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HE IS RISEN!



**CHRIST, OUR PASCHAL LAMB,
HAS BEEN SACRIFICED;
LET US THEN FEAST
WITH JOY IN THE LORD.**

CORINTHIANS 5:7B-8A



HOLY WEEK

**WITH
BISHOP KULICK
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THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA

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Vision: Create a more connected,
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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:

Effective Friday, March 3, 2023

The Very Reverend Lawrence L. Manchas, VF, as Administrator pro tem of St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon, while remaining Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Greensburg, and St. Bruno Parish, South Greensburg. Father Manchas continues as Vicar Forane of Deanery IV and remains in all other Diocesan appointments.

Effective Thursday, March 23, 2023

The Reverend Daniel J. Ulishney, from Pastor of St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Export, and St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont, to Pastor of St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon. Father Ulishney remains in all other Diocesan appointments.

The Reverend Teodoro A. Cortezano, from Administrator of St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon, to Administrator of St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Export, and St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont.

OBITUARIES

Sister Marian Joseph Adams, SC



GREENSBURG

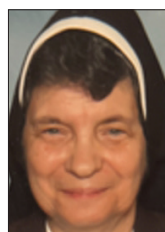
— Sister of Charity Marian Joseph Adams, 93, died Feb. 26, 2023, at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. She was in

her 75th year of religious life.

Sister Marian Joseph taught students in the dioceses of Phoenix, Pittsburgh and Tucson and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She later served as director of activities and programs for the retired Sisters of Charity.

A funeral Mass was held March 2, with burial in the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Mary Michelle Shuda, CSSF



GREENSBURG

— Felician Sister Mary Michelle Shuda, 83, died March 10, 2023, at St. Anne Home, Greensburg. She was in her 65th year of religious life.

Sister Michelle was a teacher for

more than 40 years in the dioceses of Greensburg, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Cleveland. She taught at the former St. John the Evangelist School, Latrobe, the former Transfiguration School, Mount Pleasant, and the former Sacred Heart School, Youngstown. She later served as receptionist and sacristan at St. Anne Home for almost 20 years.

A funeral Mass was held March 18, with burial in the Felician Cemetery.

Sister Janet M. Neider, SC



GREENSBURG

— Sister of Charity Janet M. Neider, 84, died March 24, 2023, at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. She was in

her 66th year of religious life.

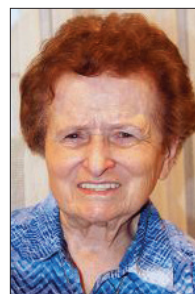
Sister Janet entered the congregation from SS. Simon & Jude Parish, Blairsville, in 1957.

She was the co-founder of the St. Nicholas of Myra Child and Family Center in Tucson, Ariz., and was a staff member in the Seton Hill University education department for five years. She taught students in Catholic schools of the dioceses of Greensburg, Phoenix and Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of Washington, including the Elizabeth Seton Montessori School in Greensburg. She also served as assistant educational director of

the Seton Hill Day Care Center.

A funeral Mass was held March 27, followed by burial in the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Maureen Halloran, SC



GREENSBURG

— Sister of Charity Maureen Halloran, 91, died March 25, 2023, at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. She was in her 73rd year of religious life.

Sister Maureen worked as a nurse at Seton Hill University and a number of Pittsburgh area hospitals and as an instructor at several hospitals. A funeral Mass was held March 29, followed by burial in the sisters' cemetery.

CONDOLENCES

To Father Alan N. Polczynski, a priest of the Diocese, on the death of his mother, Rose M. Polczynski, 88, who died Feb. 20, 2023.

To Father Thomas Trupkovich, retired priest of the Diocese, on the death of his brother, Joseph Trupkovich, who died Feb. 21, 2023.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

Bishop Larry J. Kulick leads the Divine Mercy Sunday eucharistic procession last year at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Bishop Kulick invites the faithful of the Diocese to join him for this year's Divine Mercy Sunday liturgy April 16 at 2 p.m. at the center. The day will include the Divine Mercy litany, procession, eucharistic adoration and Benediction.

MARY SEAMANS
THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

An Easter message from the Bishop

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a phrase that I love. It was on a plaque placed near the doorway at the home of a neighbor. As a child I used to look at the plaque when I was visiting. The phrase read, "Don't walk ahead of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend." As I remember this plaque and its phrase, I am reminded of that first Easter night after the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our blessed Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel (Luke 24:13-35) tells us about that evening. Two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village away from Jerusalem called Emmaus. As they walked, they were talking about all of the things they experienced over the past few days — what we call the Paschal Mystery. While they were walking and talking, Jesus drew near and joined them, but the disciples were not able to recognize Him.



As Jesus approached, he asked the two disciples about their discussion. They were astonished that the person walking with them did not seem to

know about the events that led to Jesus being handed over for death and crucifixion. The disciples were downcast and grieving because they hoped that Jesus "would be the one," the Messiah. They related to Him what they had heard from Jerusalem, that the women in their group visited the tomb and found its stone removed and did not find His body. The women told the

disciples about their vision of angels who announced that He was alive.

As the three of them continue to travel along the road together, what does Jesus do? He is listening, opening his heart to them, and, in return, they are opening their hearts to Him. At the end of that journey, they don't want Him to leave. They invite Him to stay with them. He accepts that invitation. And there, in the breaking of the bread on that first Easter night, Jesus

disappears from their sight. While no longer physically present, He is now with them in a new way, a sacramental way.

During this Easter season, and in this time of Eucharistic Revival, we are all walking on that road to Emmaus as intentional disciples. Christ walks with us every step of the way. His invitation to share in His Body and Blood is the only way that we can find the truth, joy and peace in a world where we see so much despair and things that are far from perfect. We know that through His sacrifice and resurrection we share the joy of eternal life and the victory over death with Him. We keep Jesus walking alongside us through the Eucharist.

The Eucharist helps us to understand that His resurrection is real and that Christ, true to His word, walks with us, listens to us and responds by showing all of us the Father's love, mercy and compassion in difficult times.

The Eucharist and the Resurrection are so intimately tied together that they serve as our own "Emmaus encounter" with the risen Christ. The

Eucharist and sacraments refresh and renew our hope and joy. If we are away from the Eucharist, we are not able to fully experience the risen Christ.

Easter is an opportune time to examine your relationship with Christ and His Church. If you have been away from the sacraments, or there is an obstacle in your current situation which keeps you from receiving them, please reach out to your pastor or local parish. Easter joy is knowing and experiencing God's mercy and love in its fullness.

As we continue in this year of Eucharistic Revival, may we experience our own personal walk with Jesus. Side by side, let us join with Christ as One Body through His magnificent gift of the Eucharist. May you have a very blessed Easter and know that you and your family are always in my prayers.

+ Larry J. Kulick

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

Bishop Kulick sets schedule for Holy Week

Holy Thursday Chrism Mass

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral,
Greensburg, 10 a.m.
*Livestreamed on Diocesan
Facebook page*

Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral,
7 p.m.

The Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral,
1:30 p.m.

Anointing and Burial of Christ Service (Good Friday)

Our Lady of the Assumption
Parish, Lucernemines, 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil (Saturday)

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral,
8:30 p.m.



PHOTO SUBMITTED



JORDAN WHITEKO THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

MARKING LENT: During Lent, Bishop Larry J. Kulick traveled to five parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg for Lenten Evenings of Reflection and to six parishes for Stations of the Cross. During his pastoral visits and as part of our three-year Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Kulick asked the faithful to make prayer and intentional discipleship an important part of their Lenten discipline and presented each attendee with a Lenten pin as a symbol of unity in their walk with Christ during the 40 days of Lent. At left, the Bishop participates in Stations of the Cross at St. Joan of Arc Parish, Farmington, March 8; above, people receive pins at St. Mary (Nativity) Parish, Uniontown, March 7.

