

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

The Official Newspaper of the Diocese of Greensburg

VOLUME 61, NO. 8

INSIDE



Bishop Kulick offers an Easter message of hope.

PAGE 3



Stellar students and teachers honored with Golden Apple Awards.

PAGE 7



Catholic Charities to celebrate good works at Salt and Light dinner.

PAGE 4



Annual Faith & Food event recognizes donors' generosity.

PAGE 5

Holy Week

with Bishop Kulick

HOLY THURSDAY

10 AM
Chrism Mass
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg

7 PM
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
LIVESTREAMED

GOOD FRIDAY

1:30 PM
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
LIVESTREAMED

7 PM
Anointing and Burial of Christ Service
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Lucernemines
LIVESTREAMED

HOLY SATURDAY

8:30 PM
Easter Vigil Mass
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
LIVESTREAMED

EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 AM
Easter Sunday Mass
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
LIVESTREAMED

To view livestreamed Masses and liturgies:
DioceseofGreensburg.org



Bishop Larry J. Kulick joins with more than 1,000 members of the faith community to discuss the mission of the Church.

PAGE 6

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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OFFICIAL

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg, has made the following appointments and announcements:

Effective Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

ADMINISTRATOR:

The Very Reverend Michael

J. Crookston, VF, continues as Administrator of the Parishes of SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Fairchance and Saint Hubert Parish in Point Marion, while remaining Pastor of The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Monessen, and Saint Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon. Father Crookston continues as Vicar Forane of Deanery VII and remains in all other Diocesan appointments.

PAROCHIAL VICAR:

The Reverend Liberato Ortega, from Chaplain at Saint Anne Home, Clelian Heights and Westmoreland Manor, Greensburg, to Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of SS. Cyril & Methodius in Fairchance and Saint Hubert Parish in Point Marion.

SPECIAL:

The Reverend Mark Dunmire will provide emergency coverage to Westmoreland Manor in Greensburg while remaining Parochial Vicar at the Parishes of Saint Paul in Greensburg and Saint Bruno in South Greensburg.

The Reverend Alan N. Polczynski will cover Sunday Mass at Westmoreland Manor in Greensburg, while remaining in full-time studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and remaining in residence at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Rectory in Greensburg.

At the recommendation of the Right Reverend Martin R. Bartel, OSB:

Effective Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

CHAPLAIN:

The Reverend Stephen Concordia, OSB, as Chaplain at Saint Anne Home, Greensburg, while remaining in residence at Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe.

The Reverend Anthony Grossi, OSB, as Chaplain to Clelian Heights School, Greensburg, while remaining in residence at Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe.

Effective Monday, April 4, 2022

RESIGNATION:

The Reverend Daniel O'Keefe, OSB, at his own request, has been relieved

of his duties at Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe, for reassignment by his religious community.

At the recommendation of the Very Reverend Thomas Betz, OFM Cap.:

Effective Sunday, April 24, 2022

RESIGNATION:

The Reverend Matthew Palkowski, OFM Cap., at his own request, has resigned as Chaplain of the Indiana Regional Medical Center, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Chaplain to The State Correctional Institution at Pine Grove, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and sacramental assistance to Church of the Resurrection, Northern Indiana County.

Effective Monday, April 25, 2022

SPECIAL:

The Reverend German Quinones Tiru, OFM, Cap., is assigned as Chaplain of the Indiana Regional Medical Center, Indiana, Chaplain to The State Correctional Institution at Pine Grove, Indiana, and sacramental assistance to Church of the Resurrection Parish, Northern Indiana County.

OBITUARIES

Ursula Donaher, longtime Diocesan employee

GREENSBURG — Longtime Diocesan employees recall Ursula Donaher as the epitome of class, style and grace and a role model for younger employees during her tenure at the Diocese of Greensburg from the late 1960s through the late 1980s.

Donaher died Jan. 11, 2022, at age 92, in Rochester, N.Y.

Donaher was an administrative assistant to auxiliary Bishop Norbert F. Gaughan. After he was appointed Bishop of Gary, Ind., in 1984, she became the Diocesan archivist, and she continued to help

Bishop William G. Connare when he retired in 1987. After Bishop Connare's death, Donaher retired and relocated to Rochester to become a caregiver for her sister.

She is survived by her brother, Dennis, and his wife, Kathy, and 28 nephews and nieces. A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 20.

The family asks that donations be made in memory of Ursula J. Donaher to the Focus Pregnancy Help Center, 135 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14605.



THE CATHOLIC
ACCENT FILE PHOTO

Donaher in an undated photo

Sister Barbara Ann Johnston, CSJ

BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Barbara Ann (Mary Gorman) Johnston, 81,



died Monday, Jan. 24, 2022. She was in her 62nd year of religious life. She entered the congregation from St. Athanasius Parish, West View.

Sister Barbara Ann taught at St. Bernard Regional Catholic School, Indiana; served as director of religious education and pastoral minister at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell (1984-92); and director of religious education at the former All Saints Parish, Masontown (1992-97).

A funeral Mass was held Feb. 1 in the motherhouse chapel.

Sister Joan Marie Madden, SC

GREENSBURG — Sister of Charity Joan Marie Madden, 94, died at



Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Feb. 10, 2022.

A native of Pittsburgh, Sister Joan Marie entered the congregation from Assumption Parish in Bellevue.

She taught at the former St. John the Baptist School, Scottdale, and served as principal of the former Cathedral School, Greensburg. She also taught in the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., retiring in 2009.

A funeral Mass was held Feb. 16 in the motherhouse chapel.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Matonak, SSCM

DANVILLE — Sister of Saints Cyril & Methodius Elizabeth Ann Matonak (Sister Miriam Pius), 86, died March 6, 2022. She was in her 64th year of religious life.



Born Feb. 22, 1936, in East Vandergrift, she attended public schools in Vandergrift and East Vandergrift.

From 1964-88, she was a dietitian at Maria Joseph Manor, Danville, and later served as director, and later director of food services, at Maria Joseph Manor's Meadows facility.

A funeral Mass was held March 11, followed by interment in the Villa Sacred Heart Cemetery.

An Easter message from the Bishop

Saint John's Gospel, which will be proclaimed on Easter Sunday, takes us along with Mary Magdala to the tomb of the crucified Christ on the first day of the week. Saint John makes it a point to describe her journey as occurring while it was still dark outside. The days before this early morning visit had been horrific. Mary and the disciples watched as Christ was scourged, nailed to a cross, and buried in that tomb.

Imagine the deep sadness, fear and anxiety that the disciples, Mary Magdala and Mary, the mother of Jesus, must have felt after witnessing those events. I am sure it is a feeling that we can all relate to, especially after these past two years. Many families have gone through a painful loss of a loved one. A trip to the grocery store or gas pump is costing more, impacting the financial well-being of many, especially our seniors. Our anxieties



increase when we watch or read the news and see the senseless destruction and death in Ukraine and hear the talk of global escalation. It is sometimes hard to make sense of it all, and we can feel like we are stuck in the dark, much like the dark of the tomb.

When Mary Magdala couldn't find Jesus' body at the tomb, she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple Jesus loved and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." Of course, they hurried to the tomb and, when they arrived, they only found Jesus' burial cloths. They did not understand nor were able to make sense of what we now know to be true. Christ overcame the darkness. His resurrection removed sin and evil.

Disease, sickness, wars, and suffering will never have the final word. When we rejoice in the Resurrection, we step out of the darkness knowing that Jesus is always with us, illuminating our lives with the light of His love, mercy and eternal life. The risen Christ provides hope for the world. Christ is our future. He is our joy.

As we renew our promises of baptism at Easter, let us continue to hope. Let us continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia. Let us trust in God's promise to sustain us and free us from all anxieties. And may we open our hearts to our risen Lord and allow Him to renew our faith and fill us with His love, mercy and peace. Let us rejoice and be glad!

I wish you and your families a Blessed Easter. Please know that you and your loved ones remain in my prayers this Easter season, and always.

+ Larry J. Kulick

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



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE TO IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY:

Bishop Larry J. Kulick makes an intercession to the Blessed Mother on behalf of Ukraine and Russia March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg. Pope Francis asked all bishops, clergy and the faithful for a "solemn Act of Consecration of humanity, and Russia and Ukraine in particular, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Pope Francis calls for end to war in Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis renewed his call for an end to the war in Ukraine and strongly denounced the conflict as a barbaric act used by those in power at the cost of innocent lives.

"We need to reject war, a place of death where fathers and mothers bury their children, where men kill their brothers and sisters without even having seen them, where the powerful decide and the poor die," the pope told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square March 27 for his Sunday Angelus address.

The consequences of war, he added, especially the displacement of children, "not only devastate the present, but future of society as well."

"I read that from the beginning of the aggression in Ukraine, one of every two children has been displaced from their country. This means destroying the future, causing dramatic trauma in the smallest and most innocent among us. This is the bestiality of war — a barbarous and sacrilegious act," the pope said.

"The war has caused one of the fastest large-scale displacements of children since World War II," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF executive director, in a statement March 24. Warning of the "danger of self-destruction," the pope said that war "should not be something that is inevitable" and that humanity "should not accustom ourselves to war."

He urged political leaders to dedicate their efforts to not

HOW TO HELP UKRAINE

Bishop Larry J. Kulick asks the faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg to assist the Ukrainian Nation and its people by praying for them as this tragic conflict unfolds. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a list of reputable Catholic agencies collecting donations to aid people fleeing Russian bombing and shelling. Those agencies and information on how to contribute are listed at [DioceseOfGreensburg.org/HelpForUkraine](https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/HelpForUkraine).

only ending the war in Ukraine but "to abolish war, to erase it from human history before it erases human history."

