions.

The Church will not endorse one political candidate over another. It is certainly not my purview as Bishop to tell you who you should support with your vote. This is an opportunity for me, however, as your Shepherd, to teach and guide you in the mind of the Church and to help in guiding the correct development of an informed conscience. It is also the obligation of my office to clearly articulate the Church’s teaching on these issues before you exercise such a precious and important right of citizenship by voting.

Those who follow the teachings of the Church on pro-life issues understand that life must be respected from conception until natural death. As Catholics, we are called to advocate for the poor and the vulnerable, to be good stewards of our natural resources, and to care for all the vulnerable without prejudice or discrimination. We are called to be a voice in the public arena. We have been given the right to vote, and we need to use that right as the instrument to express our Catholic teachings, our firmly held religious convictions, while being able to freely exercise the Church’s right to fulfill our mission of charity, service, and education in our local communities, the state, and our nation. We must especially advocate for the dignity for all human life. This is the preeminent issue because without life, no other rights or freedoms can exist.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) — in their document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* 56 — reflect on these issues and the duty of all bishops to apply these moral principles to key public policy decisions facing our nation, outlining directions on issues that have important moral and ethical dimensions. “Building a world of respect for human life and dignity, where justice and peace prevail, requires more than just political commitment. Individuals, families, businesses, community organizations, and governments all have a role to play. Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for every Catholic and all people of good will.”

May the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Wisdom and Fortitude, strengthen and guide us as we continue to form our consciences in Christ to undertake the important responsibility and exercise our right to vote this Fall in the spirit of *Donum Libertatis*, the Gift of Freedom. Amen.

The Most Reverend Bishop
Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L.
Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg

Given at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on
Oct. 18, 2022

ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (pcc.org) is the public affairs arm of the Catholic bishops across the state. Every year, we monitor hundreds of pieces of legislation to determine whether or not to take any position either for or against bills that are important to the Catholic faith.

This Voters Guide highlights results to a survey on a variety of issues that are pertinent to Catholic social teaching and the practice of our faith. Candidates were sent an electronic survey to the email address they had on file with the Pennsylvania

Department of State. Where one was not available, we attempted to locate one via internet search. Candidates were polled for five weeks.

The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate or political party. The PCC aims to educate and inform Catholics about issues that are addressed in Catholic social teaching and about issues that impact the Church and our practice of the faith.

U.S. Congress candidates Summer Lee-D (12), Michael Doyle-R (12), *Guy Reschenthaler-R (14) and

Glenn Thompson-R (15) did not provide answers.

A candidate contact information was obtained through the Department of State website in June, write-in candidates who registered after that date were not included in this survey (Scott Gauss-D, District 55, and Mike Molesevich-D, District 15). State Senate candidate Sydney Hovis-D (32) did not have an email address on file at that time and so was not contacted by the PCC for this survey.

* Denotes an incumbent candidate.

STATE HOUSE

Should there be a constitutional right to an abortion in PA?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R		N
55	Jill Cooper-R		N
56	*George Dunbar-R		N
57	*Eric Nelson-R		N
58	*Eric Davanzo-R		N
58	Ken Bach-D	Y	

The following candidates were asked the question but did not provide an answer: Ryan Porupski-R (51), Richard Ringer-D (51), *Leslie Rossi-R (59), *Abby Major-R (60), Bob George-D (60), *James Struzzi-R (62), Brian Doyle-D (62), *Donna Oberlander-R (63), *Brian Smith-R (66).

Should taxpayer dollars be used to pay for abortions in PA?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R		N
55	Jill Cooper-R		N
56	*George Dunbar-R		N
57	*Eric Nelson-R		N
58	*Eric Davanzo-R		N

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Should PA pass more laws to increase penalties for convicted human traffickers and their patrons?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R	Y	
55	Jill Cooper-R	Y	
56	*George Dunbar-R	Y	
57	*Eric Nelson-R	Y	
58	*Eric Davanzo-R	Y	
58	Ken Bach-D	Y	

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Should PA pass more laws to aid the victims of human trafficking?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R	Y	
55	Jill Cooper-R	Y	
56	*George Dunbar-R	Y	
57	*Eric Nelson-R	Y	
58	*Eric Davanzo-R	Y	
58	Ken Bach-D	Y	

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Do you support an end to the death penalty?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R		N
55	Jill Cooper-R		N
56	*George Dunbar-R		N
57	*Eric Nelson-R		N
58	*Eric Davanzo-R	Y	
58	Ken Bach-D		N

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Should student athletes be required to participate on teams designated as boys or girls according to whether they are genetically male or female?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R	Y	
55	Jill Cooper-R	Y	
56	*George Dunbar-R	Y	
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Do you support expansion of state resources to care for pregnant women?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R	Y	
55	Jill Cooper-R	Y	
56	*George Dunbar-R	Y	
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Are you in support of state resources being used for non-public schools?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R	Y	
55	Jill Cooper-R	Y	
56	*George Dunbar-R	Y	
57	*Eric Nelson-R	Y	
58	*Eric Davanzo-R	Y	
58	Ken Bach-D		N

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STATE SENATE

Should there be a constitutional right to an abortion in PA?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R		N

Should taxpayer dollars be used to pay for abortions in PA?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R		N

Should PA pass more laws to increase penalties for convicted human traffickers and their patrons?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Should PA pass more laws to aid the victims of human trafficking?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Do you support an end to the death penalty?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R		Did not respond

Should student athletes be required to participate on teams designated as boys or girls according to whether they are genetically male or female?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Do you support expansion of state resources to care for pregnant women?			
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58	*Eric Davanzo-R	Y	
58	Ken Bach-D	Y	

The following candidates were asked the question but did not provide an answer: Ryan Porupski-R (51), Richard Ringer-D (51), *Leslie Rossi-R (59), *Abby Major-R (60), Bob George-D (60), *James Struzzi-R (62), Brian Doyle-D (62), *Donna Oberlander-R (63), *Brian Smith-R (66).

Are you in support of state resources being used for non-public schools?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
52	*Ryan Warner-R	Y	
55	Jill Cooper-R	Y	
56	*George Dunbar-R	Y	
57	*Eric Nelson-R	Y	
58	*Eric Davanzo-R	Y	
58	Ken Bach-D		N

The following candidates were asked the question but did not provide an answer: Ryan Porupski-R (51), Richard Ringer-D (51), *Leslie Rossi-R (59), *Abby Major-R (60), Bob George-D (60), *James Struzzi-R (62), Brian Doyle-D (62), *Donna Oberlander-R (63), *Brian Smith-R (66).

STATE SENATE

Should there be a constitutional right to an abortion in PA?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R		N

Should taxpayer dollars be used to pay for abortions in PA?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R		N

Should PA pass more laws to increase penalties for convicted human traffickers and their patrons?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Should PA pass more laws to aid the victims of human trafficking?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Do you support an end to the death penalty?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R		Did not respond

Should student athletes be required to participate on teams designated as boys or girls according to whether they are genetically male or female?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Do you support expansion of state resources to care for pregnant women?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

Are you in support of state resources being used for non-public schools?			
District	Candidate	Yes	No
32	*Patrick Stefano-R	Y	

GOVERNOR AND U.S. SENATE

The following information was provided by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (pcc.org) in an effort to help educate voters about issues and topics of importance to Catholics. Neither the PCC nor the Diocese of Greensburg supports any candidate or political party. Information is taken from each candidate's official campaign website.

GUBERNATORIAL RACE

PA State Senator Doug Mastriano (R)

Abortion:

To protect the right to life, Mastriano will sign the Heartbeat bill into law, end funding to Planned Parenthood, and expand counseling for adoption services.

Education:

Doug Mastriano believes every Pennsylvania child is entitled to a top-notch education and that, when schools compete, it promotes excellence. While he'll make sure public schools are well-funded, he'll also fight like hell to provide them the competition that will make them great. Mastriano will work with the legislature to finally bring school choice to Pennsylvania families, so that no child is trapped in a failing school ever again.

LGBT:

On day one, Mastriano will place an immediate ban on biological males in girls' locker rooms and restrooms. On the same day, Mastriano will ban biological males from competing in girls' sports.

Additional Information:

Campaign Website: doug4gov.com
Republican Lt. Governor Candidate:
PA House Representative Carrie DelRosso (R). Campaign Website: carrieforpa.com

GUBERNATORIAL RACE

PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro (D)

Abortion:

Abortion is health care. As Governor, Josh will defend access to reproductive health care — and continue to defend a woman's right to choose in Pennsylvania.

Our Democratic Governor's veto pen is the only thing standing in the way of Harrisburg Republicans' attempts to ban abortion, pass dangerous Texas-style laws, and put women's health at risk. In the face of unprecedented attacks against the right to choose, Josh will be the last line of defense for Pennsylvanians — he will veto any bill that would restrict abortion rights, and he will expand access to reproductive care.

Throughout his career, Josh has never wavered in defense of reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose. From taking on the Trump Administration in federal court to protecting access to contraception and winning an injunction against the "gag rule," to filing an amicus brief in support of the U.S. Department of Justice's challenge to Texas' early-term abortion ban — Josh has always stood up for and defended the right to choose.

Education:

Every child in Pennsylvania — regardless of race, class, or ZIP code — deserves access to a quality education and the opportunity to shape their

own future. A strong education system is foundational to a functioning democracy, and it's critical to moving Pennsylvania forward.

As Governor, Josh will ensure every student has access to the "thorough and efficient" education Pennsylvania's constitution promises. He's going to fully fund our schools — especially those that have been chronically underfunded — and make critical investments we need like attracting and retaining quality teachers, repairing old and dangerously unhealthy buildings, and keeping pace with changing technology so our students are prepared for the future.

Josh will make our children's mental health a priority and ensure that every school building in the Commonwealth has at least one mental health counselor, and end our reliance on standardized testing so we can create more time for kids to learn and more flexibility for teachers to teach. Josh will empower students with the skills necessary to succeed in whatever path they choose, ensuring every high school student has access to vocational, technical, and computer training.

Josh believes parents deserve to be empowered to ensure their kids receive a good education and that every child has access to quality learning. That requires boosting funding for education and innovating to ensure children in our most challenged schools receive the education and care they deserve. Josh favors adding choices for parents and educational opportunity for students and funding lifeline scholarships like those approved in other states and introduced in Pennsylvania.

And, Josh will make sure parents have a seat at the table when decisions about education are made by appointing at least two parents to the State Board of Education.

We can keep Pennsylvania's promise to our students by fully funding and fixing up our schools, prioritizing mental health, empowering students with vocational, technical, and computer training, and ensuring parents have a real voice in their children's education. As Governor, Josh will tackle these challenges head on and ensure we build opportunity for Pennsylvania's children.

LGBT:

Josh will continue to advocate for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and fight for equality as Governor — just like he has for his entire career.

Josh has stood with LGBTQ+ communities throughout his career — he defended LGBTQ+ rights from the Trump Administration's attacks as Attorney General, helped the first LGBTQ+ couples in Pennsylvania marry as a Montgomery County Commissioner, and pushed to expand protections for our Commonwealth's LGBTQ+ communities as a State Representative.

Pennsylvania is the only state in the Northeast without comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This means that LGBTQ+ individuals can be discriminated against across the Commonwealth in many sectors, including employment, housing, credit

issuance, education, and various public accommodations.

As Governor, Josh will put his full capital behind the effort to finally ban discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals in Pennsylvania so that LGBTQ+ community can work, attend school, and seek housing under the same rights as everyone else in the Commonwealth. He'll expand our hate crime laws to cover our LGBTQ+ communities, invest in mental health resources to support LGBTQ+ youth, and finally ban conversion therapy for minors. For too long, members of the LGBTQ+ community in Pennsylvania — and all across America — have not been afforded the protections they deserve. Josh will work tirelessly to ensure and expand the rights of the Commonwealth's LGBTQ+ residents.

Additional Information:

Campaign Website: joshshapiro.org
Republican Lt. Governor Candidate:
PA House Representative Austin Davis (D). Campaign Website: joshshapiro.org/austin

U.S. SENATE RACE

PA Lt Governor John Fetterman (D)

Abortion:

A woman's right to make her own health care decisions is sacred and non-negotiable. Period.

Right-wing extremists have been hellbent on rolling back abortion access since the ink was barely dry on the Roe v. Wade decision. And in the decades since, the GOP has worked to do away with this fundamental right with extreme laws aimed at banning abortions without exceptions for rape or incest and even putting women who seek abortions and doctors who perform them behind bars. As your senator, I will vote to enshrine access to safe and legal abortion into federal law by passing the Women's Health Protection Act, because deciding how and when to become a mother is a decision that should always be made by a woman and her doctor — not politicians. I will also stand up to attacks on Planned Parenthood, and fight to repeal the Hyde Amendment.

Democrats must do everything we can to protect this fundamental right. I believe that if you are not willing to do whatever it takes to protect abortion rights when they are on the line, then you cannot call yourself pro-choice. It's that simple.