KNOW HIM draws 1,000 to grow closer to Eucharist

By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor

GREENSBURG — More than 1,000 people immersed themselves in the Eucharistic Revival by attending a one-of-a-kind experiential evangelization event at Christ Our Shepherd Center March 9.

“KNOW HIM: The Last Supper and the Gift of the Eucharist” brought those in attendance closer to the Eucharist with stunning presentations and hands-on activities.

Renaissance music played as guests gazed at a 16-foot mural of the Last Supper, based on the original by Leonardo da Vinci. Guests also viewed six other versions created by different artists to compare and contrast. Vatican art

historian Liz Lev recorded a captivating talk about the scriptural nuances of this historic piece of art.

Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, Vicar General of the Diocese of Greensburg and Rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, gave the keynote address that prepared those in attendance to open their hearts and minds to what they were about to see in the breakout sessions. His keynote address focused on the presence of the Eucharist in our daily lives.

Father Christopher J. Pujol, Episcopal Master of Ceremonies and Parochial Vicar of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, explained the significance of washing feet on Holy Thursday and how the act represents service to others.

Each visitor was asked to make a commitment to serve others by pinning a flower on the cross and recording their act of kindness as a symbol of intentional discipleship.

Monsignor Michael J. Begolly discussed his recent trip to the Holy Land and preparing to receive the Eucharist. While discussing the pilgrimage, he reminded guests that each Sunday, they make their own pilgrimage when they attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

Visitors filled bottles of sand and marked them with crosses. The keepsake is to remind them that Jesus walked this earth.

Finally, guests heard from Bishop Larry J. Kulick about the Eucharist as the bread of life and sampled Easter breads, including paska.



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Above: Father Christopher J. Pujol explains the significance of washing feet on Holy Thursday. Below: Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle gives the keynote address; Monsignor Michael J. Begolly talks about his trip to the Holy Land; and breads are prepared for sampling.



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



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KNOW HIM
STUNNED DISCIPLES: THEIR PERSPECTIVE OF JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION
Thursday, September 14, 2023
9:30 AM - Parish & Diocesan Staff, School Staff & Students
2:00 PM & 6:00 PM - Free Immersive Event for the Public

KNOW HIM
SAINT NICHOLAS THE GIFT GIVER, FEATURING ARTIST PIPKA ULVILDEN & HER SAINT NICHOLAS INSPIRED DESIGNS
Friday, December 15, 2023
6:00 PM - Free Immersive Event for the Public
Saturday, December 16
10:00 AM Saint Nicholas the Gift Giver for KIDS!
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM Mass with Bishop Kulick and Christmas Night Market

DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival

Registration open for Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor


GREENSBURG — As part of the three-year Eucharistic Revival initiated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Diocese of Greensburg has focused this first year on the development of formational and devotional opportunities for Diocesan and parish staff. This year of Diocesan Revival portion culminates with a Eucharistic Congress for Diocesan and parish staff and clergy.

Registration is now open for the two-day Eucharistic Congress, "Creating a Eucharistic Community: Forming Disciples of Christ in Love and Service," set for May 8 and 10 and May 9 and 11 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.

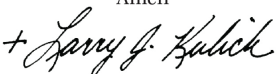
"The Eucharistic Congress prepares all Diocesan and parish leaders to come together to renew themselves in our Eucharistic Lord, while sharing in engaging presentations and dialogue to bring the Eucharistic Revival home to their parish communities," said Vincent Reilly, Managing Director of Faith, Family and Discipleship for the Diocese of Greensburg.

For Diocesan and parish staff, Reilly believes the Eucharistic Congress

Diocesan Prayer for Eucharistic Revival



Lord Jesus, You are the living bread who satisfies the hunger of the human heart. In the Eucharist, the bread and wine become Your Body and Blood, the gift of Yourself to the Church. Deepen our faith in Your Eucharistic presence and strengthen us as members of the Church, the Body of Christ. As we encounter and revere Your Eucharistic presence, open us to the needs of our brothers and sisters here and everywhere throughout the world. Help us to reveal Your love, Your promise, Your presence to them by our lives, and in all we say and do. Amen



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

will be a time of reflection and prayer that will help bring them closer to the Eucharist and Christ.

"The Eucharist is the heartbeat of the Church. If our heart is not beating with the Lord, how can we share Jesus with others?" Reilly asked. "It is allowing us time to breathe with our Lord so

we can share that breath of God with others. The time in prayer and the presentations will be important for our spiritual life, but will also spread out to the spiritual life of all those whom we minister to."

The Eucharistic Congress will feature keynote addresses from the Most Reverend Michael G. Woost, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, and Timothy P. O'Malley, Ph.D., Director of Education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life and Academic Director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. Dr. O'Malley holds a concurrent appointment in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame and is a member of the national committee for the Eucharistic Revival.

Additional workshop speakers featuring national experts from around the country are being added daily.

Dr. Thomas Octave, Director of Sacred Music for the Diocese of Greensburg, is one of 21 liturgical leaders from around the country to work to foster a Eucharistic culture in parishes, schools and dioceses as a way of promoting deeper affiliation with the Church. In his role with the Mathis Liturgical Leadership Program at Notre Dame, he collaborates with priests, parish directors, educators, lay ministers

and other professionals in a unique opportunity for education and formation centered around a major pastoral issue facing the Church that intersects with liturgical-sacramental life.

"This Eucharistic Congress will unite the Church of Greensburg with the Catholic Church in the United States in our efforts nationally to grow in our understanding of the gift of the Eucharist and how the Eucharist calls us to be the Body of Christ alive in the world," Dr. Octave explained. "Coming together as a Eucharistic community in Congress, we are reaching beyond the celebration of the Mass into every part of life to share the presence of Jesus Christ alive in our world."

Bishop Larry J. Kulick has made the upcoming Eucharistic Congress a priority for the Diocese in requesting all Diocesan and parish staff to participate in a shared encounter with Christ during this time of Eucharistic Revival.

"My hope during this Eucharistic Congress is to draw us together as one, not just as a people but as one in mind and thought," Bishop Kulick said. "The Eucharist is our unity."

Limited seats will be available for the public. Register at DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival.

Diocese to participate in national Congress

By Vincent Reilly
Managing Director of Faith, Family and Discipleship

GREENSBURG — The 10th National Eucharistic Congress will be a high point within the National Eucharistic Revival and a defining moment for our generation.

The event organizers are planning for more than 80,000 people from around the country to be in attendance at the Congress July 17-21, 2024.

Each day of the Congress will focus on a different aspect of the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke. The whole Congress will be an experience of prayer and reconsecration of all participants and the country to the Holy Trinity. This will be achieved through daily Mass, opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, and dynamic presentations from bishops and leaders from throughout the United States.

Prior to the Congress, the Blessed Sacrament will be processed from four corners of the country, including through the Diocese of Greensburg.

The goal of the Congress is to encourage an encounter with Jesus Christ that leads to the outpouring of grace and renewed missionary sending as participants are moved to share the Eucharistic love of the Lord for the life of the world.

The Diocese of Greensburg has reserved 100 spots at a discounted rate for parishioners from around the Diocese to attend the National Eucharistic Congress. These spots will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis once the national revival committee releases information on the hotel that will be assigned to our delegation. Cost will be determined once the hotel is assigned, but partial scholarships up to \$500 are available through the Francis Fund. The 100 spots are for participants over the age of 18, but families may register directly on the National Eucharistic Congress website (eucharisticcongress.org) to receive the youth rate and can still stay in the Diocesan housing block.

More information will become available next month. Please continue to check our Eucharistic Revival page on the Diocesan website.