"I renew my appeal. Enough. Stop it. Silence the weapons. Move seriously toward peace," the pope said.

The day after the March 25 consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pope Francis met with Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, and blessed an ambulance he was donating to the Ukrainian city of Lviv which has seen an influx of refugees escaping violence from the eastern side of the country. Cardinal Krajewski left the Vatican March 26 to drive the ambulance to Lviv.

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Safety committee eases mitigation efforts

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg Committee for Recommending In-Person Worship made a series of recommendations March 30, easing COVID-19 mitigation efforts in parishes.

After consultation with local health officials, Bishop Larry J. Kulick accepted those recommendations and announced that signage hanging in parishes regarding the use of face coverings may be removed, the Sign of Peace may be exchanged in a physical or

non-physical fashion, and face coverings are no longer required during the distribution of holy Communion. At the same time, many other coronavirus mitigation practices remain, including having hand sanitizer available at all church entrances. Sanitizing stations are to remain in place for the distribution of holy Communion, sanitizing is required before, during and after the distribution of holy Communion, and distribution of the Precious Blood remains prohibited.

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Three to receive Communities of Salt and Light Awards

GREENSBURG — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg will recognize outstanding individuals or groups in the categories of humanitarian, philanthropy and outstanding human service organization at its 22nd annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner April 21 at Stratigos Banquet Centre, North Huntingdon. The awards dinner is in person this year after being postponed for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Receiving awards this year are:

Humanitarian — Larry Kupec, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell

Kupec has been a volunteer at his parish for decades. Since 2011, he has served as the leader and coordinator of the parish food pantry, which provides food for more than 300 clients a month. He has led the altar server program for many years and is finishing a 50-year career as a high school and youth sports referee. He is a lector, extraordinary minister of holy Communion and member of the parish choir.

Philanthropy — Tom and Cathy Gothie, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg

The Gothies are generous



PHOTOS BY THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



supporters of all three major fundraisers held by Catholic Charities and are willing to help with whatever needs arise at events. Tom is the president of the Catholic Charities board. Cathy grows and donates vegetables from her garden to local food programs.

Outstanding Human Service Organization — Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity (Courtney Guerrieri, executive director)

Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity is one of 1,500 local affiliates

in the United States. It partners with people in the community to help them build or improve a place they can call home. The local affiliate was founded in 1993 and serves all of Westmoreland County south of Route 22, as well as Murrysburg, Export, Delmont and Derry. It also operates a warehouse outlet in Greensburg.

All proceeds from the Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner are redistributed to the most vulnerable and at-risk residents of the Diocese in the form of temporary emergency financial assistance for food,

electricity, water, sewage and heating.

To date, the event has netted \$1.27 million to help nearly 9,000 individuals and families in the four counties served by the Diocese — Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will present the awards following the evening's dinner. Melaney Hegyes, Managing Director of Catholic Charities, will serve as master of ceremonies. The event will also feature a silent auction.

Tickets can be purchased at CCharitiesGreensburg.org.

— *The Catholic Accent*



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MIELE THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Top: Bishop Kulick and Melaney Hegyes, new Managing Director of Catholic Charities, second from right, with new Board of Trustees, from left, Treasurer David Kent, Vice President Vito DonGiovanni, President Hollie Uccellini and Secretary Kristen Hughes-Marhefka. Above, Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, former Managing Director of Catholic Charities and now Diocesan Vicar General, with retiring employees Sharon Grabowski, Executive Secretary, and Dr. Paul Niemiec, Director of Counseling Services for 20 years and interim Managing Director.

Catholic Charities welcomes new officers, board members

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg announced new officers and members of the Board of Trustees in March and thanked outgoing board members for their many years of dedicated service.

Hollie Uccellini will serve a two-year term as president. Vito DonGiovanni becomes vice president; David Kent, treasurer; and Kristen Hughes-Marhefka, secretary. New board members are Bud Mertz, director of the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety; Roy Draper, retired president of Draper Inc.; Marie Dillon-Griffith, administrator of PA CareerLink of Armstrong County; and Amber Blair, executive director of TryLife Center in Lower Burrell.

"Each one of these people is sharing their gifts with the Catholic Charities organization, helping us live our mission in Christ," Bishop Larry J. Kulick said. "One of the best parts about Catholic Charities is that it is not a bureaucracy. It is an organic

extension of the Bishop's office that works in service to the community."

Melaney Hegyes, the new Managing Director of Catholic Charities, thanked outgoing board members Tom Gothie, Ralph May and Molly Robb-Shimko, who are leaving the board after nine years, and Janice Walker, who served six years.

Two longtime staff members are also retiring from Catholic Charities: Dr. Paul Niemiec, who served as Director of Counseling Services for 20 years and most recently served as interim Managing Director of Catholic Charities, and Sharon Grabowski, who has worked for 50 years as an executive secretary. Grabowski noted that she only had one other job since graduating from high school: She worked for three days at Bell-View foods packing pickles.

In addition to the staff retirements, there was a major leadership change at Catholic Charities last year. Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle was appointed by Bishop Kulick as Vicar General for the Diocese of Greensburg in 2021. Monsignor Riffle served as Managing Director of Catholic Charities from 1995 until 2021.

Catholic Charities Sabika Bingo May 5

Catholic Charities will host a Sabika Bingo May 5, from 6-10 p.m. at the Barn at West Overton Village, Scottdale. Tickets are \$35 and include 15 games, "lite bites," desserts and beverages. They can be purchased at

CCharitiesGreensburg.org or at the Catholic Charities office weekdays from 9-5 p.m. For information, contact Heather Rady, 724-837-1840 or hrady@DioceseofGreensburg.org.

Faith & Food celebrates generosity

By **Cliff Gorski**
Executive Editor

GREENSBURG — After a two-year pause because of the COVID-19 shutdown, members of The Bishop's Circle gathered at Christ our Shepherd Center for the annual Faith & Food event. More than 400 donors heard firsthand about the wonderful work being done by clergy, volunteers, Diocesan staff and parishes, thanks to their generosity of giving.

Bishop's Circle membership includes individuals, families and businesses who have contributed \$1,000 or more to the Diocese over the course of the year. This year, donors who were within \$250 of entering The Bishop's Circle were invited so they would have the opportunity to see how their gifts are being used.

Their commitment to supporting Bishop Larry J. Kulick's priorities for vocations, ministries, evangelization and faith formation has been instrumental to the success of these programs. Most of the funds are raised during the Diocesan Lenten Appeal (DLA). In 2021, the DLA campaign raised a record-breaking \$5.4 million.



According to Michael Lucotch, Director of Development for the Diocese of Greensburg, 17% of the funds were used to support clergy — specifically, the international priests program.

"These missionary priests are providing sacramental support to dozens of our parishes," Lucotch said. "Today there are only 37 native-born priests serving our 78 parishes. Your donations also support our priestly vocations office and the development of permanent deacons — the future of our Church relies on the fruits of these programs."

Lucotch said nearly 34% of the funds were returned to parishes last year to support outreach, evangelization, youth ministry and renovations to church buildings. Seven percent was allocated to Catholic Charities as the charitable organization for the Diocese of Greensburg continues to provide direct assistance to thousands of people in Western Pennsylvania, as the tidal wave of post-pandemic need emerges.

As a special surprise for those in attendance, Bishop Kulick created a video recipe on how to make a butter lamb for the Easter table. The butter lamb symbolizes the paschal Lamb, Jesus. Each person received a mold to make a butter lamb as a symbol of the sacrifices made to the Diocese through their generosity.



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS AND JORDAN WHITEKO
THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



In-person listening sessions held as part of Synod on Synodality

More than 1,000 members of the faith community in the Diocese of Greensburg gathered throughout February for nine town hall meetings as part of the Diocesan process for the Synod on Synodality.

Eight meetings were in person at parishes

throughout the four-county region, and one was virtual; all were attended by Bishop Larry J. Kulick.

The listening sessions are part of our journey of the faithful, as called by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to allow the Holy Spirit to

guide the discussion about the mission of the Church by listening and hearing one another in all facets of church life. Below are photos from around the Diocese of Greensburg as the faithful took part in these important listening sessions.



St. Rita Parish, Connellsville



St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana



St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell



St. James Parish, New Alexandria



Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg



Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School



St. Joseph Parish, Uniontown



Pastoral and finance councils from various parishes



St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning

Breakfast celebrates Diocesan teachers, students, schools

By Jennifer Miele

Chief Communications Officer

NORTH HUNTINGDON

— For the first time since 2019, teachers, students and supporters of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Greensburg were able to gather at Stratigos Banquet Center for the annual Golden Apple Awards ceremony.

“Our lives as well as our schools have changed significantly since that last event, and amazingly, many of these changes are causes to celebrate,” Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said at the March 24 breakfast.

Through the generosity and kindness of the Donahue Family Foundation, the Golden Apple Award was established in the Diocese of Greensburg to honor outstanding individuals who devote their lives to Catholic education.

In light of the valuable contribution made by Catholic school principals and teachers to the Church, and society in general, the Diocese demonstrates its appreciation through the Golden Apple Award program. The honorees receive a Golden Apple statue as well as a \$5,000 award.

Three teachers honored

This year’s winners are:

- Carrie Malley, a first-grade teacher at Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville. Malley has been leading by example as an outstanding teacher there for the last decade.
- Colleen Kinkad, a mathematics teacher at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School for 24 years. Students say she has made a lasting impression on them.
- Judy Colvin, a teacher at Conn-Area Catholic School, Connellsville, for 30 years. She teaches all subjects for kindergarten, and religion and math for first grade. As a graduate of Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville, she is honored to receive this award.