Education:

I was fortunate to get a solid education that helped set me on a solid path. Far too many families struggle to find good public schools for their kids, and the price of college has become outrageous. And there are too few opportunities for the many young people who don't think college is the right option for them. If we want to prepare the next generation for a highly competitive world, we need to get serious about what education in the 21st century looks like.

In Washington, I'll fight for universal pre-k and childcare, and I'll make sure our public schools have the funding they need so our teachers aren't shouldering so much of a burden. I will also work to increase investments in career and technical programs to

prepare young adults for successful and in-demand careers in critical industries. And for students who do opt to attend college, to make sure the cost isn't a barrier I'll support efforts to make community colleges tuition-free and reduce the burden of student loan debt that too many borrowers are experiencing right now.

Immigration:

I fundamentally believe immigration is what makes America, America. This issue is personal to me. My wife, Gisele, was a Dreamer who came to America when she was 7, fleeing violence in Brazil with her family. I would not have my family if it weren't for immigration.

It is no secret our immigration system is broken. We need a system that is strong, secure, and humane. In the Senate, I would support investments that go towards keeping our borders strong and preventing the flow of illegal drugs into our country. We also must work to ensure that our immigration system is humane. I support commonsense immigration reforms that will restore our country's legacy as a nation built by immigrants. In the Senate, I will work to modernize our visa system and asylum programs so that they can't be exploited by bad actors. I will also fight for a pathway to citizenship for frontline workers, small business owners, and young people who have only known this country as their home.

We have to reject the false choice pitting laws and strong borders against those coming to America to seek a better life for themselves and their families.

Additional Information:

Campaign Website: johnfetterman.com

U.S. SENATE RACE

Dr. Mehmet Oz (R)

Abortion:

Dr. Oz is a successful heart surgeon — he has literally held a beating heart in his hands. He knows how precious life is and is 100% Pro-Life.

Education:

Dr. Oz believes that a good education is fundamental to a better future. But he believes we need to fundamentally change the way we approach education in this country — by incorporating financial literacy from an early age, focusing on empowering students to make their own career choices, and stopping wealthy universities from raising tuition every year while sitting on millions of dollars in tax-protected endowments. Dr. Oz also believes that the extreme left wants to use our schools to indoctrinate our children with an anti-American ideology — and as Senator he'll fight to block that from happening.

LGBT:

No information provided.

Immigration:

Dr. Oz believes that one of the core responsibilities of the federal government is to protect you. In order to do that, we need to have a secure border with a barrier — whether that is a physical wall or one patrolled by technological advances.

Additional Information:

Campaign Website: doctoz.com

Spirited
**WOMEN'S
 CONFERENCE
 NOV 12**
DioceseofGreensburg.org/Spirited
REGISTER NOW • LIMITED SEATING



The Diocese of Greensburg's first-ever Diocesan Women's Conference, Spirited, is set for Nov. 12 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Spirited will feature praise and worship, speakers and witness testimonies, crafts, prizes and lunch. **Bishop Larry J. Kulick** will celebrate Mass.

Keynote speaker is internationally known psychotherapist **Dr. Carol Razza**, author of books on the subjects of grace and parenting adolescents. She is a faculty member and formation advisor at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla.

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE!

Full scholarships from the Francis Fund are available. To apply, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/franciscfund

Registration: \$75 Register online at DioceseofGreensburg.org/SPIRITED or complete and mail the form below

Name _____ Breakout Session # _____

Parish or Church Affiliation _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Payment by: Check _____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Other _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature _____

**Make checks payable to Diocese of Greensburg/SPIRITED and mail with this completed form to:
 Office of Communications and Evangelization, 725 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601**



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MORNING

- 7:00 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 AM Praise and Worship
- 8:30 AM Welcome, Announcements
- 8:35 AM Keynote Speaker — Dr. Carol Razza
- 10:00 AM Mass with Bishop Larry J. Kulick
- 11:15 AM Breakout Speakers, Witness Testimonies

AFTERNOON

- 12:30 PM Exposition and Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Prayer Teams, Vendors, Craft, Lunch
- 2:20 PM Welcome Back
- 2:25 PM Praise and Worship
- 2:50 PM Keynote Speaker — Dr. Carol Razza
- 4:00 PM Closing Remarks, Closing Song, Dismissal, Pick Up Raffle Prizes

BREAKOUT SESSIONS — ATTENDEES CAN REGISTER FOR ONE SESSION

BREAKOUT SPEAKER		WITNESS TESTIMONY	
1	 <p>Anne Kertz Kerion — Prayer Practices to Nourish and Strengthen our Spirits, Brains and Bodies Multimedia presentation, based on her award-winning book, "Spiritual Practices for the Brain: Caring for Mind, Body, and Soul." Explore several prayer practices to enhance our Spiritual lives, brains, bodies and minds. We will share simple ways to encounter God throughout your day, boosting your faith and well-being.</p>	 <p>Karen Herrmann — Being an Instrument of the Holy Spirit Karen has been graced with gifts of writing music, singing, and creating music videos. She will share how our mother, Mary, has called us to pray for healing for all women, and for all women to experience the love of the Father and seek healing, if needed.</p>	
2	 <p>Lisa Martinelli — Moral Suffering and Resilience: An Opportunity for Moral Growth Although moral distress is widely recognized today as an epidemic among healthcare workers, the inability to do the right thing by acting according to one's conscience and values is not limited to health care professionals. Moral distress affects everyone. How do we understand those occasions where we have failed to do good because we were constrained from following our consciences? This presentation explores this issue and examines strategies and opportunities to establish resilience and recover our moral wholeness.</p>	 <p>Debbie Wilson — Christ's Healing Power Among Us Debbie received a miraculous healing from throat and breast cancer and will share how the Lord was present and walked with her. Then God used these illnesses so Debbie could be a witness to nurses, doctors, and others and bring them to faith.</p>	
3	 <p>Jo Ann Paradise — United or Divided How many times in the past two years have you asked, "Why does it have to be this way?" How many of us are afraid for our children seeing the world as it is? This session will explore what unites us and what divides us. We will discover God's plan written in our physical bodies as we look at current brain research.</p>	 <p>Deb Sorce and Anne Kovalcik — Grieving with Gratitude In 2014, Anne's daughter, Carissa, was killed by her boyfriend. She was nine months pregnant; the baby girl died three weeks later. The story of Anne and Debbie retells how through pain, grieving, and tragedy, God opened a pathway for gratitude.</p>	
4	 <p>Mary Sampey — Anxious for Nothing: Practical Ways to Trust More and Worry Less So often we allow our daily concerns to turn into worry when our thoughts become focused on changing the future instead of doing our best to handle our present circumstances. St. Paul, the apostle, helps us in Phil 4:6-9 by directing us toward some practical positive steps we can take in order to decrease and eliminate our impulse to worry: right praying, right thinking, and right action. We will explore ways to eliminate bad habits and replace them with good ones. We'll learn how to pray in gratitude, thinking clearly and correctly, and dwell on the things of God. We will find peace, even in the midst of great suffering and trials.</p>	 <p>Debra Iwaniec — Spirit in the Sky In 2008, 24-year-old Kenton Iwaniec was savoring his dream job as a Pennsylvania State Trooper. He was finishing his shift when an impaired driver crossed the center line, destroying Kenton's car and the promising life within it. Debra will share how surrendering to God and walking with the Holy Spirit has brought light into the darkest time of her life and yielded the precious gift of forgiveness.</p>	
5	 <p>Patricia Sharbaugh — Irrepressible Light: Exploring Women's Leadership in the New Testament We will focus on New Testament stories about women who encountered Jesus. These women are strong, daring, faithful, and brave. Though they are poor, ill, misunderstood, and oppressed, these women find a way to listen to the dimly burning irrepressible light within. This light calls them forth to encounter the healing, saving mystery of God. We'll focus on what these women teach us about knowing and loving God so that we too might find a way to see and follow the irrepressible light within.</p>	 <p>Jennifer D'Souza — Sorrow, Strength and the Total Self-Gift of Marriage Fifteen years into her first marriage, Jennifer suddenly found herself a widow and single mother. Then, unexpected blessings poured upon her made her ask: "How did we go from a place of sorrow into a place of miracles?" The answer was a call to rejoice and a call to action.</p>	
6	 <p>Bridgette Trunzo — The Eucharist: Self-Giving and Nurturing Love All Sacraments point to the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Catholic life. As Catholic women, it is most important to be deeply in tune to the limitless grace that comes from the Eucharist — whether we are wives, mothers, sisters, teachers, or in any role we play as women. Understanding and exemplifying Jesus' self-giving love in our lives has immeasurable benefit in our vocations, which nurture others, and is essential for our spiritual life and service to those entrusted to our care.</p>	 <p>Susan Potvin — Father, Son and Holy Spirit Having almost died as a child, Susan always had a relationship with Jesus. After graduating from college, getting married and adopting four children, she hit a wall of desolation. "Why do I still not believe how much the Lord loves me?" "Why am I still in so much internal pain and feel as though I need to earn God's love?"</p>	
7	 <p>Shirley Pawlak — Women, Men, Abortion, Trauma, and Healing Introduces origins of abortion crisis from a theological viewpoint. It includes ideas from Sacred Scripture and Evangelium Vitae by Pope St. John Paul II. It discusses the development of medication abortion as the life crisis of the moment. It explores the psychological concept of "moral injury," which an abortion can cause. It discusses the impact of abortion on men, and, finally, how psychology and religion offer healing from the wound of abortion. The conclusion includes concrete ideas as to what we can do as a community and in our parishes to encourage healing in the midst of the current cultural situation.</p>	 <p>Carol Hevia — Can God Forgive, Let Alone Love Me? Feelings of relief followed an abortion, but as she started to get more mature in her decisions, deep feelings of regret started to haunt her. Would Carol end up in Heaven or Hell? She could not remove these regrets from her soul. Come hear Carol's inspiring story of struggle, courage and faith.</p>	
8	 <p>Jennifer Wilson — Accompanying Young People on their Journey as Disciples All ages are welcome at this interactive talk about how we acknowledge and receive young people, especially those who have fallen away from the Church, as the gift that they are in our families, communities, and churches. Learn about five strategies that can help us all keep young people from leaving the Church, and how we can start to bring back those who have fallen away.</p>	 <p>Katt Kersting — Being the "Cool Catholic" As a young adult, Katt is surrounded by many people that tend to stray away from the usual crowds in the pews every weekend. However, she finds a deeper connection to her faith when her untraditional friends turn to her for advice and guidance. But what exactly makes her viewed as a "cool Catholic?"</p>	

Thousands attend Pennsylvania March for Life in first event since Roe v. Wade reversal

By Mary Seamans
Multimedia Journalist

HARRISBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg's Father Daniel E. Carr, Director of Pro-Life Activities, Marriage Preparation and Adult Education and Formation, and Carolyn Cannizzaro, Director of Pro-Life Advocacy, were up at 4 a.m. to make the three-hour drive from Greensburg to Harrisburg Sept. 19.

Attending the Pennsylvania March for Life — the first since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade — they said they were overwhelmed by the estimated 5,000 anti-abortion advocates at the event, filling the steps of the Capitol and overflowing onto the lawn and street.

"My spirit was lifted as I walked up the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building. I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride by being surrounded by more than 5,000 pro-life supporters, most of them Catholic," said Carolyn Cannizzaro. "More than

Continued on page 9



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Diocese of Greensburg parishioners participate in the annual Pennsylvania March for Life Sept. 19.

Bishop's Respect Life message

On Sept. 19, thousands of people descended on the state Capitol in Harrisburg for the second annual Pennsylvania March for Life. My commitments in Rome coincided with this year's march; however, I was incredibly proud of the hundreds from the Diocese of Greensburg who boarded buses in the early morning hours to travel to Harrisburg.

They traveled to show their support of life from conception to natural death. The event was also an opportunity to meet with elected officials to urge them to protect all human life.

While I was unable to join the contingent from the Diocese this year, I was honored to present a prerecorded message of support and encouragement to the members of our Diocese.

The Catholic Church teaching on life is abundantly clear. Every human person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has a right to life. Other rights are precious to us, but the right to life is preeminent. This is a moral teaching that remains unchangeable.

The commitment to protect all life is not only for its own sake and dignity, but for the salvation of our souls so that we can experience the fullness of eternal life. Above all, we must be the responsible voices for all human life.

Respecting all life means adhering to the Church position not only on abortion, but on other issues such as euthanasia, taking care of the aged, affirming the rights of the disabled, feeding and clothing the poor, and supporting other social justice issues. These aren't liberal or conservative issues. These are the fundamental right given by God to all of humanity.

Respect for life also means that we must be agents of healing and reconciliation for all suffering in any way from experiences that have wounded them. It also means that now, more than ever, we must work to assist those choosing life and supporting human dignity on all fronts by actively participating in ministries, advocacy, and programs that pragmatically assist those in need such as Walking with Moms in Need, pregnancy assistance programs, care for the aged and disadvantaged, and health care for the needy.