Save the dates: May 8 & 10 or 9 & 11, 2023



DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

**Creating a Eucharistic Community:
Forming Disciples of Christ in Love and Service**
A Eucharistic Congress for Diocesan and Parish Leaders



Dr. Timothy O'Malley
McGrath Institute for Church Life
University of Notre Dame



Bishop Michael Woost
Auxiliary Bishop of the
Diocese of Cleveland

**Mass with Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Eucharistic Adoration and
Engaging Workshops with National Experts**

**Come together to renew ourselves while sharing engaging presentations and
dialogue to bring the Eucharistic Revival home to our parish communities.**

DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival

Golden Apple Awards honor students, teachers



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS

Above, from left: Golden Apple Award winners Pam Cullen and Denise Horchar, Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Superintendent Dr. Nancy Rottler, and Golden Apple Award winner Amy Smart; at right, from top: Bishop Kulick with students and school staff; Geibel Catholic Principal Robert Fetter and students with a certificate for the school's \$10,000 sustainability grant; and Student Spotlight honorees with the Bishop.

By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor

NORTH HUNTINGDON — Three teachers in Catholic schools of the Diocese of Greensburg were honored with the Golden Apple Award during the fifth annual A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast March 23 at Stratigos Banquet Centre.

Pam Cullen, science teacher at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Denise Horchar, second-grade teacher at Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon, and Amy Smart, third-grade teacher at Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville,

received the award, which celebrates excellence in teaching and is generously provided by the Donahue Family Foundation.

The event, hosted by Jennifer Miele, Chief Communications Officer for the Diocese of Greensburg, featured a keynote address from Bishop Larry J. Kulick and a "state of the schools" address from Superintendent Dr. Nancy Rottler.

Exceptional students from each of the 12 Catholic schools in the Diocese were also recognized with Student Spotlight awards.

Proceeds from the event directly benefit students, teachers and Catholic schools in the Diocese.



World-renowned Louisiana TV chef, inspired by Diocesan priest's cancer journey, to cook for Queen of Angels School fundraiser

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — Chef John Folse is known as "Louisiana's Culinary Ambassador to the World" after appearing on international television and radio, writing 10 books and helping to found a culinary institute, as well as opening restaurants and serving dinners worldwide. In fact, he was the first non-Italian chef to create a Vatican State Dinner in Rome and opened a Cajun-style restaurant in Moscow's World Trade Center during the Presidential Summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Folse is coming to Westmoreland County to cook up a fundraiser at Westmoreland Country Club, with club chef Mark Henry, for Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon, June 28. The event will celebrate Father John A. Moineau's recovery from pancreatic cancer. Folse has been following his



Father John A. Moineau

cancer journey on social media from the very beginning.

Father Moineau is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Huntingdon, and serves on the board of pastors for Queen of Angels Catholic School.

In 2021, he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer that spread to his liver. Father Moineau stayed connected with parishioners during the COVID-19 lockdown with weekly YouTube videos and inspired many to return to Mass as the pandemic subsided.

"Your individual prayers and community prayers outside of Mass are awesome, but there is nothing that gives me more solace than to know that you are filling the churches and going to sacred Mass, especially when, during my treatments, I may not be able to celebrate Mass," he said in one YouTube video, which had more than 10,000 views.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chef John Folse

In July 2022, Father Moineau posted a jaw-dropping message on social media: "I wanted to share with

you the good news regarding my PET scan on July 14. The scan came back completely CLEAN!!! No indication of any cancer!!! This is truly a miracle, and all of your prayers and support have brought us to this point!"

Of Father Moineau's many thousands of social media followers who saw that post, one is Folse. He was elated by the news. He connected with fellow restaurateur Barbara Braun, who co-owned Chesterfield's in North Huntingdon with her late husband, chef Jack Braun. She arranged for Father Moineau and Folse to meet.

"I think Chef Folse was really touched by Father John's passion for forming disciples and his commitment to Queen of Angels Catholic School. So he wanted to do something to help the cause," Braun said. "The goal is to raise \$100,000 for the school that night."

The event includes hors d'oeuvres and a five-course dinner. The attire is business casual.

Visit <http://bidpal.net/tasteoflouisiana> for ticket and sponsorship information.



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS
THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

FAITH AND FOOD: Close to 400 people attended "Faith and Food" at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, Feb. 15. The event, held for donors who are members of the Bishop's Circle and guests, kicked off the 2023 Diocesan Lenten Appeal. The evening began with a prayer service celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick and was followed by dinner and dessert.



Planned giving aids Diocese in doing God's work

By Paul Puleo
Managing Director
of Development



GREENSBURG — I am excited to be completing my first year at the Diocese of Greensburg. I am astonished at the generosity of our parishioners and the inquiries to help perpetuate

our missions.

For the past few months, the Diocesan Development and Foundation offices have been making improvements to our website and

planned giving platform to help educate and lead potential donors to making a gift.

The Lenten season leads us to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

When we focus on almsgiving, we see that our Diocese is blessed to have more than 16,000 parishioners giving to our Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Each time parishioners make gifts to their parishes or one of many Diocesan missions, it allows us to continue doing God's work.

Bishop Kulick often says that we are here to serve our parishes. Helping our parishes maintain their viability and soundness is benefited by way of planned giving. Philanthropy is an expression of that generosity.

Over the past year, the Diocesan Development office and The Catholic Foundation have worked in tandem to develop a more comprehensive approach to planned giving so that we can have perpetual funding to do God's work. We are updating our website to give potential donors an opportunity to educate them on the various ways to give.

The Catholic Foundation has more than 180 different endowments. Included, but not exclusive, are the parishes, cemeteries, Catholic Charities, Catholic schools, faith formation and priestly vocations.

An individual can support any one of these missions through several planned giving options. These

include leaving a legacy through wills, charity gift annuities and bequests; joining a legacy society; creating an endowed fund or adding to an existing endowment; or simply adding the Diocese as a beneficiary on an insurance policy.

Additionally, a donor can provide needed funds to one of many Diocesan mission needs, such as pro-life, seminarians or the International Priests Program.

Your decision to include any of the Diocese missions or parishes is worth celebrating. For more information on planned giving options, please contact me at ppuleo@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724.552.2509.

Salt and Light Awards will honor good works

GREENSBURG — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg will honor two individuals and one community organization at the 23rd annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner April 20.

Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, Vicar General of the Diocese and Rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Monsignor Riffle was responsible for the growth of Catholic Charities during his 25 years as its director, a position he held until he was named Vicar General in 2020. He is just the fourth recipient to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gerald “Jerry” Wilcox will be honored with the Humanitarian Award. Wilcox, a parishioner of Our

Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, volunteers his time packing weekend lunches for the Food for Kids Program and serves as a volunteer with the Senior Care Ministry.

The Kindness Closet, based at St. Edward Parish, Herminie, will be honored as Outstanding Service Organization. Two parishioners, Kate McKinley and Natalie Jurcevic, wanted to find a way to get the clothes their children outgrew to families who needed them, so they started the Kindness Closet, which provides free clothing to hundreds of men, women and children.

Since 1998, the annual event has raised more than \$1 million to help nearly 9,000 individuals and families in the four counties of the Diocese of Greensburg.

To purchase tickets for the

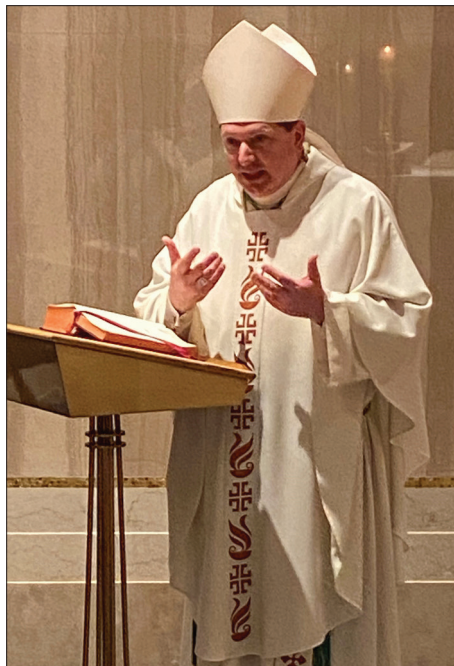
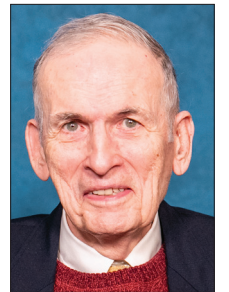


CATHOLIC ACCENT AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Top: Volunteers with the Kindness Closet at St. Edward Parish, Herminie; right, Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle and Gerald Wilcox.

dinner, to be held at Stratigos Banquet Centre, North Huntingdon, or to become a sponsor, visit CCharitiesgreensburg.org.