To watch videos about each winner, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/GoldenAppleAwards.

“We are so pleased to be able to celebrate our Catholic school teachers, individuals who have committed their lives in service to the Church, living out our call to evangelize and carrying on the mission of Christ,” said Bishop Larry J. Kulick, who gave the keynote address.



Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, speaks at the breakfast.

Student spotlight winners

- Jillian Balena, Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville
- Corinn Brewer, Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School
- Mallory Clemmer, St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown
- Domenic Dellemonache, Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington
- Sara Gornick, St. Bernard Regional Catholic School, Indiana
- Jude Hough, The Divine Redeemer Catholic School, Ford City
- Clare Katona, Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon
- Margaret Krom, Christ the Divine Teacher School, Latrobe
- Mia Pascoe, Conn-Area Catholic School, Connellsville
- Natalia Startare, St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School, Belle Vernon
- Finn Thompson, Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville
- Rhys Weber, Aquinas Academy, Greensburg

“Each and every one of these students has a story that starts with a teacher who lit a spark of faith in their hearts. To our teachers, thank you. You are a blessing to your students, to our schools, to our Diocese and our entire faith community,” Bishop Kulick said.

Capital Sustainability Awards

For the first time, the Diocese of Greensburg Office of Catholic Schools awarded three \$10,000 Capital Sustainability Awards to Catholic schools, helping them take steps to achieve sustainability.

The winners are:

Principal Kelly Watkins, accepting on behalf of Aquinas



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

From top: Golden Apple Award-winning teachers, from left, Colleen Kinkad, Judy Colvin and Carrie Malley; Bishop Kulick chats with guests; local legislators gather with Malley.

Academy. As with any school, Aquinas Academy has infrastructure of varying ages, which includes exposed pipes with coverings that are starting to deteriorate. To keep a child-friendly, attractive and safe environment for the students, it is important to address environmental issues as they appear, such as replacing the covering on the pipes.

Principal Thomas Dinga, accepting on behalf of The Divine Redeemer Catholic School. Imagine being in a school where the intercom system is malfunctioning. The principal and secretary need to go from room to room to make an announcement or call a student to the office. The school will install a reliable new intercom system that will

allow the main office to be in contact with the classrooms, provide important information to teachers and students, and increase overall security in the building.

Principal Jennifer Filak, Queen of Angels Catholic School. This school has a wonderful problem: It is growing and now needs to move into sections of its large building that have not been fully used. This award will assist in the renovation and improvement to the third floor, including a new energy-efficient heating and cooling system and new lighting. This award will help to establish the type of educational environment in which the increasing population can learn and grow.

Distinguished guests at the breakfast included Westmoreland County Commissioners Doug Chew and Sean Kertes, Fayette County Commissioner Dave Lohr, state Sen. Pat Stefano, state Reps. Eric Nelson, Carrie Lewis DelRosso, Eric Davanzo and George Dunbar, John Fazio on behalf of Sen. Pat Toomey’s office, and Matt Mackowiak on behalf of Rep. Guy Reschenthaler’s office.

Guests enjoyed entertainment from GCC students and David Sinclair, visual and performing arts teacher, as well as sixth- and third-grade students in the performing arts program at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School under the direction of Lance Russell.

New schools superintendent named as Dr. Marsteller sets retirement; changes set in schools, schools office

By Jennifer Miele

Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — After eight years as Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Greensburg, Dr. Maureen Marsteller has announced her retirement effective June 24.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick named Dr. Nancy A. Rottler, a longtime educator at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, as the new superintendent.

Dr. Marsteller had planned to retire in 2020, but agreed to remain as superintendent to help students, families and principals navigate the challenges of COVID-19, including the transition to virtual learning, the development of COVID-19 mitigation protocols and the return to in-person instruction.

Bishop Kulick expressed his gratitude for the vision she provided to the 12 Catholic schools in the Diocese, particularly during the pandemic.

"During Dr. Marsteller's 45-year career as an educator, she was a true advocate for the spiritual and educational development of students. We sincerely thank her for her many years of faithful service," he said.

Dr. Marsteller, who holds a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in secondary education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Pittsburgh, was assistant principal at St. Louise de Marillac School, Upper St. Clair, and principal of Oakland Catholic High School in the Diocese of Pittsburgh prior to leading the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Greensburg.

"It has been a true blessing and the fulfillment of a lifelong dream to serve others and support Catholic education as the Superintendent of Schools. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work alongside outstanding leaders and amazing school communities to help others achieve their full potential as servants of God," Dr. Marsteller said.

Dr. Rottler has spent 29 years in academic service and leadership within the Diocese of Greensburg at Saint Vincent College, most recently as Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Retention.

Dr. Rottler has witnessed firsthand how Catholic education builds

a foundation for a student's future success. During her career at Saint Vincent College, she designed and executed a comprehensive academic



Dr. Marsteller

Dr. Marsteller wins national honors

Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, was honored by the National Catholic Education Association with its prestigious Lead. Learn. Proclaim Award. Dr. Marsteller was one of 12 educators from around the country to be honored at the NCEA Convention in April in New Orleans, La.

support service model, secured multiple million-dollar grants to support the academically at-risk and the financially disadvantaged, and directed enrollment efforts of culturally diverse students.

Dr. Rottler holds a bachelor's degree in business economics from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in student affairs in higher education and a doctorate in administration and leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She also is an assistant professor of health sciences, teaching leadership, ethics and research methods.

She is a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg, where she is a lector and a member of the finance council and leads the Christ Life Evangelization initiative.

"Dr. Rottler is committed to modeling her faith. I am confident she will emphasize the importance of forming respectful, service-oriented disciples of Christ," Bishop Kulick said.

Dr. Rottler added: "I look forward to growing and strengthening the academic excellence, as well as continuing to instill Catholic ideals in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Greensburg."

Dr. Rottler will join the Office of Catholic Schools May 23.

Changes in Office of Catholic Schools

Mrs. Barb Sabo, Director of Catholic School Services for the Office of Catholic Schools for 12 years, has been named Assistant Superintendent of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Greensburg. Mrs. Sabo was principal of the former Holy Trinity School, Ligonier, for 11 years,

and a teacher at St. Stephen School, Hazelwood, and Queen of the World School, St. Mary's, Pa. She holds a master's degree in elementary school administration from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and a principal certification and master's and bachelor's degrees in history from Gannon University, Erie.



Mrs. Sabo

In her new role, she hopes to continue her work with the schools to support the goals of the new superintendent and continue to advance the spiritual and academic formation of students in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Mr. Benjamin Althof, principal of Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, has been named Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Diocese of Greensburg Catholic schools effective July 1, 2022. Mr. Althof has served as principal since 2016 and helped



Mr. Althof

to increase enrollment by more than 13% since 2019. He is working on a doctorate in education leadership from the University of Pittsburgh. He holds a master's degree in public management and an educational technology management certificate from Carnegie Mellon University and a master's degree in education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and a bachelor's degree in political science and English literature from the University of Pittsburgh.

In his new role, he will lead the research, innovation and integration of Catholic school curriculum, while expanding and pursuing new options for technological integration. He replaces Mrs. Sharyn Zalno, who retired last year, and currently serves as a consultant to the schools office.

Changes at Catholic schools

Mr. Kevin Frye, principal of Christ the Divine Teacher School, Latrobe,



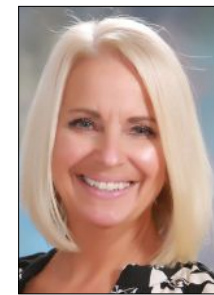
Mr. Frye

has been named principal of Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School. Mr. Frye has served as principal since 2010 and was formerly principal of St. Francis of Assisi School in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Md. He has a master's degree in administration and supervision from Loyola College, Baltimore, a bachelor's degree in secondary education with a concentration in history from Penn State, and a certificate from the National Institute of School Leadership.

Mr. Frye believes the purpose of all Catholic schools should be to form disciples of Christ. His goal is to collaborate with the talented staff, parents and supporters of GCC in that mission.

"Together, we can help to reveal the true, good, and beautiful of God's creation while in pursuit of academic excellence. GCC is positioned to grow and thrive, and I am excited to rejoin this school community," Mr. Frye said.

Mrs. Teresa Tallarico, head teacher and kindergarten teacher at Christ the



Mrs. Tallarico

Divine Teacher School, has been named Principal of the school. She has devoted 32 years of teaching to the Diocese, with 27 of those years at Christ the Divine Teacher School. Mrs. Tallarico was part of the team that introduced the

model of classical education that is the hallmark of the school. Her education credentials include extensive training in classical education, a master's degree in education and a teaching certificate from Seton Hill University, Greensburg, as well as a bachelor's degree in psychology from Saint Vincent College.

"I look forward to this new challenge, working with the wonderful faculty, and continuing our journey as a school based in classical education," Mrs. Tallarico said. "I have seen the great benefits of this curriculum through the success of our students over the past seven years and am dedicated to continuing forward."

Mr. Thomas Dinga, principal of The Divine Redeemer Catholic School, Ford City, since 2018, will retire at the end of the school year. Mr. Dinga said one of the highlights of his career was working this past year with his son, Father Eric J. Dinga, Pastor of Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City, and head of the school's board of trust administrators.



Mr. Dinga

Mr. Dinga graduated from Clarion University and received his principal's certification from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He taught for 21 years before becoming dean of students, then principal, of Lenape Elementary School, Ford City. He retired in 2014 after 35 years in the Armstrong County School District. He has helped to increase enrollment by more than 25% since 2019.

Dr. John "Jack" A. Giancola Jr. has been named principal of The Divine Redeemer Catholic School.