October is Respect Life Month. My desire and encouragement to you all is that we, as the faithful, continue to express and advocate for our pro-life beliefs not only this month, but throughout the entire year. I pray that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to possess the courage and wisdom to protect the gift of human life in all cases.

May we always live as examples of Christ, who was always closest to the weak and to the most vulnerable.

Yours in Christ,

+ Larry J. Kulick

The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL
Bishop of Greensburg

Prayer, education, advocacy, service at heart of pro-life

By Carolyn Cannizzaro

When I was appointed Director of Pro-Life Advocacy for the Diocese of Greensburg, I never imagined the breadth and depth of my position. Where do I begin? I know my title is Director of Pro-Life Advocacy, but I think of this position as a ministry. I address life issues from conception until natural death. In this ministry, I direct my attention to four areas: Prayer, Education, Advocacy and Service. These four areas help me to hone in on the vast needs of pro-life issues.

Prayer: Personal, but also with others. Nobody wants to talk about life issues, especially abortion, euthanasia, the homeless, the homebound, those with addictions, etc. This is my prayer every day: *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. The Lord is my rock and my salvation. The Lord is my refuge. The Lord will never abandon me.* (Phil 4:13) So I put on the breastplate of the Lord and I go to battle every single day. Make no mistake, He is the Director of Pro-Life Advocacy.

Education: I imagine being the long arm of the Lord and reaching out as far as I can to share God's message. I taught elementary school for 23 years, so I am passionate that we need to educate future generations on the dignity of life and have them witness it in their own lives. Catholic Charities is sponsoring a Respect Life Essay and Poster Contest in our Catholic schools. Here is the assignment: "Who is your Respect Life Hero and Why?" The assignment was proposed to be a homework assignment to encourage the family unit to discuss the issue of Respect Life



at home. In the coming months, we will be focusing on Respect Life issues and using these essays and posters in our social media.

Other areas of Education include reaching out to parishes to engage them in discussion about pro-life. During the month of October (Respect Life Month), I am visiting parishes and sharing the documentary "The Matter of Life" and then facilitating

a discussion on the content. In addition, there is urgency to supply emergency contact information for suicide prevention, Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline, Project Rachel (post abortion support), Natural Family Planning resources, and supporting the USCCB's initiative of Walking with Moms in Need. I partner with Father Daniel E. Carr, Director of Pro-Life Activities, who also is visiting parishes and speaking on the topic, "What Is Life For?" Together, we hope to heighten awareness of "life" issues.

Advocacy: For the unborn and all Respect Life issues! 40 Days for Life, Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg and the national March for Life Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C. Please join in the march. Roe v. Wade was overturned, but a similar threat faces the Pennsylvania Constitution in a case brought by the abortion industry and is now before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. If it passes, taxpayers in Pennsylvania will have to pay for abortions. Please visit the Pennsylvania Family Council website, pafamily.org/, for more information. It is crucial to become educated on these critical life issues. Just look up "Life Amendment"

and Pennsylvania Senate Bill 956 and House Bill 2252.

Service: At the heart of Catholic Charities is service and outreach programs to serve the community. To add to the many services Catholic Charities already provides, we are currently finding ways to support couples seeking Natural Family Planning. Catholic Charities works with Project Rachel (hopeafterabortion.com) to assist men and women who have suffered from an abortion.

Catholic Charities and numerous pregnancy centers provide countless services, not only to Catholics, but to anyone who is in need of assistance. But we need your help. Many of these centers are supported by people like you. Volunteers are crucial to their success.

Future plans are to partner with more organizations in our Diocese: Knights of Columbus, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Magnificat, Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Group (St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon), Christian Mothers, Holy Name Society, and the Rosary and Altar Society, to name a few. By teaming up, we will be able to serve the ever-growing needs in our Diocese to serve the poor, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and advocate against abortion and euthanasia.

We truly are one body in Christ. We are commissioned through our baptism and confirmation to be the hands and feet of Christ. As we go forth, I request that you pray for Catholic Charities, and please know that we are always here to pray with and for you.

If you would like more information about other services Catholic Charities provides, please visit our website, ccharitiesgreensburg.org, or email me at ccannizzaro@DioceseofGreensburg.org.

Pregnancy centers helping men be better dads

By Maria Guzzo
Contributing Writer

LOWER BURRELL — Even before their daughter was born in August, Benjamin Murray-Sinicki and his wife, Madisyn Tassone, regularly visited TryLife Center, which offers support to parents of children up to age 3, to watch videos and talk with counselors about becoming parents.

"I'd had a bit of exposure through family events, but I did not interact with children much before Karma was born," Murray-Sinicki said. "I've learned a lot of information I would have remained ignorant of if not for TryLife. This is definitely a resource that should be taken advantage of."

TryLife and other clinics throughout the Diocese of Greensburg are hoping more new dads see them as a positive option.

"Typically, 'pregnancy resource centers' or even 'family resource centers' have the stigma of being women-only," said Maddie Crytzer, director of client services at TryLife. "Many of our supporters and new clients are genuinely shocked when they realize fathers can receive the same assistance as mothers from our center."

Likewise, Cristal Evans, executive director of Life-Way Pregnancy Center, with locations in Latrobe and Indiana, said most of their clients are women. But, she said, they are in the family-building business.

"We love working with dads and encourage them to come," Evans said. "We do our best to make the office comfortable for men as well as women. We're careful with marketing and fundraising in that we stay away from pink and flowers" as branding.

TryLife, Life-Way and Alternatives. Yes in Connellsville use BrightCourse,



MARIA GUZZO FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT
Benjamin Murray-Sinicki and his daughter.

a parenting education curriculum that includes specific fatherhood instruction among its video offerings.

Andrea Pritts, executive director of AlternativesYes, said many videos include dad-centric themes like positive partnerships, supporting your partner during pregnancy, being a role model, leadership and offering loving discipline. The general baby- and child-care videos feature both men and women in caring roles, she said.

"Often expectant fathers we see come from a home where anything goes, or there's a lot of chaos in their life and maybe no dad in their life as someone to emulate," Pritts said. "We help them learn the situational skills they need to help raise a child and be a support to their partner."

Pritts said statistics show that children who grow up in two-parent homes are

less likely to be involved in crime and drugs, and more likely to complete school.

"There are just so many more positive outcomes that are more likely in a two-parent home or a situation where mom and dad, even if they aren't living together, are working together for the best outcome of their children," she said.

All three programs are heavily staffed by female counselors, but all are seeking to change this.

Life-Way's Evans said they've long wanted to have a dads mentoring program and are looking into tapping into potential male volunteers to counsel fathers.

Try-Life's Crytzer said for the past year they've been working to promote their program to moms and dads alike, and they've already seen tremendous improvement.

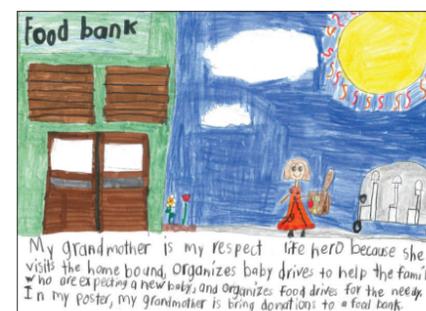
"We currently do not have any male client assistants or peer counselors, but that is something we are looking into for the near future, especially with the recent increase in new male clients" Crytzer said.

All three clinics said of their currently active clients, between 20% and 23% are men.

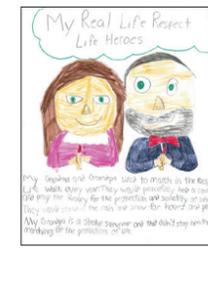
Murray-Sinicki said he and his wife, both 24, of Arnold, will continue to spend time at TryLife every week, watching educational videos not only to acquire points to shop for items for their daughter like car seats, strollers, clothes, diapers and formula, but also to learn to become better parents and make more educated choices for their family's future.

"I like being a dad," he said. "I'm excited about the next chapter. This will set her up for success."

"I hope to inspire other men to get involved and take advantage of the resources they offer."



My grandmother is my respect life hero because she visits the home bound, organizes baby drives to help the families who are expecting a new baby, and organizes food drives for the needy. In my poster, my grandmother is bringing donations to a food bank.



Essay/poster contest winners

GREENSBURG — Students in grades K-5 in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Greensburg were asked to create posters of their "Respect Life Hero." Students in grades 6-12 were asked to write essays on the subject.

Below is the winning essay, "Nellie Gray," written by Ava Sampey, a sixth-grader at Conn-Area Catholic School, Connellsville.

Have you ever heard the term "Pro-Life"? Well, it was coined by a woman named Nellie Gray.

She earned many different degrees from Georgetown University. She was employed for 28 years working in the Department of State and Labor. She also practiced Law in the Supreme Court.

She decided to leave behind a very successful career to embark on a new calling, a higher calling.

As a Roman Catholic convert who felt so strongly that Roe v. Wade was wrongfully decided, she founded the First National March for Life on January 22, 1974. Uniting 20,000 advocates for life in our nation's capital.

Nellie had no idea that her first march would develop into the awe-inspiring movement it is today. Marching for the rights of precious unborn babies who have no voice of their own to also have the chance to speak one day. Roe V. Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022, paving the way for states to ban abortion. Sadly, Nellie wasn't around to see the years of her hard work come to life.

It is impossible to know how much Nellie impacted the current understanding of the sanctity of life by saying "yes" to defending life.

Throughout the Bible God asked many insignificant people to move mighty mountains through Himself.

I thank my hero, Nellie Gray, whose one little "yes" to God has led us here today!

Poster Winners

Noah Barndt, Kindergarten, Conn-Area Catholic School; "Army Daddy"

Josephine Phillips, Grade 3, Aquinas Academy, Greensburg; "My Grandmother at the Food Bank"

Quinn Drews, Grade 5, St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown; "My Real-Life Respect Life Heroes"

Thousands attend Pennsylvania March for Life

Continued from page 9

150 parishioners from the Diocese of Greensburg attended, and Father Dan Carr did a wonderful job organizing the trip of pilgrims from our Diocese in support of life."

The crowd was celebrating the decision and pushing lawmakers to pass state legislation that would further restrict abortion with a Republican-backed amendment proposed for the Pennsylvania Constitution. That amendment would declare that access to abortion is not a right. The proposed amendment may be on the ballot in May 2023. Supporters say there is new optimism they can effect change and avoid a veto by Gov. Tom Wolf.

"Last year, we gathered here and I told you I

felt a change coming to our commonwealth. I don't know that any of us anticipated how big of a change that was," Pennsylvania House Speaker Bryan Cutler said at the rally. "What a difference a year makes. Am I right? Thanks to your advocacy and your prayers, we continue to be successful."

Father Carr said the highlight was the standing-room-only Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"Everyone was singing and participating — they filled the space with a joyful noise! It was such an awe-filled experience for me to concelebrate with so many priests and bishops from across the state," he said. "I was also grateful to our state representatives who organized a reception for our group."

Cannizzaro added, "Sen.



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Patrick Stefano and Sen. Joe Pittman encouraged us to be the voice for the unborn with our vote and our actions. This upcoming election will likely decide if abortion is curtailed or expanded in our state. Each vote for life is crucial.

"May God be with us as we continue to be the voice of the unborn and stop the culture of death. Blessed St.

Mother Teresa said, 'When America ends abortion, the world will follow. It's time we each did our part.'

Father Carr, who organized the trip, thanked Office Specialist Christina Cerilli of the Diocesan Faith, Family and Discipleship Office, who registered participants; bus captains; and the Knights of Columbus, who chartered buses.

World Mission Sunday: A message from Bishop Kulick

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, we celebrate World Mission Sunday on Oct. 23, and we join Catholics worldwide in offering prayers and sacrifices for the Missions of the Church. The Catholic Church has celebrated World Mission Sunday since 1926. This celebration has united Catholics for almost a century in fulfilling our baptismal commitment of sharing our faith in Jesus Christ, of building up the Church throughout the world, and assisting the poor.

The theme for this year's celebration is "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). In Pope Francis's Message for World Mission Sunday, he emphasizes that every Christian has received the call to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to participate in the work of universal evangelization. The Holy Father advises all Christians to seek strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit to fulfill these obligations. While each of us bears witness where we are, we must also support the mission work that is accomplished throughout the world.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is celebrating its 200th anniversary. At one time, the Church in the United States was a recipient of the aid provided by the Society. In 1822, the Church here in the United States began to receive assistance in helping the Church to grow and to evangelize, receiving over \$7 million throughout the years. We now have an opportunity to provide material assistance and prayers for the mission Church throughout the world. Our prayers and support today sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than

1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build up the Church and serve the poor.