— *The Catholic Accent*



Diocesan faithful stand up for the unborn at March for Life

By Carolyn Cannizzaro

Director of Pro-Life Advocacy for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Greensburg

WASHINGTON, D.C. — For the first time since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg and from around the country gathered for the annual March for Life. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the national march. The theme was “Next Steps, Marching in Post-Roe America.”

Prior to the Jan. 20 march, Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Kulick thanked all who attended the march and urged them to continue to be proactive in the fight for life, working and praying for each state and their laws to protect unborn children.

The loss of life for the child is not where the story ends, he said. Every person who chooses abortion, male or female, must live with this grave decision for the rest of their lives. He urged the faithful to pray and reach out in love to a fallen world and all those impacted by the atrocity of abortion.



Above and at top, marchers from the Diocese attend Mass in the crypt chapel celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick. Above left, marchers demonstrate during the March for Life. Below left, Diocesan priests Father Alan N. Polczynski, currently studying canon law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and Father Daniel E. Carr, Director of Pro-Life Activities for the Diocese, gather with Bishop Kulick.

PHOTOS BY CAROLYN CANNIZZARO

Bishop commemorates 10th anniversary of both St. Francis of Assisi Parish and pope's election

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

MASONTOWN — Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated Mass at the Masontown site of St. Francis of Assisi Parish March 18 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the merging of the former faith communities of All Saints, Holy Rosary, Madonna of Czestochowa, St. Mary, St. Procopius and St. Thomas parishes.

The celebration not only commemorated the formation of the parish 10 years ago, but the 10th anniversary of the election and installation of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Bishop Kulick told parishioners during his homily that he was grateful, humbled and honored to be with them for such a special day in their parish community, realizing the past 10 years have not been easy for them. It reflects the cross the parishioners were called to carry. He thanked Father Marlon Pates, Pastor, and Father William G. Berkey, former Pastor, for sacrifices made during changes.

Father Pates expressed his gratitude for being pastor and said the celebration of the 10th anniversary would not be

possible without the grace of God and "our beloved Bishop Kulick, who is always a phone call away to help me and our international priests." He also thanked Father Berkey, who he said is an inspiration, and the parish's choir for their angelic voices. He thanked the pastoral council, Father Arnel Tadeo, shared Parochial Vicar, and the Knights of Columbus for their generosity.

Bishop Kulick acknowledged and thanked parishioners for their service to the parish and for dedicating themselves to the task that was asked of them.

"We are moving forward so our faith can grow. We need to be ambassadors, and great things will happen in Western Fayette County. We need your prayers. My commitment is to be with you, and to walk with you and make this region the best that it can be," he said.

When the parish was named, there was no other in the Diocese of Greensburg named for St. Francis. It's also the first time in 2,000 years of the church that the pontiff has taken the name of Francis.

"The pope guides us as a universal pastor," Bishop Kulick said.



Bishop Kulick offers the body and blood of Christ to parishioners during the anniversary Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish March 18, and visits with parishioners after Mass.

PHOTOS BY MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN



RITE OF ELECTION:

Bishop Larry J. Kulick signs the Book of the Elect Feb. 4 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg. Pictured at right are candidates and catechumens making the journey to full communion with the Catholic Church.

PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS
THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



Bishop’s message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been blessed in my Episcopacy to have the opportunity to visit many parishes across the four-county area of the Diocese of Greensburg. Whether it is through the celebration of Holy Mass, providing the sacrament of



confirmation with our young people or gathering with parishioners for specific parish celebrations, I am always humbled by the gratitude of the faithful for the temporal and spiritual works of the Diocese and for our clergy and religious

I am also very proud of our commitment to the fiscal responsibility of stewarding the generous gifts provided by the faithful to carry out our mission. It is because of that

commitment that I am pleased to provide this annual report detailing the administration of the Diocese of Greensburg for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

As we present these financial statements, be assured that they have been reviewed by the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and audited by our certified public accountants. I am grateful for the work of our Chief Financial Officer, Sheila Murray, and her staff and for the important advice and counsel from our Diocesan Finance Council on these matters throughout the year.

2022 was not a year without challenges as we continued to emerge from pandemic. Many in our community needed support and help from our ministries and from Catholic Charities. Because of your sacrifices, we were able to respond by providing food, utility and rental assistance for those still struggling in a post-pandemic world. We were able to support mothers and families in need with clothing, diapers and formula. Through our pastors, parochial vicars, deacons and religious, we have been able to provide important spiritual support for those who are homebound or feel isolated. We continue to strengthen and support our vocations and International Priest programs to support the sacramental and liturgical life of our faithful with necessary parish staffing. And, we remain committed to providing for the spiritual formation for all, teaching that Christ is Truth.

All of this is because you have entrusted your resources to our care.

My pledge to you is that we will always be transparent in how we use your gifts, because it is through your generosity that together we are able to continue to provide the compassion and mercy of Christ across the Diocese of Greensburg.

May God continue to bless you and your families and all the faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg,

+ Larry J. Kulick

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

Analysis from the CFO

By Sheila Murray
Chief Financial Officer

On behalf of Bishop Larry J. 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, 2022. We have continued to steward the resources entrusted to us by you, the faithful, with great prudence and care. Under the leadership of Bishop Kulick, we have been able to keep our Diocesan ministries and programs strong and stable. This report presents the great news that donations to the Diocesan Lenten Appeal (DLA) and to parish offertory have increased beyond pre-pandemic levels. The DLA received donations in excess of \$6 million, which is the highest ever that our donors have given to this campaign. Nearly \$2.5 million was returned to our parishes while the Diocese retained the remainder to fund the Bishop’s programs. Offertory has also increased almost \$600,000, or 2.1%, since prior to the pandemic, even though our number of households has declined by 8%. Enrollment in our Catholic schools has also grown to the highest level in the past six years.

Operations are performing at a modest surplus so that we may continue to provide for enhanced ministries and programs for our parishes and schools. Total revenues are down over the past three years mainly due to investment/endowment income, which has seen a significant decline due to the global market conditions. We feel this will reverse direction over the next few years as the economy continues to improve. From a positive perspective, we



have experienced a significant reduction in our Lay and Priest Pension liabilities and the Postretirement Health Benefits liability due to a cash buy-out on the lay plan and higher discount rates.

We also paid off the \$3.4 million bond payable by converting it to a loan in our own Catholic Institute. This also eliminated the bond receivable from parish on the balance sheet.

Total expenses of \$9.9 million are also slightly lower when compared over the past three years. Faith Formation has decreased since we had staff turnover and we hired a Managing Director of Faith Formation in February 2023. Vocations and Clergy Formation has increased more than \$200,000 as we currently have 10 seminarians in our vocations program. The priests’ pension and retired priests’ health care expenses have also increased over the past two years. The Finance Department, which serves as a resource to parishes with regard to financial matters, facilities/insurance concerns and information technology, as well as overseeing parish financial reviews, has increased about 13% over the past two years as well. This increase was offset by our legal and professional fees which have decreased by over \$150,000, or almost 50%. The Pastoral Center Administrative offices ended the year with a \$2.2 million unrestricted net asset balance, which was about \$400,000 higher than the balance at June 30, 2020.