Dr. Giancola

Dr. Giancola retired as principal at Shannock Valley and Dayton elementary schools in the Armstrong County School District in 2021. He holds a doctorate in educational

leadership from Duquesne University, a master's degree in educational administration from Westminster College, New Wilmington, and master's and undergraduate degrees from Slippery Rock University.

Acies Mass honors Legion of Mary members' devotion

By **Melissa Williams Brown**
Contributing Writer

NORTH HUNTINGDON —

Without a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother, Mary Hasch doesn't know how she would have made it through her 14-day quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19. She never put her rosary beads down, praying to the Blessed Mother to protect her and provide her with good health.

Hasch, a parishioner of The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Monessen, was the first president in the praesidium who started the Legion of Mary in the Diocese of Greensburg. She served two three-year terms when the group was first organized.

"The Blessed Mother always helps you in your time of need," said Hasch, who also prayed the Tessera during her illness. It is a prayer booklet issued to members.

To recognize the prayerful like Hasch and their devotion to the Blessed Mother, Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated Mass at St. Agnes Parish March 27 for Legion of Mary members in the Diocese of Greensburg's Comitium for the annual Acies consecration ceremony. The Comitium is a group of men and women who oversee the praesidia in the Diocese, which are Legion of Mary groups. Legion of Mary faithful gather annually for Mass and an Acies service. Acies is Latin for "army." The Mass is held on or near the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) so Legion members can renew their devotion to Mary and their pledge to the Blessed Mother to continue their prayers and service.

Hosted by Our Lady Help of Christians Praesidium, the Mass included a welcoming address by Father Salvatore R. Lamendola, Greensburg Comitium spiritual director. He thanked Bishop Kulick

for spending time with the group and honoring their great devotion to the Blessed Mother.

After Mass, the group individually paused in front of the vexillum, seeing the dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit and a picture of Our Lady. They spoke the words of consecration, "I am all yours, my queen, my mother, and all that I have is yours."

Patrick Williams, a parishioner of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana, also has a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother, and is carrying out the legacy of his mother, the late Elizabeth Williams. Our Lady of Fatima Praesidium, founded Dec. 8, 1949, is the oldest presidia in the Diocese of Greensburg. They were originally in the Diocese of Pittsburgh until the Diocese of Greensburg was founded in 1951.

Williams said it was founded as a result of two promises made to the Blessed Mother.

Williams is the current president of the first praesidium. He tells the story of how his mother almost died after her second baby was born.

"A doctor told her it would be difficult for her to have more children after two traumatic deliveries. My mother made a promise to the Blessed Mother that if she had a healthy child, she would do something special for the Blessed Mother. She had a healthy baby girl and named her Mary. She had 10 children," said Williams. Williams remembers taking flowers to the Blessed Mother's statue when he was young.

The group provides many ministries in Indiana County. They visit personal care homes, hospitals and the homebound; conduct Bible study at the Indiana County Jail; hold Mercy Sunday annually to promote First



Above, Bishop Larry J. Kulick greets a young girl attending the annual Acies Mass March 27 at St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon. At left, members pray the rosary.

PHOTOS BY MELISSA BROWN WILLIAMS FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Saturday devotions, as well as a May crowning ceremony, a candle-lighting Marian procession in October and an annual parish retreat; and pray the rosary in May and October.

"Mary enables us to do great works," Williams said. "The group abides by the three Cs (consolation to visit the sick, imprisoned and homebound, conservation to make available opportunities for prayer and devotions, and conversion to bring others to Christ).

"Through the leadership of the Blessed Mother, we seek to serve others, making Mary present in their lives. A legionary is always on duty. Being a legionary is not just being a member, it is a way of life."

Stephanie Cavanaugh, president of the Diocese of Greensburg Comitium, said she never knew how fulfilling a simple "yes" would be when she first accepted the invitation to become a member.

"Now, 10 years later, Our

Lady continues to provide fulfillment through those we have contact with through our works. Just to know we made a difference in someone's day is so rewarding. And it seems like no matter how many yeses you give to Our Lady by saying 'yes' to the Legion of Mary, she provides the strength and guidance to accomplish the task at hand," said Cavanaugh.

The Legion of Mary is the largest lay apostolic organization in the Catholic Church, with well over 10 million members.



QUEEN OF ANGELS SCHOOL SIXTH-GRADERS WINNERS IN FUTURE CITY CONTEST:

The sixth-grade class at Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon, won three awards in the Future City Competition, held virtually Jan. 29: Best Futuristic City, Outstanding First Year Award and Excellence in Resilience Engineering Award. With the theme "A Waste-Free Future," students, led by science teacher Christine Salvi, used principles of a circular economy to design a futuristic, waste-free city.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Message from the Bishop

When I was ordained your Bishop in February 2021, I chose the Episcopal motto, "Christus Est Veritas," which is Latin for "Christ is the Truth." This motto reminds all of us that eternal truth comes from Jesus. It also reminds me of my commitment to you to be a responsible and transparent shepherd of the gifts and sacrifices that you make to enable us to fulfill the mission of the Diocese of Greensburg. I am



very pleased to report to you that this annual report, which represents the administration of the Diocese of Greensburg for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, reflects a healthy financial position.

It was my hope that we would have been able to put the effects of a global pandemic in our rearview mirror. We have not. 2021 was another year of illness and loss, reminding all of us of the devastating and destructive nature of the pandemic. Please know that I continue to pray for those who have been impacted in any way.

I think that one of the lessons the pandemic will teach us is that life is fragile. It calls to mind our own human mortality and humbles all of us. So many in our Diocese needed help during these challenging times. Because of your generosity and through our ministries and Catholic Charities, we were able to respond. We have been able to provide food and utility assistance and care for those who were isolated, and assisted with important spiritual needs. I am truly proud of our pastors, parochial vicars, deacons, parishioners and volunteers who fanned out across four counties to ensure that we could help those who needed it.

I know the pandemic still gives many of you pause about returning to in-person worship. That is why we continue to make Mass and other spiritual opportunities available through livestreaming. For those who were able to attend Mass in person, we were able to provide guidance and support to parishes to help reduce the spread of COVID so that everyone felt safe attending and participating in Mass. I am thankful for the Recommencing In-Person Worship Advisory Committee, which is composed of clergy, laity and health care experts. This group continuously reevaluates and recommends coronavirus mitigation efforts for the safety of all in our parishes and Catholic schools. It is my hope that with all of these precautions in place, if you have not already, you will prayerfully consider returning to your parish community for in-person worship.

Throughout the 2020-21 fiscal year, the Diocese of Greensburg continued to address the needs of the survivors of clergy sexual abuse no matter when it occurred. At the end of the fiscal year, the status of the Comprehensive Reconciliation Initiative and Survivors' Compensation Program reported settlements with 78 survivors totaling \$5,778,584. This annual financial report also shows legal fees incurred as a result of the investigations and responses to past and current clergy abuse that were undertaken by state and federal investigators, local officials and the Diocese.

As I end my first year as your Bishop, I am very pleased to report to you that I have inherited a Diocese with a healthy financial status. For that, I am genuinely grateful to former Bishop Edward C. Malesic and his wise stewardship of the Diocese of Greensburg. Should you have any questions about this report, please contact our Chief Financial Officer, Sheila Murray. I am thankful for your support of our clergy and the work they do in our faith communities. Most of all, I am thankful for your generous support and for your continued prayers as we work to fulfill our mission to live out our baptismal call to proclaim, in word and action, the Gospel of Jesus.

+ Larry J. Kulick

+ The Most Rev. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg

Analysis from the chief financial officer

By Sheila Murray
Chief Financial Officer

On behalf of Bishop Kulick and the Diocesan Finance Council, I present to you the Annual Report for the Diocese of Greensburg for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. We are extremely fortunate that the parishioners of our Diocese have supplemented their normal giving, parishes are extremely prudent in managing their spending, a new Bishop was ordained in our Diocese, and we had a strong investment climate this past year. Additionally, the vast majority of parishes, schools and our Diocesan Central Administration received the Small Business Program Payroll Protection Program (SBA-PPP) loan to relieve financial crisis at the early onset of the pandemic. These loans have all been forgiven during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. We are grateful for these achievements, but some were one-time events that will not recur in the future.

The graphs presented in this Annual Report indicate a summary of our financial picture for the Diocesan Central Administration. These results do not include our parishes and elementary schools. The Sources of Revenue include parish assessments (23%), Diocesan Lenten Appeal (29%) and investment/endowment income (9%). The SBA-PPP loan of almost \$1.1 million also contributed 9% of our Sources of Revenue. Parish offertory and extraordinary income decreased almost 9% for the 12 months ending June 30, 2020, which is what the 2021 parish assessment is based on. Therefore, parish assessments have decreased over \$175,000 since prior to the pandemic in 2020. This three-year comparison is indicated on the Diocesan Revenues 2021, 2020 and 2019 graph. The Diocesan Lenten Appeal (DLA) on this same graph indicates the decrease in the parish targets over the last three years, which in turn gave an increased amount of DLA funds back to the parishes. The parishes have



received a total of \$1.460 million in 2019, \$1.566 million in 2020 and \$1.856 million in 2021 in DLA refunds these past three years.

The Uses of our Resources graph indicates the major areas of spending in our Diocesan Central Administration offices. Faith formation and Catholic education used almost \$1.9 million in resources to fund their respective programs. The Finance Department, which consists of the offices of Finance, Information Technology and Engineering/Facilities Management, accounted for 18% of our resources. These are all centralized offices which help offset the costs in the parishes and schools, as we provide these services for our parish and school entities.