The Church this year is also celebrating the beatification of the Society's foundress. On May 22, 2022, Pauline Jaricot was declared Blessed. Blessed Pauline Jaricot began the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and we are privileged to continue it. As Pope Francis reminds us, "She accepted God's inspiration to establish a network of prayer and collection for missionaries so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission 'to the ends of the earth.'" Our contributions on World Mission Sunday will make it possible for seminarians to receive formation; schools orphanages, and hospitals to be built; and priests and religious brothers and sisters to have food and other essentials provided that will make the proclamation of the Gospel and the celebration of the sacraments possible.

Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage your generosity on World Mission Sunday. Please be generous in prayer, as this is your greatest gift, and also in your financial support of the Church in the Missions. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your families.

Gratefully in the Lord,



The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL
Bishop of Greensburg



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Above, Father Lucio Gonzalez and the faithful in our sister Diocese of Sicuani, Peru. Below, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Ancilla Maloney is pictured at Christ the King Parish, Leechburg, where she discussed her missionary work. She is pictured with Father Michael J. Sciberras, left, who serves in pastoral and sacramental ministry at the parish, and Benedictine Father James Loew, pastor.



In February of 1951, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1950 to 1966), in a radio address (*The Catholic Hour*), inaugurated a **World Mission Rosary**. "We must pray, and not for ourselves, but for the world. To this end, I have designed the World Mission Rosary. Each of the

five decades is of a different color to represent each of the five continents." Praying this Rosary, Archbishop Sheen said, would "aid the Holy Father and his Society for the Propagation of the Faith by supplying him with practical support, as well as prayers, for the poor mission territories of the world."

Each decade of that World Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission: GREEN for the forests and grasslands of AFRICA; BLUE for the ocean surrounding the ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC; WHITE symbolizing EUROPE, the seat of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world; RED calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the AMERICAS, and YELLOW, the morning light of the East, for ASIA.

DAILY PRAYERS FOR THE MISSIONS

Father, You will Your Church to be the sacrament of salvation to all peoples. Make us feel more urgently the call to work for the salvation of our human family until You have made us one people. Inspire us to continue the saving work of Christ everywhere until the end of the world.

- + Our Father
- + Hail Mary
- + Glory be
- + St. Francis Xavier, pray for us
- + St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us

"Peace will come only when the hearts of the world have changed. To do this we must pray, and not for ourselves, but for the world. The world means *everyone*.... But we cannot change without prayer, and the power of the Rosary as a prayer is beyond description. For the love of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, won't you please make a tour of the world on your World Mission Rosary? I know you will."

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN
The Catholic Hour radio broadcast, February 11, 1951
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

World Mission Rosaries for children and adults, blessed by Bishop Larry J. Kulick, are available for \$15. They can be purchased at DioceseofGreensburg.org/missions.



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
A Pontifical Mission Society
www.WorldMissionRosary.org

Pray the
WORLD
Mission Rosary



When the World Mission Rosary is completed, one has embraced all continents, all people in prayer.
— ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

Bishop Kulick announces plans for Eucharistic Revival

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG —

Bishop Larry J. Kulick hosted regional gatherings of parish and Diocesan staff in Indiana, Connellsville and Greensburg Oct. 17 to kick off Eucharistic Revival, a three-year process initiated by the USCCB to invite the faithful to reflect upon the mystery and meaning of the sacrament of the Eucharist in our lives.

The Diocesan efforts will begin from the inside out, first offering formational and devotional opportunities for staff throughout 2023, culminating with a Eucharistic Congress next summer.

More than 200 people representing every parish and Diocesan department attended the gatherings at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish in Indiana, St. Rita Parish in Connellsville and St. Bruno Parish in Greensburg.

"As parish and Diocesan representatives, you are the face of this Eucharistic Revival. Oftentimes, you are the first person to come into contact with the poor, with the hurting and with those who long to return to the Church, but do not know the way. It is part of our baptismal calling to help them find that way," Bishop Kulick said.

Dr. Thomas Octave,



Director of Liturgical Music for the Diocese of Greensburg, said the goal of this effort is to create a more Eucharistic Community devoted to loving and serving one another and forming Disciples of Christ. Octave was also invited by the McGrath Institute at Notre Dame to be a part of a 21-person cohort of Church leaders to lead the Eucharistic Revival throughout the United States.

"As Catholics, we are both blessed and broken. His Real Presence in the Eucharistic can transform our hearts. Jesus left us this gift. In a world that is so hurried, we must all slow down, do a deep dive and reflect upon it," Octave said.

Octave helped to develop the three-year plan for the Diocese of Greensburg, which begins with a focus on staff.

"After the Eucharistic Congress next summer, we hope they are better prepared to help create a more Eucharistic Community, founding new and innovative ministries focused on reconnecting to the disenfranchised and creating experiential evangelization opportunities that interest and engage our young people. One-on-one personal invitations will be an important part of the process," Octave said.

Octave is working alongside the Diocesan Office of



Communications and Evangelization to develop years two and three of the plan. Year two is a year of Parish and Deanery Revival, designed to foster eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through faithful celebration of the Mass, eucharistic adoration, missions, resources, preaching and organic movements of the Holy Spirit. Year three involves a National Eucharistic Congress and around the feast of Pentecost 2025, when, having enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful, the Holy Spirit will send us out on mission to share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord.



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Diocesan and parish staff take part in a regional gathering for the Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese Oct. 17 at St. Bruno Parish, Greensburg; above, Dr. Thomas Octave speaks to a group of staffers at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana.

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers help needy in the Mon Valley

By John Sacco
Contributing Writer

MONESSEN — For nearly a quarter of a century, the volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Monessen have been bringing comfort and joy to those less fortunate.

In May 1999, the late Richard Lenio fulfilled his dream of organizing the St. Vincent de Paul Store, which opened 23 years ago in May.

He was the founder and president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Monessen. He, along with many volunteers, purchased a former casino and duckpin bowling facility that sat idle.

After endless of hours of hard work, the St. Vincent de Paul Mon Valley Council's storeroom opened. It still serves much of the Mon Valley.

There are no boundaries as far as getting help.

Since the store opened, its role, space and inventory have expanded. It now sells more clothing, household goods, furniture, medical equipment and collectibles. In addition, it offers a banquet hall for public use.

"We rely on donations and the faithful work ethic of our volunteers," said Kathleen Molesky, a St. Vincent de Paul board member and parishioner of St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon. "We accept reasonably worn clothing, and we gladly accept toys, bikes, games and fun things. The furniture received really helps those in need. If we receive furniture that is broken, our people fix it, clean it up and polish it up, if need be."

She said bed frames and box spring mattresses are in need, as are couches, chairs and dining room tables.

Lenio's sister, Kathy Lenio Steffey, is proud of her



JOHN SACCO FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Lou Turcheck mans the cash register at the St. Vincent de Paul store.

brother's legacy.

"He had a wonderful idea," Steffey said. "We help a lot of people here and have helped a lot through the years. It's become harder to do it, but

we have a lot of dedicated volunteers that makes this all go. My brother got some help in making this happen."

Steffey, who had a full-time job when the St. Vincent de

Paul store opened, would come in and handle the "books" for the business. Now retired, she has become a regular volunteer.

"It's a nice play to help out others," Steffey said. "The people who volunteer are friendly. There's no pressure, and it makes for a nice, relaxed atmosphere."

That translates to comfort and confidence for shoppers.

"When you get to see someone smile or feel some joy and express some happiness because of the help this place provides, it makes it all worthwhile," Molesky said. "We have people travel here from a distance to see what we have and if we can help."

"Our volunteers have remained steady and faithful," she added. "These people are dedicated. Our oldest volunteer was 100 years old. Louie, our cashier, is 93. We're here to help."

St. Matthew Parish, Saltsburg, all dressed up for 175th anniversary

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

SALTSBURG — Parishioners labored for months to restore the original St. Matthew Church in preparation for the 175th anniversary of St. Matthew Parish.

Celebrating Mass Sept. 25, Bishop Larry J. Kulick said it was an honor and a privilege to be part of this “magnificent milestone with 175 years of a Catholic presence.”

He thanked Father John J. Harrold, pastor of St. Matthew, St. Ambrose, Avonmore, and St. Sylvester, Slickville, for being flexible. He also thanked former St. Matthew Parish pastors Monsignor James T. Gaston and Father Peter L. Peretti for their presence.

“It’s a wonderful day of reunions and remembering pastors who served, and a multitude of parishioners who have gone before us,” said Kulick.

He also thanked all those who worked so hard, including Father Eric J. Dinga, who served as master of ceremonies.

The original St. Matthew Church was under the guidance of the late Benedictine Archabbot



MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick celebrates with parishioners after the 175th anniversary Mass at St. Matthew Parish Sept. 25.

Boniface Wimmer. John Martin, a local stone mason and Irish immigrant, built the church in memory of his father, who became ill on a voyage from Ireland. That 1847 structure still stands next to the current St. Matthew Church, according to Chuck Colton, longtime parishioner and historian, who compiled a history of the parish.

The last Mass celebrated

in the original St. Matthew Church was on All Souls Day Nov. 2, 1960.

Colton said back then, if you didn’t get to church early, it was standing room only. The building measures just 40 feet by 35 feet, with a single aisle leading up to the altar.

The church received a facelift for the 175th anniversary with new window glass, structural and

cosmetic repairs done by parish volunteers, and replica milk glass light fixtures. A replica of the original altar was built by Angelo Di Lascio and family in memory of their parents, Raffaele and Filomena DiLascio. New landscaping was meticulously done by daughters of Angelo and Theresa DeLuca in their memory.

The old church was open

to the public following the anniversary Mass. Wedding photos of couples married at the original St. Matthew Church were on display, including Colton and his wife, Lynette (Maraska) Colton, who will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary in June. Artifacts, including a wedding dress from 1952, were also on view.

“It’s all about preserving what’s here,” Colton said.

Father Harrold said St. Matthew parishioners worked hard to establish an endowment for the parish cemetery next to the original St. Matthew Church to make sure it would survive in the future. St. Matthew counts 130 families as parishioners.

Their hard work extends beyond the church community, he said.

“One of the things St. Matthew’s is famous for is their Lenten pierogies and fish dinners. The parish sells perogies several times a year, which is a major fundraiser for the parish,” Father Harrold said. “The nice thing is that people from all three parishes have come together to make the perogies. Not only does St. Matthew’s Parish sell them at Saltsburg Canal Days, but at Slickville Community Days.”

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana, celebrates 175 years

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

INDIANA — St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, one of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg, celebrated a magnificent and historic milestone Aug. 21 — a Mass that was the culmination of the parish’s 175th anniversary.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, who celebrated the Mass, congratulated parishioners, calling the parish a “vibrant beacon on the hill.”

“We pledge our ongoing support and prayers,” said Bishop Kulick.

Bishop Kulick recognized his brother priests and all those who worked hard to make the celebration a reality.

“Your work, time and sacrifice are deeply appreciated,” he said.

The Mass culminated a yearlong celebration by parishioners.

Trish Dalecki and parishioner Kim Dolan were co-chairs for the closing event.

“All the months of effort were worth it when the day turned out exactly as we had prayed. The Mass was so moving, and the brunch following was well received by those who attended,” Dalecki said. “Kim and I felt blessed for our efforts. Everyone who attended any of the events felt a renewed

commitment to the parish and a sense of pride in being a member.”

She said the concept for a huge 175th celebration came five years ago from Father Thomas A. Federline, former pastor, who died Nov. 8, 2021.

“He wanted to make sure it was a big blowout,” Dalecki said.

The actual planning began 18 months ago. Capuchin Father Richard N. Owens, pastor, came up with the idea to plan monthly events to celebrate the parish’s rich diversity of interests and talents — from creating Mother’s Day cards to liturgical and catechetical trivia night and baking with Deacon Andrew Corriente, the 2020 winner of Season 5 of ABC’s “The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Season.” Two of Deacon Andrew’s recipes are featured in the Diocese of Greensburg’s “Faith and Food Cookbook.”

A Fourth of July celebration was open to the community. Attendees had the best seats in the house for a fireworks display. Food trucks, games and music were also provided.

With its continued focus on service to the parish and the community, parishioners undertook a project to beautify the parking lot areas. Parishioners also collected items for comfort bags for cancer patients at Indiana Regional Medical Center.



MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Parishioners celebrate St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish’s 175th anniversary Aug. 21.

The first St. Bernard Parish building, simple and small, was constructed and opened in 1847. By 1869, the number of parishioners was more than the church’s seating capacity. A Roman-style brick church building with a 135-foot steeple was completed within a year, and the new church was dedicated on Sept. 26, 1871. A new rectory was built four years later.

In 1977, construction began on a new limestone-encased church building. The first Mass was celebrated in the newly named St. Bernard of

Clairvaux Church Nov. 25, 1978.

Dalecki has been an active parishioner since 1979, and her children were baptized there. It came as no surprise when her husband of “46 happy years,” Bob, died last November, parishioners stepped up.