The pie charts below reference the Sources and Uses of our Revenues for the administrative offices. DLA provides 34% of our revenue while parish assessments add an additional 26%, with the

two combining 60% of our total revenue. Program fees also add another 19% and unfortunately with the decline in the financial market, investment income only attributed 3% toward our total revenue.

The “Uses of our Resources” graph indicates the major areas of spending in our Diocesan Central Administration offices. Faith formation and Catholic education account for 19% of our resources to fund their respective programs. The Finance Department accounted for 20% of our resources, and Vocations/Clergy Formation/International Priests account for 15% of our resources. We donate 12% toward Corporal Works of Mercy, which include hospital ministry programs, tribunal and Catholic Charities.

Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School (GCC) and Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School (GHS) both ended the fiscal year at June 30, 2022, with positive net asset balances of \$100,736 and \$475,282, respectively. Enrollment has increased at GCC these past three years and has remained constant over this same time period at Geibel Catholic.

The more detailed annual report and complete audited financial statements are available for your review at DioceseofGreensburg.org.

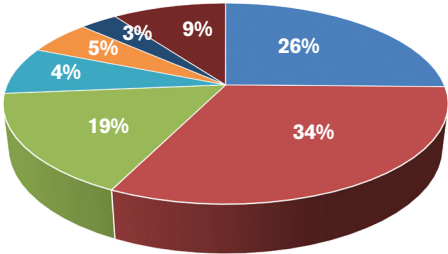
Overall, I am satisfied with the financial position of the Diocese of Greensburg, and I remain committed to the highest levels of stewardship in managing the resources you so generously donated. As we hear in Luke 3:11: “John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’” We are all called to use our time, talents and treasure wisely and make the most of every opportunity to bring glory to God.

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.

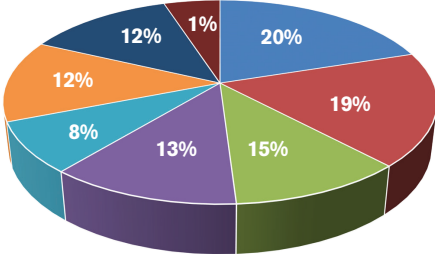
Please contact the Department of Finance at 724-837-0901 if you have any questions .

SOURCES OF REVENUE



Diocesan Lenten Appeal (34%)	\$3.5 million
Parish assessments & support (26%)	\$2.7 million
Program fees & other revenue (19%)	\$2.0 million
Christ Our Shepherd Center (9%)	\$927,000
Communications assessment (5%)	\$563,000
Other contributions & grants (4%)	\$372,000
Investment & endowment income (3%)	\$279,000
TOTAL:	\$10,355,342

USES OF OUR RESOURCES



Faith formation & Catholic education (20%)	\$1.9 million
Faith formation & Catholic education (19%)	\$1.9 million
Vocations, clergy formation & international priests (15%)	\$1.5 million
Communications & Evangelization Office (13%)	\$1.3 million
Corporal works of mercy (12%)	\$1.2 million
Chancery offices (12%)	\$1.2 million
Christ Our Shepherd Center (8%)	\$801,000
Other administrative (1%)	\$113,000
TOTAL:	\$9,496,557

Diocese of Greensburg and Related Activities

Statements of Financial Position As of June 30,	2022	2021	2020
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 410,412	\$ 412,907	\$ 499,019
Investments	11,180,068	12,514,660	11,887,714
Receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	2,076,029	2,166,536	2,425,530
Bond receivable from parish	-	3,410,657	3,658,251
Pension receivable from parishes and schools	772,210	1,570,474	1,964,085
Assets designated for OPEB	10,622,535	12,673,784	10,002,406
Prepaid and other assets	185,219	194,415	144,392
Fixed assets, net of depreciation	15,218,279	15,681,961	15,704,533
Due from other Diocesan funds	1,224,514	1,186,246	1,535,521
Due from related entities	152,985	94,724	67,297
Total Assets	\$ 41,842,251	\$ 49,906,364	\$ 47,888,748
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 1,047,671	\$ 823,805	\$ 960,518
Agency and trust accounts	426,675	1,495,483	1,179,182
Deferred income	5,025,576	3,869,017	3,374,748
Accrued expenses	2,549,636	2,821,529	2,154,289
Accrued pension - lay plan	10,611,516	13,866,177	22,886,279
Accrued pension - priests plan	2,954,369	4,079,924	5,365,599
Accrued postretirement health benefits	3,656,998	4,691,929	4,853,915
Bonds payable	-	3,375,000	3,610,000
Loans payable	966,214	1,220,372	1,468,299
Due to other diocesan funds	1,224,514	1,186,246	1,535,521
Due to related entities	254,993	292,677	390,562
Refundable advance	-	-	1,692,100
Total Liabilities	28,718,162	37,722,159	49,471,012
Net Assets			
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:			
Pastoral Center	2,192,650	3,160,458	1,787,901
Self Insurance Fund	913,985	515,629	1,746,684
High Schools	189,471	(87,854)	(749,317)
Tuition Assistance Fund	235,742	(155,023)	(448,302)
Plant Fund fixed assets, net	15,993,721	16,228,230	15,880,656
Pension Accounting Fund	(10,885,995)	(11,833,406)	(23,864,139)
Parish Bond Fund	-	115,044	81,812
Capital and Endowment Campaign	-	-	(45,784)
Agency Funds	130,495	67,650	81,852
Total Net Assets without donor restrictions	8,788,069	8,010,728	(5,528,637)
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions:			
Pastoral Center	3,855,571	3,710,690	3,559,447
High Schools	386,547	354,258	328,818
Tuition Assistance Fund	46,667	32,594	24,823
Plant Fund	47,235	75,935	33,285
Agency Funds	-	-	-
Total Net Assets with donor restrictions	4,336,020	4,173,477	3,946,373
Total Net Assets	13,124,089	12,184,205	(1,582,264)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 41,842,251	\$ 49,906,364	\$ 47,888,748

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 2021-22 (as of June 30, 2022), appointed by the Bishop, were:

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

- The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL
- The Reverend Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, MSW, MPA
- Melaney Hegyes
- Dr. Maureen Marsteller
- Jennifer Miele
- Sheila R. Murray, CFO
- Paul Puleo
- The Rev. Monsignor William R. Rathgeb, JCL
- Dr. Nancy A. Rottler