Vocations, Clergy Formation and International Priests programs combine for an additional 13% or almost \$1.3 million in spending from the total budget, as well. The Communications and Evangelization office is allocated almost \$1.2 million in spending, while we spend another \$1.2 million on the social programs in the Diocese known as the Corporal Works of Mercy. The three-year graph of Diocesan Expenses clearly highlights the decreases in spending during the pandemic in most areas mainly due to fewer programs offered since people were unable to attend while remaining socially distanced.

The Statements of Financial Position for the past three years indicate a decrease in total assets and total liabilities but show an increase in total net assets. The Pastoral Center net assets without donor restrictions have increased about \$500,000 over the past three years; however, the self-insurance net assets have decreased by about \$1.4 million. This is mainly due to increased costs in the property and liability claims, which was offset by a decrease in legal costs. The Pension Accounting Fund net assets are tied to the discount rate and the investment performance, which both can cause material

fluctuations over the past 3 years. Total net assets increased about \$7 million over the past three years, which was mainly due to the changes in the Pension Accounting Fund. The \$3.16 million for the Pastoral Center net assets without donor restrictions is fiscally responsible for an operating budget of approximately \$12 million.

Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School has ended the past two years with a surplus of \$591,000 and \$187,000. This has resulted in an increase in their net assets to a (\$304,833) balance on June 30, 2021. Tuition income has decreased approximately \$200,000 over the past three years, but enrollment has increased from 320 students in 2019 to 349 students in 2021. Contributions and development income have increased by over \$800,000 up to \$1.2 million, mainly due to the St. John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Program and auction and annual appeal funds. GCC also obtained a Paycheck Protection Program loan that was fully forgiven in 2021 in the amount of \$433,670 from the Small Business Administration Cares Act.

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2021, with \$571,237 in net assets, which was similar to the net asset balance on June 30, 2019. Tuition income has decreased almost \$500,000 over the past three years, as the enrollment has also decreased by 32 students during this same time period. However, contributions and development have increased by over \$500,000 mainly due to St. John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Program funds, EITC funds and general donations. Geibel Catholic also obtained a Paycheck Protection Program loan that was fully forgiven in 2021 in the amount of \$174,789.

In summary, this report demonstrates the care and prudence with which we manage the resources that you, the faithful, so generously provide. The more detailed and complete audited financial statements are available for your review at: DioceseofGreensburg.org/AnnualReport.

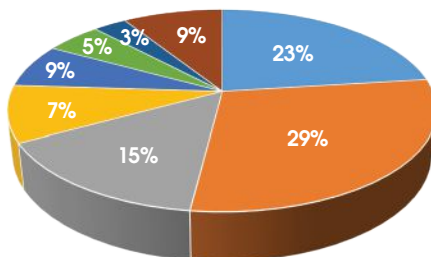
FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ONLINE

The Diocese of Greensburg's annual financial statements are audited by independent certified public accountants, and the Diocesan Finance Council meets with the auditor to hear the report on the results of the audit.

The financial information found online at theaccentonline.org is taken from those audited financial statements.

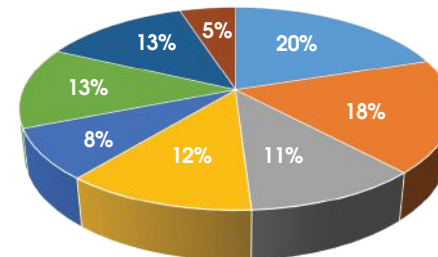
Please contact the Department of Finance at 724-837-0901 if you have any questions.

SOURCES OF REVENUE



Diocesan Lenten Appeal (29%)	\$3.4 million
Parish assessments & support (23%)	\$2.7 million
Program fees & other revenue (15%)	\$1.8 million
SBA PPP loan (9%)	\$1.1 million
Investment & endowment income (9%)	\$1.0 million
Christ Our Shepherd Center (7%)	\$860,000
Communications assessment (5%)	\$570,000
Other contributions & grants (3%)	\$350,000
TOTAL	\$11,780,140

USE OF RESOURCES



Faith formation & Catholic education (20%)	\$1.9 million
Finance Department (18%)	\$1.7 million
Vocations, clergy formation, international priests (13%)	\$1.2 million
Communications & Evangelization Office (13%)	\$1.3 million
Corporal works of mercy (12%)	\$1.2 million
Chancery offices (11%)	\$1.0 million
Christ Our Shepherd Center (8%)	\$720,000
Other administrative (5%)	\$480,000
TOTAL	\$9,496,557

Diocese of Greensburg and Related Activities			
Statements of Financial Position As of June 30,	2021	2020	2019
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 412,907	\$ 499,019	\$ 421,869
Investments	12,514,660	11,887,714	15,230,595
Receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	2,166,536	2,425,530	2,312,440
Bond receivable from parish	3,410,657	3,658,251	3,829,404
Pension receivable from parishes and schools	1,570,474	1,964,085	2,464,504
Assets designated for OPEB	12,673,784	10,002,406	9,734,042
Prepaid and other assets	194,415	144,392	220,218
Fixed assets, net of depreciation	15,681,961	15,704,533	16,240,299
Due from other Diocesan funds	1,186,246	1,535,521	2,647,045
Due from related entities	94,724	67,297	12
Total Assets	\$ 49,906,364	\$ 47,888,748	\$ 53,100,428
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 823,805	\$ 960,518	\$ 1,027,433
Agency and trust accounts	1,495,483	1,179,182	1,181,321
Deferred income	3,869,017	3,374,748	2,973,392
Accrued expenses	2,821,529	2,154,289	5,676,237
Accrued pension - lay plan	13,866,177	22,886,279	18,011,251
Accrued pension - priests plan	4,079,924	5,365,599	3,819,586
Accrued postretirement health benefits	4,691,929	4,853,915	6,814,820
Bonds payable	3,375,000	3,610,000	3,840,000
Loans payable	1,220,372	1,468,299	1,617,149
Due to other diocesan funds	1,186,246	1,535,521	2,647,045
Due to related entities	292,677	390,562	483,419
Refundable advance	-	1,692,100	-
Total Liabilities	37,722,159	49,471,012	48,091,653
Net Assets			
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:			
Pastoral Center	3,160,458	1,787,901	2,661,204
Self Insurance Fund	515,629	1,746,684	1,905,212
High Schools	(87,854)	(749,317)	(788,916)
Tuition Assistance Fund	(155,023)	(448,302)	(361,113)
Plant Fund fixed assets, net	16,228,230	15,880,656	16,249,315
Pension Accounting Fund	(11,833,406)	(23,864,139)	(18,699,873)
Parish Bond Fund	115,044	81,812	95,125
Capital and Endowment Campaign	-	(45,784)	(45,585)
Agency Funds	67,650	81,852	78,900
Total Net Assets without donor restrictions	8,010,728	(5,528,637)	1,094,269
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions:			
Pastoral Center	3,710,690	3,559,447	3,569,521
High Schools	354,258	328,818	312,526
Tuition Assistance Fund	32,594	24,823	23,511
Plant Fund	75,935	33,285	8,948
Agency Funds	-	-	-
Total Net Assets with donor restrictions	4,173,477	3,946,373	3,914,506
Total Net Assets	12,184,205	(1,582,264)	5,008,775
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 49,906,364	\$ 47,888,748	\$ 53,100,428

DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL

The Diocesan Finance Council is a consultative body for the Diocesan bishop and, as with parish finance councils, is required by the Code of Canon Law, the universal law of the Catholic Church. The specific responsibilities of the Diocesan Finance Council, as outlined by canon law, include reviewing the annual budget, annual financial statements and the independent auditors’ report, and providing consultation in specific financial areas. In the Diocese of Greensburg, there are statutes that provide further direction for the council, including advising the Bishop and his staff in the Department of Finance. The members of the Diocesan Finance Council for 2020-21, appointed by the Bishop, were:

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

- The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL
- The Reverend Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, MSW, MPA
- The Rev. Monsignor William R. Rathgeb, JCL
- Dr. Maureen Marsteller
- Sheila R. Murray, CFO
- Dr. Paul Niemiec, EdD, NCC, LPC
- John N. Stevens
- Jennifer Miele

OUTSIDE MEMBERS

- William Thalman, CPA
- The Rev. James H. Loew, OSB
- John J. Dolan, CPA
- Jeffrey D. Erdely
- Lisa Martinelli