“My church family is a blessing with their support,” said Dalecki.

Gloria Kanick, who has been a parishioner for 65 years, describes her parish as “a welcoming church.”

“I am so proud of our parish,” she said.

St. Joseph Parish, Everson, parishioners celebrate 135 years

By **Melissa Williams Brown**
Contributing Writer

EVERSON — St. Joseph Parish, steeped in rich history and dating back to 1887, celebrated its 135th anniversary Oct. 16, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick. The parish holds the prestigious distinction as the oldest Polish parish in the Diocese of Greensburg, and the third oldest in Western Pennsylvania.

Bishop Kulick expressed his heartfelt thanks to the parishioners for giving of their time, talent and treasure.

“We have wonderful parishes and parishioners. The upkeep of this beautiful church is a reflection not only of your faith, but your love for God,” he said. “Our Polish immigrants didn’t have a lot, but they were wealthy in their faith. Their priority was on family and God. They made so many sacrifices like building churches like St. Joseph’s.”

“The work of the church is not something that is done individually. If we work together, the victory is ours. Our ancestors didn’t work against each other, but for each other. Their faith persisted.

“Alone we cannot do it, but together we shall succeed. Allow God to work through you as he walks with you.”

In the late 1887, a group of Polish Catholics in the tight-knit community of Everson, at

the northernmost tip of Fayette County, purchased several lots, and a wooden structure was built in the area of Vance and Painter streets, where the current church still stands today. Also on the property is the former school and rectory. In 1892, a larger church was built to accommodate the growing congregation.

The gothic-style church is similar to those in Poland. It is in the shape of a cross. The original steeple reached 156 feet into the sky, but after lightning damage, was dismantled and reduced to 115 feet.

The original church building was converted into a school in 1888. In 1898, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth assumed charge until 1920. In 1924, a three-story school was built. From 1920 until the closure of the school in 1990, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit taught there.

Changes over the years included a new rectory after the original rectory was damaged by fire in 1921, major renovations done for the 50th jubilee, and a new roof and furnace for the 100-year anniversary.

Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt delivered the homily for a Mass of Thanksgiving Sept. 9, 2012, for its 125th anniversary. Concelebrant was former Benedictine Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki of Saint Vincent Archabbey, who was a parishioner and a student



at the school. In 2013, the parishes of St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale were partnered.

Carol Konieczny says she’s enjoyed friendships that would have never been made had it not been for the parishes partnering.

“As a partner parish, we work together very well, whether it is a fish fry in Scottsdale or another fundraiser at St. Joseph’s,” she said.

She says she learned what was important in life through her religious education at the school. She was baptized, made her first Holy Communion and was confirmed at the parish, and she and her husband, John, who died three years ago, were married there in 1965.



MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick, top, and retired priest Father Dennis A. Bogusz, with Veronica Lesniowski, celebrate with St. Joseph Parish Oct. 16.

St. Edward Parish, Herminie, marks 100 years of faith



MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick greets attendees Oct. 16 after Mass at St. Edward Parish.

By **Melissa Williams Brown**
Contributing Writer

HERMINIE — Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated a Mass Oct. 16 commemorating the 100th anniversary of St. Edward Parish.

He thanked the parishioners and former pastors and religious of St. Edward Parish in attendance.

He said as a parish community, Christ lifts us up so we can lift up others.

“We ask God to strengthen us to move forward with our faith. Let us ask St. Edward to intercede for us. St. Edward, pray for us,” he said.

Glenda Sekerchak, administrative secretary and business manager at the parish for 35 years, said parishioners are like family. She has enjoyed watching children grow up after being baptized, getting married and having their own children baptized.

“My whole life is the church. I wouldn’t have it any other way. You become part of the families. Working here so long, you become friends,” she said.

Sekerchak has worked with nine pastors.

“Each priest brings their own gifts to the parish from the priesthood. Each one is different, but brings spirituality in a different way to inspire your faith,” she said.

St. Edward Parish originated with Our Lady of Victory Parish in New Madison, which is now Darragh. Mass was celebrated in a rented building until a church was built on Sewickley Avenue. It was destroyed by fire in 1934.

In 1953, Father Albert Ackerman, pastor, purchased 9.5 acres of ground on Herminie-Madison Road to be used for a school, convent, rectory and new church for the parish’s 800 families. In 1957, the present day school and convent were built. The Sisters of Charity lived at the convent and staffed the school’s four grades. The Sisters of the Holy Spirit administered the school and other religious programs until August 2004, when the school was closed.

In January 1964, Father Charles Kobylarz, pastor, worked to complete the new St. Edward Parish complex. The church was dedicated in 1967.

Father Vincent Yee Concepcion was named pastor in 2021.

MESSAGES OF CHARITY

Messages of Charity is a regular report on the outreach and fundraising efforts of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, which is provided through the courtesy of *The Catholic Accent*. Photos and text are provided by Catholic Charities staff.

A MESSAGE FROM MELANEY HEGYES, MANAGING DIRECTOR

My time as the Managing Director for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg has been a very welcoming experience! My sincerest appreciation to all who have been praying for me and helping me in my new role.

The mission of Catholic Charities in the Spirit of Jesus Christ is to bring help, hope and healing to God's people as the charitable, service and outreach arm of the Bishop and Diocese of Greensburg. I am honored to have the chance to contribute to this mission, and I am eager to work with all who join me.

While the challenges continue to surface from the COVID-19 pandemic and the needs of our poorest community members increase, Catholic Charities remains committed to meeting as many of the requests for food, baby supplies, rent and utility assistance, clothing, and mental health services throughout our four-county region of Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties as possible through a most dedicated team of staff members, volunteers and generous financial support of individual donors, foundation grants, bequests, and state government and independent contracts.

Dedicated Catholic Charities employees, including Dr. Paul Niemiec, Mary Ann Newhouse and Sharon Grabowski, who celebrated 50 years with the organization, are enjoying retirement, and we are welcoming new staff and volunteers to continue our mission, including Carolyn Cannizzaro, Director of Pro-Life Advocacy.

At Catholic Charities, our office space and procedures are being



improved to be more efficient in our daily work and more responsive to our clients. Entrusted to enhance our support and help more people who are less fortunate, we will continue to seek out opportunities, advocate for the less fortunate, and find new approaches to resolve problems.

We have committed to four priorities named by our strategic planning committee in August 2021:

Goal 1: Provide help, hope and healing.

Goal 2: Develop Comprehensive Communication.

Goal 3: Become a resource for new and culturally diverse parishioners in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Goal 4: Renew our focus on seniors and enable them to age in place.

We look forward to continuing to implement these strategic priorities that will guide our efforts, communicate priorities and lead us to success.

As the autumn leaves fall and the fall weather approaches, I hope everyone will consider the many blessings God provides and join us in spreading those blessings to others in need, as Catholic Charities does year after year.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Volunteers with the Mount St. Peter Outreach Ministry include, from left: Christopher Liberto, Norma Jean Chee, Monica Pallone, Rosanne Granieri and Tom Ferrazzoli. Not pictured: Maria Jarrett.

Poverty Relief Fund distributes \$36,000 to area nonprofits

During the March 2022 grant cycle, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg distributed a total of \$36,200 to these most worthy nonprofit organizations. These organizations are working passionately to assist families and individuals with programs and services designed to ease the burden of poverty. We applaud their efforts within the community.

- Christian Layman Corps — A Bed for Every Child: \$5,000
- St. Vincent de Paul Society — St. Paul Parish, Utility Super Fund: \$5,000
- Alternatives.Yes — Earn While You Learn: \$5,000
- Feeding the Spirit — Legal Document Procurement Program: \$1,200
- Indiana County Community Action — ICCAP Power Pack Program: \$5,000
- City Mission Living Stones, Inc. — ASPIRE Youth Center Furnace: \$5,000

- Mount Saint Peter Outreach Ministry — Poverty Relief Project: \$5,000
- Westmoreland County Food Bank — Food Pantry Distribution Program: \$5,000

Since the inception of the program in 2009, the Poverty Relief Fund has distributed \$558,231 in grants to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations.

Requests for funding are accepted throughout the year. All applications for the March 2023 grant cycle must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. Nov. 2, 2022.

Applications received after the deadline will be considered for funding during the next cycle.

Please visit our website at ccharitiesgreensburg.org under "Services" to review guidelines or to apply online. Questions? Contact Heather Rady at 724-837-1840.

Changes in works for Catholic Charities counseling services

In an attempt to be more responsive to the needs of our communities, Catholic Charities' counseling services recently began to restructure its operations. While those new directions are being developed and added to the services Catholic Charities provides, the needs of families, couples and individuals continue; often acceptance, a listening ear and a chance to tell one's story - and support to try out new behaviors - can help people live more satisfying, happier lives.

So while Catholic Charities begins to revise and expand counseling services, caring, professional counseling for individuals, couples and families remains available both in person and virtually. Counselors help individuals, couples and families

with a variety of difficulties, including depression, anxiety, grief, family conflict and anger issues. Most major insurances are accepted. The sliding fee schedule (for those without insurance) remains in place and unchanged as of this writing. Scheduling is flexible. Appropriate referrals are available when a more intense level of care is needed.

In addition to regular counseling services, the men's anger group continues to serve the needs of individuals in need of counseling and support. The group has existed continuously for over 25 years.

Catholic Charities also continues to offer counseling, through Project Rachel, for women who have experienced abortion. Other family

members affected by an abortion also participate in the healing ministry. For more information, please see hopeafterabortion.com/ as well as ccharitiesgreensburg.org/pages/default.aspx. Project Rachel counseling is always free of charge.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, as well as his predecessors, likes to tell people that Catholic Charities is the "social service arm of the Diocese of Greensburg." With the support of the Diocese, and your support, the commitment to the counseling ministry will not only continue but become more responsive to individuals, couples, families, parishes and schools.

Stay tuned. And thank you for your ongoing support.

MESSAGES OF CHARITY: OUR FUNDRAISERS



Ligonier Country Club was host to Catholic Charities for its **20th Annual Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing** Aug. 12. The event was once again a sell-out, with 144 golfers competing for skill prizes and trying their luck at the “Marshmallow Smash” and “Pope Putt.” Golfers were welcomed at theme holes for food and drink tasting throughout the course, such as “Tee-rific Pierogis” and “Marvelous Meatballs.” Most importantly, everyone enjoyed a day of fun and fellowship while raising funds to support those turning to our agency in a time of need for assistance with food, rent, utilities, and baby clothing and formula. We are especially grateful to our sponsors, prize donors, volunteers and all who participated.

Save the date for next year's outing: Friday, Aug. 22, 2023.



23RD ANNUAL COMMUNITIES OF SALT & LIGHT AWARD DINNER

Do you know an individual or organization worthy of recognition for their time, treasure and/or talent? If so, we want to hear from you! Catholic Charities is seeking nominees in the categories of Humanitarianism, Philanthropy and Outstanding Human Service Organization. Nominations are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the 23rd Annual Communities of Salt & Light Award Dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023, at Stratigos Banquet Centre in North Huntingdon. Forms and criteria can be found by visiting ccharitiesgreensburg.org and clicking on “Fundraisers.”

COMING UP: PURSE BASH/CRYSTAL BAKE SALE NOV. 6

Fall is in the air, and that means it's time for Catholic Charities' sixth annual Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale. This year's event will be held Sunday, Nov. 6, at The Barn at Ligonier Valley. Doors open at noon. Tickets are \$35 and include a catered lunch by Carson's Catering, wine, coffee and tea. In addition to the ever-popular Crystal Bake Sale, there will be designer handbags, jewelry raffles, 50/50 and much more. Join us for an afternoon of fun! This is an event you do not want to miss! Only a limited number of tickets remain. For more information or to register, visit ccharitiesgreensburg.org and click on “Fundraisers,” or call 724-837-1840 to purchase by phone.

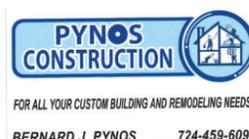


Catholic Charities joined Bishop Larry J. Kulick at The Barn at Fallingwater to host its second annual **Farm to Table Dinner**. The evening began with a social hour with wine and charcuterie and an opportunity to meet new friends from around the Diocese. Guests chose from a main course of brown sugar bourbon brisket or honey lime brown

butter salmon paired with delicious seasonal fare prepared by The Yard, Connellsville. Local guitarist Stephen Gallo provided music throughout the evening. The event was aimed at promoting stewardship and raising awareness about the works of Catholic Charities within our four county Diocese.

On May 5 Catholic Charities traveled to West Overton Village in Scottsdale to host a fun night of **Sabika Bingo**. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, mini desserts and specialty coffees, then competed for coveted pieces of Swarovski crystal Sabika jewelry. The event was held just days before Mother's Day. It was great to see mothers, daughters, aunts and sisters together in celebration while raising money for charity. We are thankful to all who attended!