OUTSIDE MEMBERS

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

Diocesan Central Administration — Pastoral Center

Statements of Activities Years Ended June 30,	2022	2021	2020
Revenues, Gains and Other Support:			
Diocesan Lenten Appeal	\$ 3,520,282	\$ 3,428,870	\$ 3,404,651
Parish assessments and support	2,692,618	2,682,717	2,664,369
Program fees and other revenue	2,001,769	1,781,221	1,725,989
Christ Our Shepherd Center	926,060	857,535	967,410
Investment/endowment income	279,394	1,019,746	836,245
Communications assessment	562,773	572,659	587,546
SBA PPP loan	-	1,083,641	-
Other contributions and grants	372,446	353,751	351,682
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$ 10,355,342	\$ 11,780,140	\$ 10,537,892
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	\$ 341,404	\$ 499,413	\$ 518,576
Contribution to Diocesan high schools	475,000	475,000	475,000
Government funded educational programs	432,263	362,892	515,868
Office for Catholic Schools	362,469	341,706	342,269
Lay ecclesial ministry	110,929	34,549	116,777
Elementary schools tuition assistance	145,000	145,000	145,000
Total Faith Formation and Catholic Education	1,867,065	1,858,560	2,113,490
Corporal Works of Mercy:			
Hospital ministry program	560,115	527,690	536,797
Contribution to Catholic Charities	378,250	378,250	378,250
Tribunal/Marriage Office	165,335	205,599	200,565
Donations and other grants	51,025	51,807	102,732
Other special ministries	19,332	16,324	25,995
Total Corporal Works of Mercy	1,174,057	1,179,670	1,244,339
Vocations, Clergy Formation and International Priests:			
Office for Vocations	497,857	370,023	334,978
Unassigned priests	270,905	243,870	312,280
Neumann House, net of residence fees	205,065	216,508	206,767
Pension and retired priests' health care	213,129	220,509	126,958
Clergy Development	155,579	31,597	55,114
International Priests	143,104	98,355	181,526
Office for the Permanent Diaconate	57,902	64,874	103,649
Total Vocations, Clergy Formation and International Priests	1,543,541	1,245,736	1,321,272
Chancery Offices:			
Bishop's Office	461,260	353,682	427,460
Development and Stewardship Education	322,002	284,715	264,698
Chancellor's Office/Human Resources	103,613	122,563	116,812
Vicar General's Office	141,894	133,883	137,926
Retired Bishop's Office	129,397	122,422	96,141
Curator/Archivist	1,742	849	12,179
Purchasing and facilities services	4,432	3,479	44,247
Total Chancery Offices	1,164,340	1,021,593	1,099,463
Finance Department:			
Information technologies	947,267	786,967	740,914
Financial operations and services	784,753	740,879	752,881
Engineering and facilities management	219,787	212,186	220,062
Total Finance Department	1,951,807	1,740,032	1,713,857
Total Christ Our Shepherd Center	800,742	719,009	966,859
Total Communications and Evangelization	1,309,559	1,252,187	1,183,035
Other Administrative:			
Legal and professional fees	167,180	280,281	315,921
Regional and national dues	131,571	116,901	123,655
General Diocesan administration	105,772	125,841	132,676
Special events	46,690	131,235	14,250
Diocesan sites maintenance	6,414	6,158	6,009
Bad debt expense	742	1,450	1,518
Lay employee pension plan (credit) expense	(344,844)	(182,096)	(198,291)
Total Other Administrative	113,525	479,770	395,738
Total Expenses	9,924,636	9,496,557	10,038,053
Change in Net Assets without donor restrictions before adjustments and transfers:	430,706	2,283,583	499,839
Transfers from other funds	-	-	-
Transfers to other funds	(1,398,514)	(911,026)	(1,373,142)
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(967,808)	1,372,557	(873,303)
Temporarily restricted net assets:			
Contributions	4,042,380	3,758,017	3,572,834
Released from restrictions	(3,897,499)	(3,606,774)	(3,582,908)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	144,881	151,243	(10,074)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,871,148	5,347,348	6,230,725
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 6,048,221	\$ 6,871,148	\$ 5,347,348

Bishop blesses new altar at St. Gertrude Parish

Maria Guzzo
Contributing Writer

VANDERGRIFT — Many ceremonial practices went into Bishop Larry J. Kulick's blessing of the new altar at St. Gertrude Parish. The rituals characterize our sacramental journey, he said.

First, he blessed the new altar and sanctuary appointments with holy water, representing our baptism into the church. Then he anointed the marble-topped altar with chrism used in the administration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Holy Orders.

Then he incensed the altar, and prayers lifted to heaven on the smoke. Finally, he lit candles on the altar representing the light of Christ.

Bishop Kulick thanked parishioners for their generous stewardship that restored St. Gertrude Parish.

"We are truly thankful for God for the blessings he's given us so we can be thankful for the beautiful space to give Him worship, honor and glory," he said.

The new altar had been installed just days before the Jan. 22 altar-blessing Mass, which Benedictine Father James Loew, Pastor, said was the culmination of a decade-long, \$500,000 renovation.

"The 1970s modern altar

look didn't fit the Romanesque building," Father James said.

The project began with brick repointing and a new roof, he said, and a leak and the pandemic slowed the process.

Kurt Amendola, head of the parish's restoration committee, said that within the past 18 months, the project has included moving the organ back to the choir loft; painting the walls and embellishing the ceiling behind the altar; colorizing the Stations of the Cross and statues; and adding side aisle lights and a new crucifix, both of which came from a church in Lawrenceville.

The new altar, side altars, back altar, ambo and baptismal font, all white with gold embellishment, are now positioned further back, as opposed to the central location of the previous altar area. The old wood-tone '70s-era altar pieces have been placed for use at the St. Gertrude Cemetery chapel, Father James said.

Pews will be moved from the sides to the now-empty center area to complete two long rows of pews facing the new altar, he said.

He said the change has been well-received by parishioners.

"They're finding it a very prayerful and contemplative setting now," he said.



Bishop Kulick blesses the new altar at St. Gertrude Parish Jan. 22 and gathers with parishioners afterward.

PHOTOS BY MARIA GUZZO

Future renovation projects include replacing the carpet and adding handicapped accessibility.

Following Mass, the Bishop and parishioners met for a light lunch in the church hall with parishioner-baked cookies.



National Catholic Youth Conference set Nov. 16-18 in Indianapolis

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 2023 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be held Nov. 16-18 at the Indiana Convention Center.

This year's theme is "Fully Alive," inspired by Genesis 1:23-27; God created mankind in His image; in the image of God, He created them.

Speakers and artists will help teens reflect on how they, too, are made in the image and likeness of God and are called to be fully alive in his presence. The event is a powerful and life-changing faith experience that offers young people an opportunity to encounter Christ. There are opportunities for spiritual growth, prayer, learning and service via workshops and an interactive village that includes artistic and recreational activities and opportunities to connect with religious communities and Catholic colleges and universities.

For more information, visit ncyc.us.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

SEMINARIAN VISIT: Bishop Larry J. Kulick made a pastoral visit to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia March 16 to celebrate Mass for the seminary community and visit with seminarians from the Diocese of Greensburg. Father Christopher J. Pujol, above right, who attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, joined Bishop Kulick to offer support and prayers. Pictured above are seminarians Kevin Richardson, Dave Slusarick and Tyler Randolph.

John Torres: Continuing his walk to the priesthood, from Sao Paulo to Greensburg

By Mary Seamans
Multimedia Coordinator

CONNELLVILLE — Seminarian John Torres took the next last step in the process of preparing to be ordained a Transitional Deacon in the Diocese of Greensburg Feb. 4, when Bishop Larry J. Kulick admitted him to Candidacy for Holy Orders at a Mass at St. Rita Parish.

Torres thanked his parents, brother and friends, watching the livestreamed Mass in Brazil, for their support in his journey of faith. He also thanked those present: seminarians, friends he made while attending Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, his adopted family in Connellsville, and the parishioners of St. Rita Parish, his adopted home parish, for their prayers and friendship and for being part of his walk to the priesthood.

Bishop Kulick congratulated Torres and praised him for his great patience.

"You are being prepared. Prepared for something great. Prepared to serve the people of God through Holy Orders," he said. "I want to thank you for your patience and your

spirit of cooperation, your disposition of generosity, and the wonderful example of giving yourself to the will and desire of God, who is working within you. You are helping all of us. You remind us that we need to conform our will to God's will."

Bishop Kulick said he is amazed that Torres came to the United States from Brazil speaking no English, even though all of his graduate studies were being taught in English.

"This reminds us all of what we can accomplish if our mind and heart are in rhythm with God's design and will," he said.

Bishop Kulick told those at the Mass and those watching from afar that God has called Torres in a special way. Referencing the Gospel of Matthew proclaimed at the Mass (Mt 5:13-16), he reminded Torres that God is not only calling him to be the salt of the earth, but as a deacon and as a priest he will be a great dispenser of the sacred mysteries.

"Help all of us be that seasoning of the world that reflects the uniqueness of Jesus, in a world today that has lost its taste. It is



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS
THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Top, from left: Father Paul A. Lisik, John Torres, Bishop Kulick and Father Tyler J. Bandura.

longing to be seasoned and is needing to regain flavor," he said. "Bring Christ's love, joy and peace and be his light to all those you meet. We pledge our continued prayers for you, and we pray for all discerning a call to the priesthood, the diaconate and religious life."