Diocesan Central Administration — Pastoral Center			
Statements of Activities Years Ended June 30,	2021	2020	2019
Revenues, Gains and Other Support:			
Diocesan Lenten Appeal	\$ 3,428,870	\$ 3,404,651	\$ 3,564,001
Parish assessments and support	2,682,717	2,664,369	2,859,304
Program fees and other revenue	1,781,221	1,725,989	1,632,263
Christ Our Shepherd Center	857,535	967,410	1,298,558
Investment/endowment income	1,019,746	836,245	866,116
Communications assessment	572,659	587,546	603,216
SBA PPP loan	1,083,641	-	-
Other contributions and grants	353,751	351,682	348,565
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$ 11,780,140	\$ 10,537,892	\$ 11,172,023
Expenses are incurred in the following areas to perform services in support of parish, Catholic education and other ministries:			
Faith Formation and Catholic Education:			
Catechesis, Evangelization, Youth and Worship	\$ 499,413	\$ 518,576	\$ 538,109
Contribution to diocesan high schools	475,000	475,000	525,000
Government funded educational programs	362,892	515,868	506,490
Office for Catholic Schools	341,706	342,269	360,028
Lay ecclesial ministry	34,549	116,777	104,725
Elementary schools tuition assistance	145,000	145,000	165,000
Total Faith Formation and Catholic Education	1,858,560	2,113,490	2,199,352
Corporal Works of Mercy:			
Hospital ministry program	527,690	536,797	473,519
Contribution to Catholic Charities	378,250	378,250	535,000
Tribunal/Marriage Office	205,599	200,565	173,017
Donations and other grants	51,807	102,732	98,800
Other special ministries	16,324	25,995	24,643
Total Corporal Works of Mercy	1,179,670	1,244,339	1,304,979
Vocations, Clergy Formation and International Priests:			
Office for Vocations	370,023	334,978	248,250
Unassigned priests	243,870	312,280	287,007
Neumann House, net of residence fees	216,508	206,767	179,506
Pension and retired priests' health care	220,509	126,958	188,104
Clergy Development	31,597	55,114	190,858
International Priests	98,355	181,526	199,562
Office for the Permanent Diaconate	64,874	103,649	121,286
Total Vocations, Clergy Formation and International Priests	1,245,736	1,321,272	1,414,573
Chancery Offices:			
Bishop's Office	353,682	427,460	425,881
Development and Stewardship Education	284,715	264,698	376,586
Chancellor's Office/Human Resources	122,563	116,812	127,124
Vicar General's Office	133,883	137,926	140,318
Retired Bishop's Office	122,422	96,141	117,461
Curator/Archivist	849	12,179	10,363
Purchasing and facilities services	3,479	44,247	46,098
Total Chancery Offices	1,021,593	1,099,463	1,243,831
Finance Department:			
Information technologies	786,967	740,914	777,229
Financial operations and services	740,879	752,881	723,664
Engineering and facilities management	212,186	220,062	208,580
Total Finance Department	1,740,032	1,713,857	1,709,473
Total Christ Our Shepherd Center	719,009	966,859	1,159,444
Total Communications and Evangelization Office	1,252,187	1,183,035	1,166,088
Other Administrative:			
Legal and professional fees	280,281	315,921	657,067
Regional and national dues	116,901	123,655	140,240
General diocesan administration	125,841	132,676	119,781
Special events	131,235	14,250	3,704
Diocesan sites maintenance	6,158	6,009	5,546
Bad debt expense	1,450	1,518	3,548
Lay employee pension plan (credit)	(182,096)	(198,291)	(221,880)
Total Other Administrative	479,770	395,738	708,006
Total Expenses	9,496,557	10,038,053	10,905,746
Change in Net Assets without donor restrictions before adjustments and transfers:	2,283,583	499,839	266,277
Transfers from other funds	-	-	-
Transfers to other funds	(911,026)	(1,373,142)	(453,953)
Change in Net Assets without donor restrictions	1,372,557	(873,303)	(187,676)
Net Assets with donor restrictions:			
Contributions	3,758,017	3,572,834	3,570,740
Released from restrictions	(3,606,774)	(3,582,908)	(3,877,326)
Change in Net Assets with donor restrictions	151,243	(10,074)	(306,586)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,347,348	6,230,725	6,724,987
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 6,871,148	\$ 5,347,348	\$ 6,230,725

Pope Francis promulgates Roman Curia reform, emphasizing the missionary nature of the Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nine years after taking office, Pope Francis promulgated his constitution reforming the Roman Curia, a project he began with his international Council of Cardinals shortly after taking office in 2013.

“*Praedicate Evangelium*” (“Preach the Gospel”), which was published only in Italian by the Vatican March 19, will go into effect June 5, the feast of Pentecost.

Merging some congregations and pontifical councils and raising the status of others — particularly the charitable office of the papal almoner — Pope Francis said he hoped the constitution would ensure that the offices of the Vatican fulfill their mission in helping promote the church as a community of missionary disciples, sharing the Gospel and caring for all those in need.

Part of that effort, he wrote, requires including more laypeople in Curia leadership positions.

“This new apostolic constitution proposes to better harmonize the present exercise of the Curia’s service with the path of evangelization that the church, especially in this season, is living,” the pope wrote in the document.

To emphasize the importance of the church’s missionary nature, in

the new constitution Pope Francis specified that he is the prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization; he will be assisted by a “pro-prefect” for “basic questions regarding evangelization in the world” and a “pro-prefect” for “the first evangelization and the new particular churches,” those previously supported by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

“Pastor Bonus” began its description of the doctrinal congregation’s responsibility saying, “The proper duty of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is to promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals in the whole Catholic world; so, it has competence in things that touch this matter in any way.”

The new constitution begins its description by saying, “The task of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith is to assist the Roman pontiff and the bishops-eparchs in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world, promoting and safeguarding the integrity of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, drawing on the deposit of faith and also seeking an ever deeper understanding of it in the face of new questions.”

In addition to creating the Dicastery for the Service of Charity in place of the almoner’s office, the constitution

merges the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization into the new Dicastery for Evangelization, and it merges the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture into the new Dicastery for Culture and Education. “*Praedicate Evangelium*” replaces St. John Paul II’s 1988 constitution, “*Pastor Bonus*.”

Insisting that every Christian is “a missionary disciple,” the constitution said, the reform of the Curia also needed to “provide for the involvement of laymen and women, including in roles of governance and responsibility.”

The participation of laypeople “is indispensable, because they cooperate for the good of the whole church and, because of their family life, their knowledge of social realities and their faith that leads them to discover God’s paths in the world, they can make valid contributions, especially when it comes to the promotion of the family and respect for the values of life and creation, the Gospel as leaven for temporal realities and the discernment of the signs of the times.”

Pope Francis described the reform of the Curia as part of the “missionary conversion” of the church, a renewal movement aimed at making it reflect

more “the image of Christ’s own mission of love.” He also linked it to the ongoing process of promoting “synodality,” a sense of the shared responsibility of all baptized Catholics for the life and mission of the church.

True communion among all Catholics, he said, “gives the church the face of synodality; a church, that is, of mutual listening in which each one has something to learn: the faithful people, the College of Bishops (and) the bishop of Rome listening to the other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth.”

Addressing one of the main concerns expressed by bishops around the world in the past, the constitution said, “The Roman Curia does not stand between the pope and the bishops, but rather places itself at the service of both in ways that are proper to the nature of each.”

Pope Francis wrote that in reorganizing the Curia, he wanted to promote a “healthy decentralization” that would, at the same time, promote “co-responsibility” and communion with the bishops and among the Vatican offices.

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GCC honors three as Distinguished Centurions

GREENSBURG — Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School honored three 2022 Distinguished Centurions at its virtual awards ceremony and auction in February.

Young Alumna Award (under age 40) recipient Renee (Marko) Powell of Bridgeport, W.Va., a 2005 graduate, was honored for her efforts to improve educational opportunities for her fourth-grade class at Big Elm Elementary School in Shinnston, W.Va. She partnered with a construction industry engineering firm for the school’s STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) program. When her students learned remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, she filmed video lessons and utilized her Facebook page to deliver them to her students.

The Service Award went to 1979 graduate Barbara Zello-Hancock of North Prince George, Va., a registered nurse who serves as clinical coordinator of the electrophysiology

department at the Richmond, Va. VA Hospital. Zello-Hancock has served her parish, St. James Catholic Church in Hopewell, Va., for many years. She was instrumental in starting its Sisters of the Heart ministry, which serves parishioners who are confined to their homes or care facilities.

Ed Christofano of Mount Pleasant, Achievement Award recipient and 1992 graduate, owns Christofano Associates, which operates three Hayden’s Pharmacy stores in Westmoreland County. He also owns the Youngwood Corner Market and Main Street Deli and Café in Youngwood. Christofano is a member of the Westmoreland County Drug and Alcohol Commission, working with area schools to educate staff and students about the opioid epidemic. He also is involved with the Council for Substance Abuse and Youth, as well as several organizations that work to better the Mount Pleasant and Youngwood communities.



CARE PACKAGES: During Lent, college students away from home who are parishioners of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, and St. James the Greater Parish, Apollo, received care packages donated by parishioners along with a note of encouragement from Benedictine Father Vincent Zidek, Pastor. Packages were mailed to students attending schools in California, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pastoral ministry certificate program offered

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg, in conjunction with Seton Hill University, Greensburg, is once again offering the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry program.

The two-year certification program was put on hold for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It now has been modified to offer nearly all coursework online, according to Father Daniel E. Carr, Director of Adult Formation for the Diocese.

“This will make the program more available to those living in parts of our Diocese where it is a hardship to commute weekly to Greensburg,” Father Carr said.

Father Carr said the program, set to start in July, will offer courses on liturgy, sacraments, Scripture, moral teachings of the Church, relationships, and how to teach and convey the faith to others.

“This two-year certificate equips disciples of Christ with the tools they need to be ministers of Christ as catechists, teachers, evangelists, pastoral associates and much more,” he said. “It is also a starting point for men who are interested in the permanent diaconate program.”

Over the years, more than 150 people have graduated from the program, and many are now serving the Church in a variety of ways throughout the Diocese of Greensburg.

The Diocese is sharing a testimonial video on social media and will conduct three virtual information sessions for those interested in learning more. More information is also available at DioceseofGreensburg.org/PastoralMinistry or by contacting Father Carr at Dcarr@DioceseofGreensburg.org.

— The Catholic Accent



JOHN ZYLKA THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

BISHOP REFLECTS ON LENT: During the season of Lent, Bishop Larry J. Kulick made pastoral visits to six parish communities to conduct Lenten Evenings of Reflection. Each week, Bishop Kulick presented a different topic, focusing on the major themes proclaimed in the Lenten weekend Gospels. Above, he speaks about temptation at Holy Cross Parish, Youngwood.