GOLF OUTING SPONSORS



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR TEEN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg is preparing for its annual Teen Christmas Program. The program matches families in need with sponsors who provide gifts for children ages 13-18. Other area programs provide gifts for children 12 and under, but very few do for teens, which is why this program is important. If you would like to participate, please contact Donna Hagan at dhagan@DioceseofGreensburg.org or 724-837-1840, ext. 1661.

By the numbers: Who Catholic Charities helps and how

The Information and Referral Department has experienced a 30% increase in families requiring material and financial support since the pandemic started in March 2020. With higher grocery, gasoline and heating prices, many families continue to struggle to keep up with their bills.

Between Jan. 1, 2022, and June 30, 2022, 6,518 calls were handled by the Information and Referral Department, which is operated by three staff members — a director and two full-time caseworkers. Our team of caseworkers is committed to answering every call received and determining how best Catholic Charities can help a person to self-sufficiency. The number of calls is expected to increase as more people

seek assistance with heating fuel, rent and utility bills this winter.

When the need is great, Catholic Charities relies heavily on volunteers to answer calls made to the Helpline as well as with fundraisers, community events and the Christmas program. In the past fiscal year (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022), volunteers have provided over 6,685 hours of assistance. If you have an interest in volunteering, please call Donna Hagan at 724-837-1840, ext. 1661

Disaster response

In response to a great need following flooding Aug. 5, 2022, Catholic Charities and more than a dozen other agencies were brought together by Westmoreland Community Action and the Department of Public Safety

for a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) event at Westmoreland County Community College in Latrobe Aug 12. Approximately 50 families impacted by the flooding attended the event to learn about emergency programs available to them.

More than 75 households in Latrobe and Greensburg were impacted by the flooding. Catholic Charities, through established Diocesan Disaster Funds and a \$10,000 grant from Catholic Charities USA, is helping to replace damaged hot-water heaters. To date, the Diocesan Disaster Funds were used to assist five families with hot-water tanks totaling \$4,940.79. It is expected that more families will be in need of hot-water heaters as they continue to rebuild their homes.

THANK YOU TO OUR CATHOLIC CHARITIES DONORS

The following gifts were received between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, and contain memorials, honorariums, United Way designations, and individual and private gifts. Thank you!

Please note that some United Way workplace campaign designations are collected by third-party processing agencies, which may not provide Catholic Charities with a detailed list of donors. Please contact your workplace administrator to make sure your gift has been processed.

If your name is not listed, misspelled or in error, please contact our office at 724-837-1840, and it will be corrected in the next publication of donors. We apologize for any errors.

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Bishop announces reopening of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church

By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor

NEW KENSINGTON — More than two years after a devastating tornado caused massive damage to St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, Bishop Larry J. Kulick held an open house Aug. 26 to announce that parishioners will be able to return to the church building for worship Nov. 27. Bishop Kulick will celebrate the reopening with Mass at 1 p.m.

“We have consulted with engineers who report that the building is safe for occupancy while work on the outside of the church continues,” Bishop Kulick said.

Bishop Kulick made the announcement of the reopening on the Feast Day of St. Mary of Czestochowa.

“The Mass will be held on Thanksgiving weekend, and we have so much to be thankful for,” he said, noting that it is also the first Sunday in Advent, which is the beginning of the new liturgical year.

On April 8, 2020, a tornado with winds of up to 100 mph tore off a section of the roof of the church and its steeple and heavily damaged its two bell towers. Heavy rains and high winds stalled over the area for several days, causing extensive damage inside the church.

The damage totaled \$2.7 million.

“I could not believe the enormity of the damage,” Bishop Kulick said, remembering when he arrived at the church in the morning. “We were in the middle of Holy Week, and even though worship was suspended in the Diocese because of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic,

“ I am very happy that the faithful in the parish will be able to gather for worship and to restore their customs and traditions within the New Kensington faith community. ”

BISHOP LARRY J. KULICK

my heart went out to the parishioners for this loss and to those who spanned the generations of those who received their sacraments there. It was devastating.

“I am very happy that the faithful in the parish will be able to gather for worship and to restore their customs and traditions within the New Kensington faith community.”

After the tornado, the Diocese took immediate steps to have a temporary roof installed to prevent further damage. Within weeks, the Diocese secured restoration bids within the scope of the project established by the insurance carrier. Volpatt Construction of Pittsburgh was the qualified bidder for the project and secured subcontracting bids for architectural and engineering work.

Work began in December 2021. Scaffolding was erected to bring workers closer to the ceiling to repair the heavily damaged plaster, perform carpentry repairs and paint. Light fixtures were removed and returned to their original luster.

St. Mary of Czestochowa Church is known for its hand-painted ceiling murals, which sustained water damage. In February 2022, international artist and East Vandergrift native Jehb



Gurecka restored the murals, incorporating the original artist’s brush stroke and colors. Gurecka also restored the mural of the Lamb of God above the sanctuary.

Scaffolding was removed from the church, and carpeting and other final interior restoration work was completed a few weeks ago. The last phase of the restoration project is the roof repair.

After making the announcement, Bishop Kulick invited parishioners to see the restoration work and announced that he will return to the parish to celebrate a Mass of Rededication and Blessing once all of the restoration work is completed.



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Father Kenneth G. Zaccagnini, pastor, shows repairs to St. Mary of Czestochowa Church at an open house Aug. 26. Parishioners enjoy fellowship during the open house.



RENAMED MANZELLA ROOM BLESSED, AT CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD CENTER:

Bishop Larry J. Kulick joins the Mongell family Sept 30 to bless the Fayette Room at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, which was renamed the Nicholas D. Manzella Room in honor of their grandfather, Nick Manzella. His grandson, Paul Mongell, is President of the Board of Trustees of The Catholic Foundation. Mongell has made substantial contributions to the Diocese, his parish, Catholic schools, and other ministries and entities within our Diocese. In addition to an original contribution for the Fayette Room renovations, his generosity included funding for a bronze plaque to be hung in the Fayette Room to honor Manzella, who was the first UMW member to receive a 70-year service pin.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Bishop receives special gift from late cardinal

GREENSBURG — Bishop Larry J. Kulick has fond memories of meeting with Cardinal Jozef Tomko during previous trips to Rome.

The two first met when Bishop Kulick was a teenage altar server and Cardinal Tomko was touring Slovak churches around the United States.

“When I was growing up, Cardinal Tomko was the great hero of Slovak Americans and the Slovak people,” Bishop Kulick said. “He headed for years the congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, and he was a close collaborator of Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict.”

Cardinal Tomko, who died in August, was the oldest living cardinal in the College of Cardinals. Earlier this year, Bishop Kulick wrote to him to tell him that he was planning to be in Rome; he was saddened

that the meeting would not take place.

However, the sisters who cared for the cardinal reached out to Bishop Kulick and asked if he would come to visit with them. They presented him with a gift from Cardinal Tomko: a mitre that was given to him as a gift by Pope Saint John Paul II.

“I was so humbled and so honored that the sisters had a gift from Cardinal Tomko to me. Cardinal Tomko wanted to make sure I received it,” Bishop Kulick said. “I am so privileged and honored to be able to have that and to use it on special occasions in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Bishop Kulick wore the mitre Oct. 9 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, when he celebrated the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage.

— *The Catholic Accent*



MARIA GUZZO FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick wears the mitre given to him by the late Cardinal Jozef Tomko.

Bishop Kulick meets with Pope Francis

Continued from page 1

Bishop Kulick also met one of the new Slovak auxiliary Bishops, Bishop Peter Beno of Nitra. On the evening of the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Bishop Kulick was invited to be the main celebrant for Mass at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Rome. It was there he met the rector and vice rector and many of the graduate students from Slovakia.

“That also led to a wonderful interview on Vatican radio that was broadcast throughout Slovakia,” Bishop Kulick said. “I have been getting emails from people all over Slovakia that they heard the radio program.”

Bishop Kulick was anxious to bring the experience, the fraternity and the message from Pope Francis back to the Diocese of Greensburg.

“I feel both very affirmed in my vocation and blessed to have had the experience to hear the words of the Holy Father,” he said. “I was likewise grateful that in the Diocese, with the wonderful help of the clergy, religious, lay faithful, with the cooperation of our parishes, and the Diocesan Curia, we are very much in line with the vision of the Holy Father. We will continue to serve the faithful in union with him and will continue to build up the kingdom of God entrusted to us.”

Catholic Foundation joins national consortium

GREENSBURG — The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg is now a member of the Consortium of Catholic Foundations.

As the nation’s only *self-governing Catholic foundation chief executive peer community*, they seek to accelerate leadership effectiveness and mission impact through a combination of technology-driven access to information, best practice learning and shared problem-solving, and relational learning experiences.

Through participation, the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg will be able to have a greater impact on the future vitality in the Church of the Diocese of Greensburg.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

PRO-LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST: Bishop Larry J. Kulick addresses members of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at their annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Oct. 1.



BISHOP CELEBRATES ANNUAL RED MASS: Members of the bench and bar from the Diocese of Greensburg gather for the 53rd annual Red Mass Oct. 7 in St. Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick and Archabbot Martin R. Bartel of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe. Keynote speaker was Eric A. Failing, executive director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, pictured with the Bishop at left. The Red Mass dates back to the 13th century when it marked the official opening of the new term for courts in most European countries. It is currently celebrated to invoke God’s blessings upon the members of the bench, bar, legislature, law enforcement and governmental agencies. The Diocese and Saint Vincent Archabbey, College and Seminary have jointly sponsored the Red Mass here since 1968.

PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop bestows Medal of Honor for recreation of chapel's reredos

GREENSBURG — On Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patronal feast day of the Diocese of Greensburg, Bishop Larry J. Kulick honored a group of individuals who, like Mary, said “yes.”

The group, members of Knights of Columbus Council 15373, created a new reredos, an ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of an altar, for St. Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center, without the benefit of original architectural drawings or schematics. All of their work was created through the use of old pictures of the original reredos.

St. Joseph Chapel was dedicated by Bishop William G. Connare May 4, 1964. It was used when Christ Our Shepherd Center was used as a minor seminary for the Diocese of Greensburg. In 1981, the original reredos was removed so that the chapel could be used for nonliturgical events. It was also during that time that the organ pipes were removed, and a screen was installed for audiovisual presentations.

This year, Bishop Kulick approved a proposal to construct and install a reredos based on the original design from 1964. All labor and materials were donated by the group.

Because of their meticulous attention to the design, their labor and sacrifices, Bishop Kulick bestowed on them the



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick gathers with Medal of Honor recipients, from left, James Gais, Michael Mary, Hobart “Butch” Kane, Ken and Carol Nath, and Dave Swierkosz, Aug. 15 in Christ Our Shepherd Center’s St. Joseph Chapel.



Bishop’s Medal of Honor. It was the first time in his episcopacy the Bishop presented the award.

Receiving the medal were James Gais, Hobart “Butch” Kane Jr., Michael Mary, Carol and Kenneth Nath, and David Swierkosz, Grand Knight.

“They worked from old pictures to recreate this beautiful oak reredos that looks exactly like the original,” Bishop Kulick said. “It was built in pieces, away from the chapel so that liturgical celebrations could continue.”

Before dedicating and blessing the new reredos with holy water, Bishop Kulick remarked that the original tabernacle was found and is back in its original place. He also pointed out the candlesticks surrounding the tabernacle were also the originals from the 1960s.

“If you look closely at their bases, they have the same wooden design that is seen in the reredos,” he said.

He also pointed out the drapery that hangs from the reredos looks like the

original. The new curtains were created by Carol Nath.

“As we move through the Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese, I thought this was an important project to undertake,” Bishop Kulick said. “The reredos serves to draw the attention of the faithful to the primacy of the eucharistic sacrifice at the altar. This group truly has presented our Diocese with a beautiful gift and legacy, and I am very grateful for their work.”

— *The Catholic Accent*



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Bishop Kulick traveled throughout the Diocese of Greensburg in October for confirmations of young people. Clockwise from top left: St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph, St. Mary (Nativity) and St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parishes, Uniontown, SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance, St. Hubert Parish, Point Marion, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Western Fayette County, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Farmington, at St. Therese Parish; Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg; St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish and St. Thomas More University Parish, Indiana, and Church of the Resurrection Parish, Northern Indiana County, at St. Bernard Parish; and SS. Simon & Jude Parish, Blairsville, Holy Family Parish, Seward, St. Joseph Parish, Derry, St. Martin Parish, New Derry, Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent, and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Coral, at SS. Simon & Jude Parish.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MASS: Students from Catholic schools around the Diocese gathered at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, for the annual Catholic Schools Mass Oct. 5. Above, Dr. Nancy Rottler, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Bishop Larry J. Kulick greet students.

PHOTOS BY JOHN ZYLKA THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Christ the Divine Teacher School celebrates St. Francis of Assisi

LATROBE — Christ the Divine Teacher School celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 4 by conducting an outdoor prayer service in the school's Peace Garden. Principal Teresa Tallarico gave opening remarks and welcomed students and guests.