Legion of Mary members renew devotion to Mary

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

SOUTH GREENSBURG — Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated Mass at St. Bruno Parish March 26, the fifth Sunday of Lent, prior to the Legion of Mary, Greensburg Comitium's annual Acies service.

At the Acies (Latin for army) service, Legion of Mary faithful renew their fealty and recite the words, "I am all yours, my queen, my mother, and all that I have is yours."

Father Salvatore R. Lamendola, spiritual director of the Greensburg Comitium and pastor of what Bishop Kulick referred to as the "twin cities" of the partner parishes of St. Martin in New Derry and St. Joseph in Derry, addressed members, telling them that Mary has a very important role to play as a mother and a teacher who can intercede for us.

"When we trust ourselves to Our Lady, it doesn't mean she does everything. She will make us work. It's easier to say 10 'Hail Marys' than to forgive someone," Father Lamendola said.

The Mass and Acies service are held on or near the Feast of the



MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Sue Fey, a parishioner of Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysburg, adjusts flowers at a shrine to Mary at the Acies service.

Annunciation (this year celebrated March 25) so Legion members can renew their devotion to Mary

and their pledge to the Blessed Mother to continue their prayers and service.

Schmidt lecture April 13 at Seton Hill

GREENSBURG — Theologian Dr. M. Shawn Copeland will present "The Uncommon Faithfulness of Henriette Delille" as the 2023 Sister Mary Schmidt Lecture at Seton Hill University April 13 at 7 p.m. in Cecilian Hall.

Venerable Henriette Delille, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, La., was born in 1812. She founded the second Black religious order in the United States. Her faith led her to reject social expectation; she focused on building a congregation of women religious dedicated to caring for the sick, helping the poor, and instructing both free and enslaved children and adults.

Copeland is an award-winning writer and scholar. Among her books is "The Subversive Power of Love: The Vision of Henriette Delille."

The lecture is free and open to the public and will also be available via Zoom. For information, visit scsh.org.

Uniontown parishes beacon of hope for many

By **Cliff Gorski**
Executive Editor

UNIONTOWN — From supporting expectant and young mothers to helping homeless women transition to productive and spiritual lives, the four parishes that make up the Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown are a beacon of hope for those whose lives are in crisis or need.

At the center of this light of hope is St. Mary (Nativity) Parish. In addition to holding religious formation classes in its former school building, Father Anthony J. Klimko, pastor, recently leased space in the building to Connellsville-based Alternatives.Yes Pregnancy Support Center. The nonprofit provides free services to pregnant women and life-affirming services that protect and enhance their lives, their children and their families through pregnancy and beyond.

Establishing a satellite center in Uniontown was an important strategic move for the organization, according to Andrea Pritts, Executive Director. In December 2022, Pritts secured a grant to create the center. The only requirement was that Pritts had to have a location for the site in 60 days.

"We thought we had a building in place; it was such a sure thing that we were already packing up office inventory for the move," Pritts said. "But the deal fell through at the very last minute. We felt deflated and were ready to give up."

Pritts recalled a conversation she had with Father Klimko nine months before this setback, in which he offered her space. She called him immediately to

see if he was serious about the offer. He was and moved quickly to get approval to lease the space.

For Pritts and Father Klimko, the satellite pregnancy center is a perfect fit for those facing pregnancy and for mothers and fathers in need.

"In our parish, we have a Ladies of Charity Baby Closet and less than a block away is St. Vincent de Paul, and our parish has food drives for the needy, so it shows you how much our parishioners are aware of the need and the support of the dignity of human life in our area," Father Klimko said.

The Ladies of Charity moved their inventory of baby clothes and children's items from the space to a new location in the former school, and volunteers from the Knights of Columbus worked quickly to make repairs and renovations to the space. Pritts, who is hoping to bring ultrasound equipment to Fayette County as part of the organization's services, has not set a date for a ribbon cutting on the new site.

"It all happened so quickly, and we are so grateful to Father Tony, St. Mary's, the Ladies of Charity and Bishop Kulick for welcoming us with open arms," she said.

Across the parking lot from the former school building is Mary House, which provides a safe, secure, spiritual environment for women who are homeless and in need of transitional housing.

The former convent is currently home to six women who were homeless due to addiction, domestic violence or other issues. Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill Annette Frey and Edie Strong share community life



PHOTOS BY CLIFF GORSKI THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick and representatives of Alternatives.Yes Pregnancy Support Center and the Knights of Columbus are seen at Alternatives.Yes' new satellite center at St. Mary (Nativity) Parish in Uniontown.

with the residents and assist them in transition. Mary House has been serving the community since 2016.

While living at Mary House, the residents are required to help with meals and housekeeping and gather for prayer and the main meal each day.

"If they are in recovery, they are required to attend their meetings, work, go to school or to volunteer during the day," said Sister Edie. "It gives them a chance

to get their feet on the ground to find housing and get their life together."

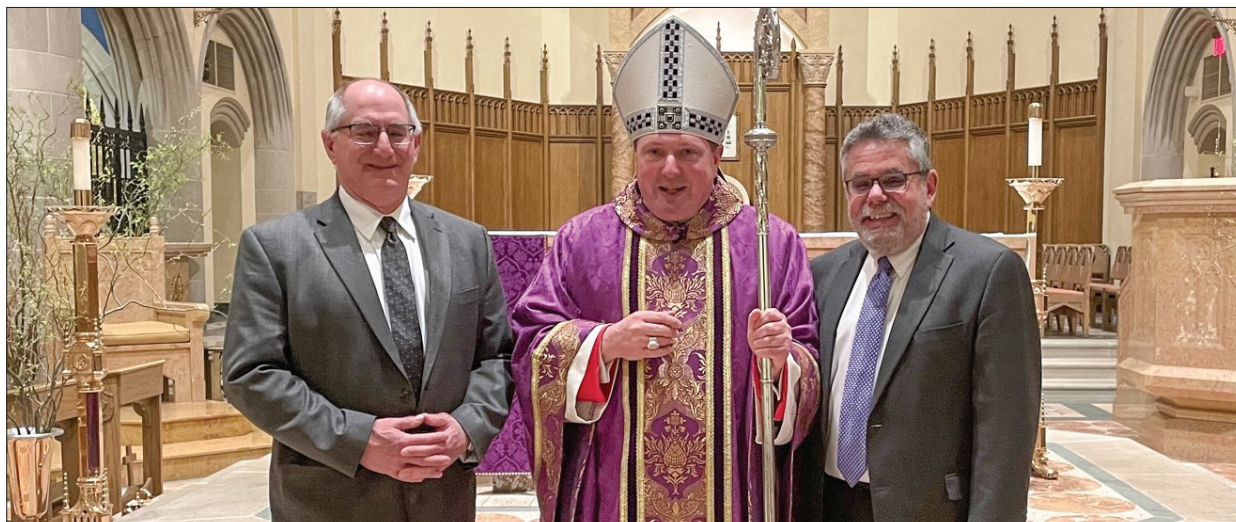
The residents are required to work on goals during their time at Mary House and report their progress to the sisters on a monthly basis.

They are allowed to stay at Mary House for up to two years. There is a waiting list to join the sisters and their support at Mary House. Women who have been addicted must go through a detoxification

program and rehabilitation before they are permitted to become residents.

Sister Annette said there is a great need for the program, which is supported through grants and by the Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown.

"We have so many success stories," she said. "We keep up with those who have successfully left and welcome them back with an open house to celebrate their accomplishments."