Diocese hires Managing Director of Development

GREENSBURG — Paul D. Puleo has been named Managing Director of Development for the Diocese of Greensburg, managing leadership, strategy and planning for development efforts that support the Church's missions and ministries. He began his position April 1.

Puleo has held several leadership positions for FNB Corporation, where he worked for nearly 39 years. Most recently, Puleo was Senior Vice President and Senior Sales Manager for the Small Business Banking Division.

Puleo is a past chairman of the Economic Growth Connection and treasurer of the Greater Latrobe Partners in Education. He was past chairman for the Westmoreland and



Puleo

Latrobe Chambers of Commerce, past chairman of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority and past United Way campaign chairman. He is a longtime PIAA basketball official. For more than a decade he was a trustee with the Catholic Institute and is a past chairman.

In announcing Puleo's hiring, Bishop Larry J. Kulick said, "Paul Puleo is a respected leader in his field. He is also known throughout our community as a faithful servant. I truly believe he will be a great asset as we continue to seek support for our many Diocesan ministries, and work to promote stewardship among our faith community in the Diocese of Greensburg."

Puleo said: "I feel extremely blessed to have the opportunity to serve the Church in a way that leverages my professional and volunteer experience. My hope is to sustain the many good works of the Diocese of Greensburg. I am especially looking forward to collaborating with clergy, lay leaders and parishioners to advance the mission through a culture of stewardship."

Puleo earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at Clarion University and also attended the Central Atlantic School of Banking at Bucknell University and the BAI School of Executive Management at Emory University. He and his wife, Laurie, have four children, Megan, Emily, Jacob and Haley. They are parishioners of St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite.

— *The Catholic Accent*

Divine Mercy, Corpus Christi

GREENSBURG — Bishop Larry J. Kulick welcomes all of the faithful, along with the clergy of the Diocese, to join him for a liturgical celebration of Divine Mercy April 24 at 1:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Weather permitting, the eucharistic procession will be outdoors. Divine Mercy celebrates the love that Christ has for all of us, despite our sins that separate us from Him.

On June 19, Bishop Kulick will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Parish in Jeannette. Following Mass, a solemn Corpus Christi eucharistic procession to Ascension Parish, Jeannette, will be made, where Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament will occur.

Franciscan University tuition assistance

GREENSBURG — Because of the continued generosity of an anonymous donor, Catholic high school students in the Diocese of Greensburg or those attending Catholic high schools in Western Pennsylvania could receive priority for tuition assistance, regardless of income, if they choose to attend Franciscan University of Steubenville for their undergraduate degree.

Parents and guardians of high school students in the Diocese received a letter announcing the assistance, and an email was sent to parents or guardians of all Catholic school students in the Diocese.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick said the donation extends the St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity

Partnership (TOP) to higher education. The new initiative is funded by the same anonymous donor who funded the TOP program. To date, the TOP program has provided tuition assistance to 800 families in the Diocese.

"The donor's commitment to make it possible for anyone who wants to receive a Catholic education from kindergarten to college is truly a blessing from God," the Bishop said.

The TOP Student program has helped to increase enrollment in Diocesan Catholic schools by 20% in just two years.

For information, call 800-783-6220, visit franciscan.edu/JPII-scholarship or email admissions@franciscan.edu.

Closures of Fayette church buildings announced

GREENSBURG — At the request of Pastoral and Finance Councils from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Western Fayette County, Bishop Larry J. Kulick has announced that the Holy Rosary church building, Republic; Madonna of Czestochowa church building, Cardale; St. Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help church building, Leckrone; and St. Procopius church building, New Salem, will be relegated to the status under canon law of profane but not sordid use, meaning they will no longer serve as worship sites and will close as Roman Catholic Churches.

All four buildings were maintained for worship on a limited basis, with Mass offered twice annually. However, since the coronavirus outbreak, there have been no liturgical celebrations inside those four church buildings.

In 2013, all four became part of the patrimony of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. At the time, the All Saints Parish church building, Masontown, was designated as the parochial church, and the St. Thomas Parish church building, Footedale, was designated an alternate worship site.

All four buildings were maintained for worship on a limited basis, with Mass offered twice annually. However, since the coronavirus outbreak, there have been no liturgical celebrations inside those four church buildings.

Since the merger, the number of active, assigned, incardinated priests in the Diocese of Greensburg has decreased from 70 to 37, and the number of parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Parish has decreased from 3,448 to 1,115. Offertory income has declined by 38%, or \$285,000 and the parish has been operating by deficit spending which is projected to come to an amount of \$650,000 by June 2022, a majority of which was inherited arrearage amounts.

The Pastoral and Finance Councils placed multiple requests to the Diocese for consideration. Bishop Kulick accepted those requests and announced the decision March 26.

For more information, parishioners are encouraged to visit the Diocese of Greensburg website, DioceseofGreensburg.org, and click on the "Latest News" section at the bottom of the page. There, a separate decree for each of the four church buildings can be found, along with a financial summary of the inherited debt and pastoral letter from Bishop Kulick.

— *The Catholic Accent*



Spirited
2022 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Diocese of Greensburg

Saturday, November 12, 2022 • Christ Our Shepherd Center
For more information visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/Spirited



FUN AND FAITH: The Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown held a winter retreat for high school students in the St. Joseph, St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus, St. John the Evangelist and St. Mary (Nativity) parishes Feb. 18-20. It was a weekend of prayer, music, dynamic talks and games while focusing on faith.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



JENNIFER MIELE THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

BISHOP GATHERS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE: Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated Mass at St. Thomas More University Parish adjacent to the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania April 3. Pictured among the group are the Bishop, IUP President Dr. Michael Driscoll, Capuchin Father Richard Owens, Pastor, Capuchin Father Tage Danielson, Parochial Vicar, Deacon Andrew Corriente and members of Campus Ministry.

Uniontown parishes send messages of support to seminarians

UNIONTOWN — In January, as the four parishes that make up the Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown began to put away Christmas decorations, parishioners were instructed to leave up one Christmas tree, minus the decorations, in each parish. The parishes' Vocation Ministry Team created special ornaments for the trees, each featuring a photo and brief biography of one of the 10 Diocesan seminarians.

Parishioners were asked to take an ornament home as a reminder to pray for the seminarians. Parishioners also were asked to write a note or card expressing support, encouragement and gratitude.

"We thought our seminarians needed encouragement after being home with their families over the holiday season and returning to their studies," said Nancy Blake, pastoral assistant at the four parishes — St. Joseph Parish, St. John the Evangelist Parish, St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish and St. Mary (Nativity) Parish.

The response was overwhelming: 250 cards were returned to the parishes. The Vocation Ministry Team sent the cards and "goodie boxes" to seminarians in time for Valentine's Day.

Seminarian Andrew J. Hamilton was pleasantly surprised by his special delivery.

"In the box I found a plethora of treats and snacks, but more importantly letters of support from faithful Catholics who are earnestly praying for me and many others to take up the vocation of priesthood," Hamilton said. "I am told often that many people are praying for me, and I know that they are. However, reading letters from parishioners and taking to heart their words of affirmation gives me greater zeal to persevere in seminary and one day, God willing, intercede for them at the altar of God as a priest."

Sending packages to seminarians is just one of the outreach programs the Vocation Ministry Team coordinates. Each week, the parishes rotate an Adoration and Holy Hour for vocations. The team also lets men and women religious know how much they are valued and appreciated.

Couples and single parishioners are part of the vocation outreach.

"Whether it is a vocation of religious life, being married or remaining single, we are all open to God's call and living out God's plans for all of us," Blake said.

— The Catholic Accent



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Uniontown parishioners pack "goodie boxes" for Diocesan seminarians.

CYO boys basketball tournament results



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Top: CYO varsity champions Mary Queen of Apostles Blue; above: junior varsity champions Aquinas Academy Blue.

GREENSBURG — The CYO boys basketball tournament was held Feb. 19-20 at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School. Results are below.

VARSITY FINALS

Mary Queen of Apostles Blue 32, Queen of Angels 20
High scorers: MQA, Joseph Berger 16; QA, Gavin Bodora 12

VARSITY SEMIFINALS

Queen of Angels 39, Geibel Catholic 18
High scorers: QA, Gavin Bodora 13; Geibel, Seth Dolan 11

Mary Queen of Apostles Blue 44, Christ the Divine Teacher 15
High scorers: MQA, Joseph Berger 14; CDT, Zach Skoloda 11

VARSITY QUARTERFINALS

Christ the Divine Teacher 33, Mary Queen of Apostles White 23
High scorers: CDT, Joseph Foss 19; MQA, John Marino 14

Geibel 30, Mother of Sorrows 26
High scorers: Geibel, Seth Dolan 26; MOS, Chase Gelpi 16

JUNIOR VARSITY FINALS

Aquinas Academy Blue 37, Queen of Angels White 28
High scorers: AA, Tommie Rennie 14; QA, Jack Frasier 15, Graham Kelly 11

JUNIOR VARSITY SEMIFINALS

Queen of Angels White 31, Queen of Angels Purple 22

High scorers: QAW, Nate Sydeski 10; QAP, Colin Pishko 14

Aquinas Academy Blue 27, Mary Queen of Apostles 9
High scorers: AA, Tommie Rennie 8; MQA, Tommy Lecker 5

JUNIOR VARSITY QUARTERFINALS

Queen of Angels White 28, Mother of Sorrows 14
High scorers: QA, Tommy Dlugos 13; MOS, Nate Morgan 11

Mary Queen of Apostles 16, St. John the Evangelist 10
High scorers: MQA, Tommy Lecker 6; SJE, Matthew Demaske 4

Aquinas Academy Blue 26, Aquinas Academy White 9
High scorers: AA Blue, Tommie Rennie 8; AA White, Daniel Brady and Casper Capehart 4 each

Queen of Angels Purple 27, Christ the Divine Teacher 11
High scorers: QA, Joe Coco 12; CDT, Zach Skoloda 9

JUNIOR VARSITY ROUND ONE

Aquinas Academy White 18, Conn Area Catholic 8
High scorers: AA, Daniel Brady 8; CAC, Charlie Kenney, Kade Yoders, Mason Brooks and Russell Moore 2 each

Christ the Divine Teacher 24, St. Sebastian 5
High scorers: CDT, Zach Skoloda 11; SS, Mason Reeves 5

Yearlong 175th anniversary celebration underway at Indiana parish

INDIANA — Parishioners have been preparing to celebrate the 175th anniversary of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish for nearly a year.