Under the direction of music teacher Lisa Thackrah, instrumentalists, the Chime Choir and the Select Chorus led the music honoring the patron saint of animals and ecology. Student members of the Spiritual Life Committee served as readers.

One of the service's highlights was the recitation of St. Francis' song of praise, "The Canticle of the Sun."

Written in 1224, the canticle praises God for the beauties of His creation. Students also presented a musical rendition of the canticle.

Art teacher Janet Seremet spoke about an art installation that eighth-grade students created using wooden hearts that depicted words from each stanza of "The Canticle of the Sun." This art will be displayed in a case in the Peace Garden.

Father Richard J. Kosisko, Pastor of Holy Family Parish and Chair of the school's Board of Trust Administrators, blessed attendees, the Peace Garden and school's grounds while students sang "Holy Ground."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Christ the Divine Teacher School students gather in the school's Peace Garden with the art they created for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



GCC HOMECOMING: Members of the Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School homecoming court are, from left; Lauren Metz, Sara Felder, Skye Guzik, Angelina Roy, Ashley Winnor and Emma Kate Angelo. GCC played its homecoming game Oct. 14. Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville, will play its homecoming game Oct. 21.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

NEW PASTORS INSTALLED: At left, Bishop Larry J. Kulick stands with Father Efen Ambre after installing him as Pastor of St. Cecelia Parish, Grindstone, July 24. On July 16, the Bishop installed Father Ambre as pastor of St. Peter Parish, Brownsville. At right, Bishop Kulick celebrates Mass at Holy Family Parish, Youngwood, to install Father Rogelio Rodriguez as pastor. On July 17, the Bishop installed Father Rodolfo Mejia as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Perryopolis (photo not provided).

Barnes hired as Director of Special Projects for Catholic Schools

GREENSBURG — William A. Barnes has been named Director of Special Projects for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Greensburg.

In his new role, Barnes will oversee a multitude of projects, primarily focusing on the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) programs that provide direct tuition assistance to students in Catholic schools across the Diocese.

“Bill is now the direct link between parents, grandparents, parishioners, corporations and anyone who wants to learn more about the EITC program and how they can participate in this investment in Catholic school students,” said Dr. Nancy Rottler, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.



William A. Barnes

Pennsylvania provides tax credits to individuals for contributions to Catholic schools in the Diocese. Catholic schools are able to use 100% of those contributions to provide scholarships for students in need. The individual or corporation participating in the EITC program can choose to designate specific schools within the Diocese to benefit from their EITC program participation.

“This is a very smart way for a corporation, a parent or a parishioner to get a tax credit while providing scholarships for students in the Diocese of Greensburg,” Barnes said.

Barnes, who has a bachelor’s degree in management from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, has an extensive background in student enrollment management and financial aid. Prior to joining the Diocese, he spent more than 25 years at Saint Vincent College in admission, financial aid and data management. He has also served on several nonprofit boards, assisting those organizations with their fundraising efforts.

“I am really excited about meeting with individuals and corporations to explain the EITC program to support Catholic school students,” Barnes said. “Along with our TOP Student program, the EITC removes some of the financial barriers for parents who want their children to receive a Catholic education while being advantageous to the EITC participant.”

Barnes and his wife, Tracy, live in Delmont, where they are parishioners of St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish.

Bishop to honor Legacy Society donors Nov. 6

GREENSBURG — Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate an Appreciation Mass for members of the Our Lady of the Assumption Legacy Society Nov. 6 at 11 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg provides special recognition and gratitude for those who have named their parish, Catholic School, Catholic Charities or the Diocese of Greensburg as a beneficiary in their will or trust, retirement account, charitable gift annuity or charitable trust, life insurance policy, or through the establishment of an endowed fund. With their gift, they are inducted into the Our Lady of the Assumption Legacy Society.

“The Appreciation Mass is especially significant because Bishop Kulick is celebrating it in November, which is

All Souls Month,” said Holly DiCesare, Director of the Catholic Foundation. “Each member of the society has been invited by the Bishop to the Mass, and they will be able to provide the name of their deceased loved one to be remembered during this Mass.”

Members of the society are presented with a symbolic pin that features the artwork of the Assumption mural at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. In appreciation, members will be presented with a Christmas ornament featuring the same artwork.

“The Our Lady of the Assumption Legacy Society provides an opportunity for benefactors to make their philanthropy a perpetual legacy for themselves and an example for their families to follow,” DiCesare said. “It also creates a means of

support that makes our parishes and ministries stronger, sustainable and better equipped to spread the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ for generations to come.”

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg serves as the philanthropic arm of the Diocese, developing and implementing fundraising initiatives, including endowments and planned giving, as well as offering development support to parishes and Catholic schools through our partner program. For more information about how to become a member of the Our Lady of the Assumption Legacy Society or additional information on planned giving, contact DiCesare at hdicesare@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-552-2504.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

From left: Christ the Divine Teacher School varsity and junior varsity champs; Mother of Sorrows School junior varsity champs.

Runners compete in CYO cross country championships

LATROBE — Results of the Diocesan CYO cross country championships held at Saint Vincent College Oct. 9 follow.

Varsity

First place female, Jocelyn Spinelli (Mary Queen of Apostles School); first place male, Vincent Guerrini (MQA); first place team, Christ the Divine Teacher School

Junior Varsity

First place female, Kamora Bass (St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School); first place male, Zachary Skoloda (CDT); first place team, CDT

Junior Junior Varsity

First place female, Willow Trainer (CDT); first place male, Braden Skoloda (CDT); first place team, Mother of Sorrows School

Team Results

Varsity: CDT, 30 points, MQA, 31, Geibel Catholic, 65

Junior varsity: CDT, 40, MOS, 49, Aquinas Academy, 87

Junior junior varsity: MOS, 41 points; CDT, 44; SJE, 65

Saints will come alive again at St. Emma Monastery

By Maria Guzzo
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG — Last October, like a lot of other young people, Ashton Kenwick, 16, spent hours creating an outfit and perfecting the character he'd depict during a seasonal gathering with school friends.

Kenwick, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, last year portrayed St. John the Apostle and Evangelist at the first Lantern Saints Tour, which was coordinated by the Greensburg-Catholic Schoolhouse and presented to the public on the lantern-lit pathways of the St. Emma Monastery grounds in Greensburg.

"It was a beautiful way of showcasing the saints," said Donna Sunseri, a director with Greensburg-Catholic Schoolhouse, which assists homeschool families with curriculum and weekly gatherings. "Everyone was learning about the saints, and they wanted to share it with the community and really get away from the secularized ideal of Halloween."

Instead, the tour honors the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, Nov. 1 and 2.

Proceeds from the tour, set for 4-8 p.m. Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, benefit the monastery.

Homeschoolers, St. Emma sisters and a few clergy from the Diocese will

LANTERN SAINTS TOUR

WHERE: St. Emma Monastery, 1001 Harvey Ave., Greensburg

WHEN: 4-8 p.m. Oct. 28-29

One-hour tours will leave every 15 minutes, honoring the feasts of All Saints and All Souls with live saint portrayals

Donation: \$10 (\$5 for students, free for children 12 and under)

Information: Donna Sunseri, 724-961-0224 or greensburgpa@catholicsschoolhouse.com

portray various saints in costume.

Ashton said he spent hours last year memorizing the script he wrote after sourcing information about St. John.

"I think everyone who attends the saint walk is able to learn so much about all these saints," Ashton said. "No matter how much you think you know about the history of our faith, there's always something new you will learn when you attend the saint walk."

While avoiding Halloween's typical gore, the Lantern Saints Tour will have elements of the secular festival, such as costumes and seasonal treats, but may still contain some thrills and chills since the lives of the



CATHOLIC ACCENT FILE PHOTO

Father Matthew J. Morelli, pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent, portrayed Padre Pio during last year's Lantern Saints Tour.

saints were not all bright and sunny.

"We empowered (the students) to come up with all their own props and dialogue and really take ownership," said Sunseri. "For example, the girl who portrayed Joan of Arc last year created simulated fire since she was burned at the stake."

Kenwick said he absorbed a lot. "Educationally, I learned about the

past and where our beliefs came from and the differences and similarities of how things are now," he said.

"Spiritually, I found myself relating to all the trials and hardships these people had to go through to be able to show their faith in Jesus. I also felt closer to God as I helped to spread these stories and His Gospel to people of all ages."

Uniontown Ladies of Charity celebrate 25 years of ministry

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Mt 25:40

UNIONTOWN — The Ladies of Charity of the Roman Catholic Parishes of Uniontown marked 25 years of caring for the poor and needy of Fayette County during a Mass Sept 18 at St. Mary (Nativity) Parish.

Father John A. Sedlak, pastor of St. Florian Parish, Mount Pleasant, and the group's former spiritual director, was the celebrant.

St. Vincent de Paul founded the Ladies of Charity in 17th-century France to take charge of and operate his various good works. Always on watch to relieve suffering wherever it appeared, the Ladies of Charity associations came to the U.S. in 1857. Today, over 8,000 members serve the poor in the United States, and more than 250,000 continue the ministry in 52 countries.

Prior to the official beginning of the Uniontown Ladies of Charity, devout and dedicated women of St. Mary Parish had been recognizing and answering the needs of

the poor; no matter who or what, these women found the ways and means to help.

A parishioner's relative who belonged to a parish of the Diocese of Pittsburgh suggested they form a Ladies of Charity group. Sister of Charity of Nazareth Kay Glunk, then missioned to St. Mary (Nativity), added her support, suggesting prayer was the best way to start.

"God will show the way," she counseled.

And God did.

In 1997, Sister Kay became the spiritual moderator, and 12 charter members legally established the group while expanding their love and labor for the poor to their presence as eucharistic ministers to parishioners who were homebound or in nursing facilities.

The Ladies of Charity also provide consolation and spiritual support to the bereaved, and have been collaborators with the St. Vincent de Paul Conference and its Uniontown store, as well as the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers.

The group currently has 34 members; several are restricted in activity due to age or infirmity, but

their interest and prayerful involvement are inestimable. They coordinate and implement service activities beneficial to many people, including volunteering at the annual memorial liturgy for deceased parishioners; fundraising for the Mother's Day Baby Shower; assisting needy students at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, with gas cards, donations to the food pantry and clothing for job interviews; volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Store and the Mt. St. Macrina gift shop; gardening on church property; and food collections for the Thanksgiving Community Action Drive.

In addition, members operate the Children's Closet in the former St. Mary (Nativity) Catholic School, which provides clothing, toys and supplies to families in need.

Membership is open to any women looking for an organization through which they can offer "time, talent and treasure" to the least of God's people. For information, call 724-437-4441.

— Submitted



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Father Anthony J. Klimko, pastor of the Uniontown parishes, and members of the Ladies of Charity sort clothes in the Children's Closet; below, members help with food pantry distribution.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish is sponsoring a St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) lottery ticket. Two winners will receive \$1,000, a \$100 gift certificate to Central Restaurant and a \$100 Naser Foods gift certificate. Tickets (\$10) are available after Sunday Mass, at the parish office in Apollo or by calling 724-859-3186.

Greensburg — The Bethlehem Project of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish will host “Home for the Holidays,” a fundraiser to help people dealing with homelessness and challenges from rising rental rates, Dec. 11 in the cathedral hall following 11 a.m. Mass. Refreshments and a basket raffle are planned. The Bethlehem Project will again place its Tree of Hope in front of the cathedral during Advent. Each dollar donated will help lights on the tree. Information: 724-834-3710, ext. 11, or kzuzik@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Greensburg — The Benedictine Sisters will hold their Christmas Shoppe Nov. 5 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Emma Retreat House, Greensburg (early-bird special is 8-10 a.m.; most items will be 50% off from 3-4 p.m.; no admission after 10 a.m.). Food will be available for purchase. Information: 724-834-3060 or www.stemma.org.

BIBLE STUDY

Export — “The Great Adventure Bible Study,” a 24-week program, is underway at St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, meeting Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Information: stjohnstmary.net.

BINGOS

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish will hold bingo Nov. 6 and 20. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30.

Harrison City — St. Barbara Parish will hold a “Super Bingo” Oct. 30, with prizes totaling over \$6,000. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$55 at the door, and include one paper package and lunch (extra packages will be sold). Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with games at 2. In addition, the parish hosts bingo the first Wednesday of each month (Nov. 9, Dec. 7 and Jan. 4). Packages start at \$27. Doors open at 5 p.m., with games at 6:45. The kitchen is open and free coffee is provided. Information: 724-744-4584 or 724-744-7474.

Mount Pleasant — The Christian Mothers of St. Pius X Parish will sponsor their annual bingo Nov. 6. Doors open at noon. Tickets are \$30, which includes one package and an Italian lunch. The bingo will include a \$1,000 jackpot, 50/50 and instant tickets, a Chinese auction and door prizes. Tickets: 724-547-5269.

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish holds bingo the first Sunday of each month (Nov. 6 and Dec. 4). Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with games at 2. Refreshments will be available. Information: 724-423-3777.

CARD PARTIES

Freeport — The Christian Mothers of St. Mary, Mother of God Parish will hold a card party and board games social Oct. 24 from 6:30-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10, which includes a salad buffet, refreshments, door and table prizes, and a 50/50 raffle. Men are welcome. Information: 724-316-1204.

North Huntingdon — The Christian Mother & Ladies Guild of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish will sponsor a card party Oct. 27 in Mack Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (advance sales only). Silent bingo, door prizes, auction baskets, share the wealth, and a salad and dessert bar are planned. Information: 724-864-6364.

CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION

Uniontown — St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church will host its 40th annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration Oct. 30 from noon-5 p.m. The day will include Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m., ethnic foods, baked goods, music, presentations and displays, church tours, children’s activities, crafts, raffles and items for sale. Information: 724-438-1382 or stjohnbaptist-byzycath-uniontown.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Greensburg — Private tours are available at each of the 12 schools of the Diocese of Greensburg. More than \$20 million is available in tuition assistance. Registration: CatholicSchoolsGuide.org.

CRAFT SHOW

New Alexandria — St. James Parish will host a craft show Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Food will be available. Information: 724-668-2829 or stjamesnewalexandria.org.

Rostraver — The Christian Mothers of St. Anne Parish will hold a craft/vendor show Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Holy Name Society will sell homemade ravioli, and lunch and snacks will be available. Information: MatyKovscek@comcast.net.

DINNERS

Freeport — A spaghetti dinner and bake sale to benefit the family of Mark Liti is set for Oct. 23 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in the St. Mary, Mother of God Parish hall (bake sale begins at 8:30 a.m.). Tickets, in advance or at the door, are \$10. Takeout will be available. Information: 724-295-2281.

Grindstone — St. Cecilia Parish will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser Nov. 6 from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Takeouts will be available.

Mount Pleasant — Visitation Parish will hold a homemade cavatelli and/or spaghetti dinner Oct. 29 from 4-7:30 p.m. in the community center. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children 12 and under and free for those under 3. Takeout will be available. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESSAY CONTEST

Connellsville — AlternativesYes pregnancy support center has opened its annual pro-life essay contest to students in sixth-eighth grade in schools in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. Theme is “A reflection on the sanctity of human life.” Essays must be 300-500 words, typed double-space, with name, grade, phone number, address and school name on the back or on a separate page. Entries can be emailed or mailed to AlternativesYes, pregnancysupport@zoominternet.net, 6 Frank Gallo Lane, Connellsville, Pa. 15425 by Jan. 22, 2023.

EXHIBIT

Everson — “Blessed Carlo Acutis: First Class Relic and the Eucharistic Miracles of the World” will be on exhibit Sunday, Nov. 20, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the St. Joseph Parish hall. Blessed Carlo Acutis, described by Pope Francis as a “model of holiness,” was known for documenting eucharistic miracles around the world and cataloguing them online. He died of leukemia at age 15 in 2006 and was beatified by the Catholic Church in 2020. Information: 724-887-6321.

FILM SCREENING

New Alexandria — The Rosary Altar Society of St. James Parish is sponsoring a viewing of “The Matter of Life” Oct. 22 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the social hall. The documentary addresses

the question, “When does life begin?”; discusses the abortion industry and the long-term effects of abortion; and offers hope for all those who thought abortion was their only option. Carolyn Cannizzaro, Director of Pro-Life Advocacy at Catholic Charities, will be available to answer questions after the viewing. Refreshments will be served. Note that the content may not be suitable for all audiences. Information: Betty Nemchik, 724-668-7436, or the parish office, 724-668-2829.

FUNDRAISER

Vandergrift — A 21-and-over, BYOB “His/Her Fundraiser Bash” is set for Nov. 6 from 2-5 p.m. in St. Gertrude Parish hall, to raise funds for flooring in the church. Only 150 tickets (\$30, including food and drink) will be sold. Donations for a Chinese auction are being accepted. Tickets or donations: Megan Kiebler, 724-882-5035.

MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST

Crabtree — The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat — A Ministry to Catholic Women will host a breakfast Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-noon in St. Bartholomew Parish’s Marian Hall. Guest speaker Emily Concannon will discuss her faith journey as a mother and Catechist of the Good Shepherd, the impact of eucharistic adoration, and suffering through chronic pain and elusive diagnoses. Cost is \$23. Registration: Brenda Concannon, 724-836-2094, or

magnificatgreensburg.com (download a registration form — no online registration). Deadline to register is Oct. 24.

MEN’S FAITH PROGRAM

North Huntingdon — “That Man is You” is offered Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Agnes Parish through Dec. 3. Men 18 and older are invited for food, fellowship and faith. Information: Ken Glick, 724-858-5598.

MYSTERY THEATER

North Huntingdon — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish will host “Yinz Nebbly Neighbor,” a mystery theater presentation, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in Mack Hall. Cost is \$20, which includes a “trick or treat sack” with clues, props and treats. Reservations: 724-516-5189 or alabasterperformingarts.org.

NIGHT AT THE RACES

Apollo — A Night at the Races is set for Oct. 22 at St. James Parish. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and races start at 7. The evening will include raffles and a \$500 cash bonus prize. Cost is \$20. Tickets will be sold at the door.

POULTRY BINGO/PIE SOCIAL

Yukon — The Christian Mothers and Ladies of Seven Dolores Parish will host a poultry bingo and pie social Nov. 20. Doors open at noon, and bingo begins at 1 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes one board, pie and coffee. Extra boards

are \$1. A basket raffle and 50/50 will also take place, and additional food will be available for purchase.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet Nov. 20 (speaker Benedictine Brother Romuald Duchene on “Poverty and Simplicity of Life in Benedictine Spirituality”) and Dec. 18 (speaker to be determined) from 3-4:15 p.m. in Brownfield 202 at Saint Vincent Seminary. Reservations: Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Attendees may also attend vespers at 5 p.m. in the nave of the basilica. Supper at 5:35 p.m. and additional sessions at 6:30 p.m. are also available; call Father Donald to register for supper and evening events.

RETREAT

Wexford — Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Rwandan American author and survivor of the Rwandan genocide, will speak at a retreat Nov. 4 from 4-9 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Alexis Church. Cost is \$57 per person or \$76 for two people. Information/registration: immaculee.com/retreats.

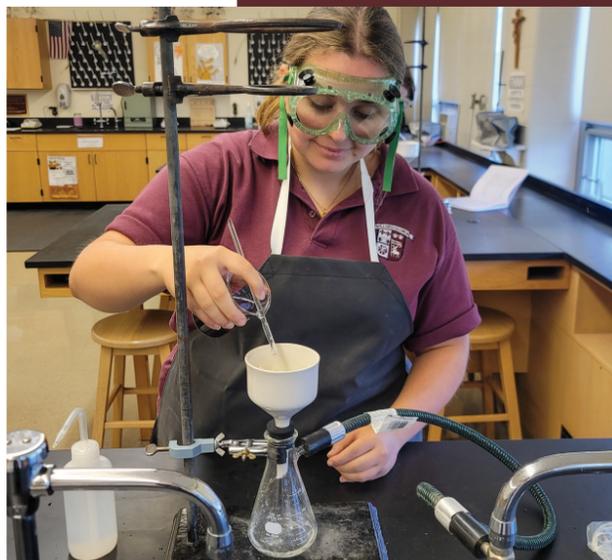
RUMMAGE SALE

East Vandergrift — A rummage sale will be held at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Nov. 6 from noon-1 p.m.

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SLOVAK FOOD SALE

Connellsville — The fundraising committee of St. John the Evangelist Parish will hold a pre-order Slovak food sale Dec. 10 (cabbage rolls, \$4.50 each, and frozen pierogis, \$15 per dozen). Order deadline is Nov. 28. Pickup will be Dec. 10 from 9-11 a.m. in the parish hall. Orders: 724-628-7259.

STEDRY VECER

Greensburg — The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its annual Stedry Vecer Dec. 4 at Christ Our Shepherd Center. The event will include Mass at 2 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick, a Christmas pageant by the Pittsburgh Slovaks and a Slovak Christmas Eve dinner with door prizes. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$10 for ages 6-11 (free for 5 and under). Tickets: Darlene Patty, 724-493-8712, before Nov. 23.

SUPPORT

Greensburg — The adult basic literacy program at the Greensburg YWCA offers tutoring for individuals who may need help with reading and writing skills. The YWCA is also seeking volunteer tutors. Information: Paula Egnot, 724-834-9390, ext. 106, or literacy@ywcawestmoreland.org.

Harrison City — The St. Peregrine cancer support group meets monthly (usually the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.) at St. Barbara Parish. Survivors and

caregivers are welcome. Upcoming meeting dates are Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

Irwin — Sage's Army recovery center offers various drug/alcohol, gambling, grief and other recovery support groups/meetings for young people, adults and families. Information: sagesarmy.com or 724-863-5433.

Latrobe — St. Vincent Basilica Parish hosts meetings for Always God's Children, a ministry for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people and their families, virtually and in person the second Thursday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. Information: Kristina Davies, Kristina.davies@stvincent.edu, or 724-539-8629, ext. 19.

Latrobe — St. Vincent Basilica Parish hosts a divorce support group Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. at St. Vincent Grove. Anyone interested is welcome. Registration: divorcecare.org/groups/150150/registrations/new. Information: Teri Pomerleau, tpomerleau@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-539-8629, ext. 15.

Whitney — A GrandParents Raising Grandchildren meeting is set for Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia Parish. Catholic Charities' Melaney Hegyes, Managing Director, and Donna Hagan, Director for Information and Referral, will speak on Catholic Charities resources.

The group, an ecumenical outreach mission of St. Cecilia Parish, Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, hosts monthly meetings to offer grandparents information and time to interact with one another. A hot dinner and child care are provided.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Jeannette — In response to the world's bishops' statement calling on Catholics to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine and Pope Francis' consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and in light of Our Lady of Fatima's message to Sister Lucia in 1925, the Jeannette Catholic Community celebrates Mass the first Saturday of every month at Sacred Heart Parish at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Jeannette — All are invited to Mass in Spanish Sundays at 6 p.m. at Ascension Parish, with reconciliation at 5 p.m. Todos están invitados a la Misa Espanol en Domingos en Jeannette: La Santa Misa en Espanol, Todo los Domingos a 6 p.m., reconciliación a 5 p.m., Iglesia La Ascensión.

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Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass honors long-married couples

By Maria Guzzo
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG — Blessed Sacrament Cathedral brimming with 50th wedding anniversary couples and their families Oct. 9 was a testimony to sacrificial love, according to Bishop Larry J. Kulick.

“It gives us a renewed hope and zeal that with God all things are possible,” he said in his homily at the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass.

The Diocese of Greensburg extended its congratulations to more than 286 couples from 63 parishes throughout the four-county diocese who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries in the past year. Many of the couples were in attendance at the annual Mass.

Sam and Patti Lape of Chalk Hill, parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Farmington, said both their faith and a sense of humor have kept them together for 50 years.

“We survived,” Sam quipped.

Patti said they spent years together teaching faith formation for young people, youth group and Vacation Bible School.

“For VBS, there always had to be props, and it had to be a production,” Patti said. “(Sam) dressed up every year for the VBS theme.”

In a time when many marriages don’t last for 50 years, Bishop Kulick praised those in attendance.

“Through the outpouring of God’s grace, your faith has grown,” he said,

noting that their longevity has no doubt spurred faith in friends and family.

Wearing a silver and gold miter — gifted to him by a mentor, the late Cardinal Jozef Tomko — for the Mass, Bishop Kulick said he thought it was appropriate because the couples had surpassed their silver wedding anniversaries and now their golden anniversaries.

Bishop Kulick said Cardinal Tomko, who died in August, would speak of his own parents’ devotion to one another — his father walking in deep snow to and from work to support the family and his mother catering to his every need, bundling him up for the weather and then providing him comfort upon his return home.

“Cardinal Tomko’s parents influenced him and showed him the powerful sign of sacrificial love,” he said. “The grace-filled sacrament of holy matrimony is the image of God’s love for His church, that unconditional, sacrificial, permanent love.”

Paul and Irene Krokus, parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Masontown, said their 50 years together have been for better and for worse. They’ve endured the loss of two sons and a granddaughter and Irene’s Parkinson’s diagnosis, but through the years they maintained faith in God and each other.

“We listen to each other; we’re friends and we work with each other,” Paul said. “It wasn’t all roses, but we made it because we wanted to make it.”



PHOTOS BY MARIA GUZZO FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick greets 50th anniversary couple John and Diane Petras, parishioners of St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. Above left are Nellette and Anthony Budinsky, parishioners of SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance; at right are Georgetta and Paul Secosky, parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg.

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