They initially planned a one-day event, but when new pastor Capuchin Father Richard Owens arrived, the idea for a yearlong celebration started taking shape, according to Dana Mattini, chair of the 175th Anniversary Committee.

The celebration has become a year of fundraising and service projects around the parish and throughout the community. It will culminate Aug. 21 with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick and a reception.

A growing Catholic community in Indiana County built and opened the first St. Bernard Church in 1847. The structure was simple and small. According to parish history, Benedictine Father Boniface Wimmer, founder of Saint Vincent Archabbey, the first Benedictine monastery in the United States, and Benedictine Father Leander Schnerr, third Archabbot of the archabbey, both served the parish.

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 was dedicated Sept. 26, 1871. A new rectory was constructed four years later.

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

Church Nov. 25, 1978. A formal dedication Mass with Bishop William G. Connare was celebrated April 22, 1979.

During this anniversary celebration year, one of the more unusual fundraisers was a trivia night featuring liturgical and catechetical questions. The winning team was awarded a tasty prize, a confection of their choice, created by Deacon Andrew Corriente, the winner in 2020 of "The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition." Two of the deacon's recipes were featured in the Diocese of Greensburg's "Faith and Food" cookbook, published last year.

In addition to fundraising, the committee has been involved in community outreach as a means of evangelization, especially during the Lenten season, Mattini said.

Parishioners have also undertaken a project to beautify the parking lot areas and are collecting toiletries, mints, pens, notepads, journals and prayer cards for Cancer Comfort Project bags, which will be distributed at the Indiana Regional Medical Center after Easter.

For Mother's Day, older adults will help younger parishioners make cards for their mothers or those who are alone.

"Our hope is that we can revitalize our own parish by reaching out to the community," Mattini said. "It's part of evangelizing, showing that the Catholic Church, as a whole, is welcoming to our entire community."

— The Catholic Accent



JIM NESTOR PHOTO

Parishioners of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish gather for a summer anniversary event last year.



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11:30 am

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Sat. May 7

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Coupon only good for
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TICKETS

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADDICTION SUPPORT

Irwin — Sage's Army offers the following groups/meetings at its Greensburg Recovery Center unless otherwise noted:

- All Recovery, every weekday, noon
 - Alcoholics Anonymous: Sundays, 10:30 a.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.
 - Narcotics Anonymous, Sundays, 10 a.m. (Irwin headquarters) and 7 p.m.
 - Recovery Life Group, Mondays, 5:30 p.m.
 - SMART Family & Friends, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Irwin headquarters
 - Gamblers Anonymous, Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
 - Dual Recovery Anonymous, Mondays, 2 p.m.
 - SMART Recovery, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
 - Family Group, Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.
 - GRASP grief group, second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., Irwin headquarters
 - Family reinforcement/recovery, Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.
 - SMART Teen & Young Adult, Fridays, 3:30 p.m.
- Information: sagesarmy.com or 724-863-5433.

BINGOS

Harrison City — St. Barbara Parish hosts bingo the first Wednesday of each month, May 4, June 1 and July 6. Doors open at 5 p.m., with games starting at 6:45 p.m. The kitchen will be open, and free coffee will be provided. Information: 724-744-4584 or 724-744-7474.

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish will hold its last bingo before breaking for the summer May 1. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with bingo at 2. Refreshments are available. Information: 724-423-3777.

BURGER BASHES/DINNER

Jeannette — Ascension Parish will hold a takeout-only spaghetti dinner April 26 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in Mersinger Hall. Cost is \$12. The event will include a 50/50 raffle. Orders can be placed that day: 724-522-5558.

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish will hold burger bashes May 14, June 18 and July 16 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: 724-423-3777.

CARD PARTY

Irwin — The Christian Mothers/Women's Guild of Immaculate Conception Parish will hold a card party with basket raffles May 19 in Our Lady's Plaza. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and a light dinner will be served. Guests can bring their own cards or games. Tickets are \$12. Information: 724-863-9550.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Greensburg — Catholic Charities offers face-to-face, in-person counseling services. Clients must adhere to CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidance. Those who are not vaccinated are asked to wear masks. Clients who are sick are asked to avoid coming to the office. Virtual counseling is available for those who prefer that option. To make an appointment, call 724-837-1840 or email counseling@DioceseofGreensburg.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Greensburg — Virtual open houses and private tours are available at each of the 12 schools of the Diocese of Greensburg. More than \$4 million is available in tuition assistance. Registration: CatholicSchoolsGuide.org.

CRAFT SHOW

Latrobe — St. John the Evangelist Parish will hold a spring craft/vendor show May 7 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Food, a Chinese auction, and basket and 50/50 raffles are planned.

EASTER EGG HUNT

North Huntingdon — St. Agnes Parish will hold an "Easter season" egg hunt for children up to age 12 April 23 at 11:30 a.m. outside Resurrection Hall. Lunch, prizes and more for families are planned. Registration (by April 15): mditoppa@DioceseofGreensburg.org or 724-863-2626

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH PROGRAM

Yukon — Seven Dolors Parish is hosting a “Catholics Returning Home” series Wednesdays through June 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The series is for people who would like to renew their relationship with the Church, be closer to God and seek answers to faith questions. Programs are facilitated by a parishioner team/lay people under the direction of Father Vincent A. Yee Concepcion, pastor, and conducted in a support group format. Participants may attend as many sessions as they wish. Registration: Maureen Knack, 724-220-4238 or sevendolorsCRH@gmail.com.

GOLF OUTINGS

Apollo — St. James Parish, Apollo, and Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, will host a golf outing June 11 at the Links at Spring Church. Registration will be from 6:30-7:45 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Cost, which includes greens fees, food and drink, is \$85 if registered by May 13, \$100 after (cash or check only). Contests will include longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin. To register, send checks payable to either parish (memo: golf outing) to 109 Owens View Ave., Apollo, PA 15613. Information: 313-600-0730 or 724-600-4290.

Madison — St. Edward Parish, Herminie, will host a golf outing June 24 at the Madison Club. Cost for the

four-person scramble, with a shotgun start at 9 a.m., is \$100 per person or \$400 for a foursome, which includes greens fees, cart rental, a hot dog and beverage at the turn, buffet dinner, “guest for a day” golf course certificate (one 18-hole greens fee), skill and door prizes, and team awards. Information: Mike Ochap, 724-433-2181.

LGBTQ MINISTRY

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, 724-539-8629, ext. 19, or Kristina.davies@stvincent.edu.

MASSES

Jeannette — In response to the world bishops’ statement calling on all 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 will celebrate Mass on “Five First Saturdays” beginning in May — May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3. The rosary will be prayed at 8:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 9 a.m. Confessions will follow Mass.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

PRO-LIFE ESSAY AWARD WINNERS NAMED: Winners of the 2022 pro-life essay contest sponsored by Alternatives.Yes, a Connellsville-based pregnancy resource center that empowers women to choose life, are, from left: Melina Miller (second place), Gianna Bandes (first place), Chase Goletz (honorable mention) and Mallory Clemmer (third place). Elizabeth Dzuirzynski, not pictured, a sixth-grader at Conn-Area Catholic School, Connellsville, also won an honorable mention. Gianna, Melina, Mallory and Chase are sixth-graders at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown.

NOVENAS

Connellsville — The novena to St. Anthony of Padua will be prayed for nine Tuesdays beginning April 19 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Rita Parish. It will include the rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction. A Mass and closing are

set for the feast day of St. Anthony of Padua, June 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Jeannette — The novena to St. Anthony of Padua is being prayed at Ascension Parish Tuesdays at 7 p.m. through June 7. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will also take place.

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Registration/information: Mike Ochap, 724-433-2181



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Latrobe — Bishop Larry J. Kulick will speak on “Bodily Resurrection” to the Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, May 15 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Assembly Room at Saint Vincent Archabbey. Benedictine Father Justin Nolan will speak on “Walking with the Lord” at the regular meeting from 3-4:15 p.m. in Brownfield 202 at Saint Vincent Seminary. Masks required. Reservations (by May 9): 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.

Upcoming meetings will be June 12 (speaker Benedictine Brother Bosco Hough on “*Conversatio morum*, conversion of heart”) and July 17 (speaker Benedictine Brother Norman Hipps on “Obedience in Benedictine Spirituality”).

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POSITION OPENING - Director of Religious Education

The parishes of St. Edward, Herminie and Seven Dolors, Yukon are looking for a faith-filled, energetic, organized, practicing Catholic who has a passion for developing the faith of parish youth and young adults and making them disciples. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: plan and direct the parish Faith Formation/Youth Ministry programs (Grades 1-12); coordinate sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation; coordinate Vacation Bible School and Bible Studies; and provide additional ministries to all aspects of the parishes.

Those interested are asked to contact Father Vincent Concepcion by e-mail: stedward@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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