ACOLYTES INSTALLED: On March 11, Bishop Larry J. Kulick installed Jerome Tuscan and Mark Ferlin to the Ministry of Acolyte. In this role, they serve at the altar and assist the Priest and Deacon. It is his place principally to prepare the altar and the sacred vessels and, if necessary, to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful as an extraordinary minister. This is another step towards their installation as members of the Permanent Diaconate.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



BISHOP VISITS SCHOOLS:

Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated Mass during Catholic Schools Week in February with students from Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School and Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



GCC honors three Distinguished Centurions

GREENSBURG — Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School honored three alumni at the annual Distinguished Centurion Awards and Auction, “Run for the Roses & GCC,” Feb. 17.

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Jessel, Class of 2004, was honored as the Distinguished Centurion — Young Alumnus; Elise Nicoletti, Class of 1983, is the Distinguished Centurion — Service; and Shari Shink, Class of 1966, is the Distinguished Centurion — Achievement.



Jessel, a native of Latrobe, earned a political science degree at College of Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass., where he joined the Navy ROTC program. He was

commissioned into the Navy upon his graduation.

He also holds a master’s degree in engineering management from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus. “GCC grounded me both in faith and character,” he said.

Jessel and his wife, Amy, have three children and live in Norfolk, Va.

Nicoletti, a Greensburg native, earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education — English history at West Virginia University, then began teaching in a school for migrant children in California. She earned a master’s degree in secondary education from Fresno



Pacific University. She is the English department chairwoman at Los Banos (Calif.) High School.

She volunteers at her parish, serves the St. Paul Catholic Newman Center as a lector, and also assists with the RCIA and adult confirmation groups. She helped start a children’s choir at her parish.

Of her time at GCC, she said, “I was armed sufficiently to thrive in the academic and church communities where I have and do serve presently.”

Nicoletti lives in Fresno and has two adult children. Shink, a West Newton native, earned a psychology degree at the University of Pittsburgh, graduated from Rutgers Law School, Camden, N.J., and began her career as a staff attorney in Pittsburgh. In 1981, she ran a federal project to study quality legal representation for children and in 1985 started the nonprofit Rocky

Mountain Children’s Law Center and has served as executive director for 35 years. In 2016 she was inducted into the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame. After retiring from the RMCLC in 2020, she formed the nonprofit Cobbled Streets, which provides opportunities for children in foster care.



At GCC, “We were taught to pursue our ambitions, but not at the expense of others, to strive for success, but not without compassion for those less fortunate and encouraged to be strong in our convictions, but humble in their expression,” she said.

She lives in Wheat Ridge, Colo.

— *The Catholic Accent*



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Varsity champs Mother of Sorrows Blue, left; junior varsity champs Queen of Angels



MOSS, Queen of Angels win CYO championship

The Diocesan CYO boys basketball championship was held at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School Feb. 18-19. Mother of Sorrows Blue won the varsity championship and Queen of Angels won the junior varsity championship. Results are below, with high scorers in *italic*.

VARSITY

Round One

Mary Queen of Apostles 39
St. John the Evangelist 24
MOA — *John Marino, 14;*
SJE — *Luke Cavanagh, 11*

Semifinals

Mother of Sorrows Blue 42
Mary Queen of Apostles 38
MOS B — *Chase Gelpi, 12;*
MOA — *John Marino, 15*

Mother of Sorrows White 22
Geibel 20
MOS W — *Nate Morgan, 12;*
G — *Eahn Stevenson, 10*

Championship

Mother of Sorrows Blue 45
Mother of Sorrow White 27
MOS B — *Chase Gelpi, 24;*
MOS W — *Nate Morgan, 18*

JUNIOR VARSITY

Round One

Mary Queen of Apostles 24
St. John the Evangelist 11
MOA — *Phoenix Medina, Frank Girardi*
and *John Krajci, 6;*
SJE — *Blake Cummings, 7*

Christ the Divine Teacher 30
Mother of Sorrows White 9

CDT — *Zach Skoloda, 16;*
MOS — *Brady Sunseri, 7*

Round Two

Queen of Angels 30
Mary Queen of Apostles 8
QA — *Nathan Sydeski, 8;*
MOA — *John Krajci, 4*

Conn Area Catholic 20
Mother of Sorrows Blue 19
CAC — *Ryder Zinsky, 9;*
MOS — *Christian Kallen, 9*

Aquinas Academy Blue 35
Christ the Divine Teacher 34
AA B — *Dan Brady, 13;*
CDT — *Zach Skoloda, 17+*

Aquinas Academy White 25
St. Sebastian 20

AA W — *Warren Fisher, 8;*
SS — *Zane Madison, 7*

Semifinals

Queen of Angels 41
Conn Area Catholic 27
QA — *Nathan Sydeski, 10;*
CAC — *Ryder Zinsky, 13*

Aquinas Academy White 26
Aquinas Academy Blue 21
AA W — *Warren Fisher, 8;*
AA B — *Danny Brady, 12*

Championship

Queen of Angels 38
Aquinas Academy White 29
QA — *Nathan Sydeski, 13;*
AA W — *Warren Fisher, 17,*
Trace Joyner, 12

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Students from Catholic schools in Fayette County were winners of the 2023 Pro-Life Essay Contest sponsored by Alternatives.Yes Pregnancy Support Center.

Chase Goletz, a seventh-grader at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown, won first place. **Ava Fisher**, an eighth-grader at the school, won second place. **Izzy Miller**, a homeschooled seventh-grader, won third place. Honorable mentions went to **Paige Dolan**, a sixth-grader at Conn Area Catholic School, Connellsville, and St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School students **Mallory Clemmer**, a seventh-grader, **Emmi Dedola**, an eighth-grader, and **Dominic Petrovich**, a sixth-grader.

...

Members of the Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, forensic team won awards in several recent competitions.

The following were winners in the Forensic League Tournament Jan. 21 at Peters Township Middle School:

- Sixth-graders **Hadassah Cardaro** and **Aby Farmer**, first and second place awards in poetry

- Sixth-grader **Ava Myers**, two second place awards in drama

- Sixth-grader **Julia Skowronski** and seventh-grader **Emmalin Domiano**, first and second place awards in prose

- Team of sixth-graders **Evan Crimmins**, **Joelle Ondriezek** and **Carson Gray** and seventh-graders **Greta Magnusen** and **Bria Domiano**, two first-place awards in multiple reading

- Team of sixth-grader **Addyson Gouza** and fifth-graders **Martha Palumbo** and **Zoey Farmer**, first and second place awards in multiple reading

- Seventh-grader **Ava Shumaker**, two first place awards in impromptu

In the Finals Forensic Tournament Feb. 25 at South Fayette High School, the following took honors:

- Evan, Joelle, Carson, Greta and Bria won first place awards in multiple reading
- Hadassah and Aby won

second place awards in poetry

- Eighth-graders **Louisa Palumbo** and **Vanessa Ibrahim** won first place awards in drama

- Julia won first place and Bria won second place in prose

- Ava won second place in impromptu

In the all-stars competition in the same tournament, Evan, Joelle, Carson, Greta and Bria won first place in multiple reading, Vanessa won third place in drama and Ava won fifth place in impromptu.

...

Vanessa Ibrahim, **Logan Polito** and **Louisa Palumbo**, eighth-graders at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, won first-place awards in the Region 7 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in February at Baldwin High School.

Vanessa also received a Director's Award in zoology for her project on "The Effect of Caffeine on the Heart Rate of Daphnia Magna." Logan also received the Duane Keenan Memorial Award for



PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown, students delivered personal care bags to Hillside Manor, Peroni Personal Care and Senior Life in Uniontown during Catholic Schools Week Jan. 29-Feb. 4. Pictured are sixth-graders Eli Rittenhouse, left, and Dominic Petrovich with Angela Georgiana.

his zoology experiment "Does the Magnetic Field Affect the Hatching Rate of Brine Shrimp?"

Louisa's project was "The Effect of Baking Powder on the Fluffiness of Gluten free Pancakes."

...

Natalia Mlinarcik (fifth grade) and **Louisa Palumbo**

(eighth grade), students at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, were named Carson Scholars.

...

Chase Porter, a seventh-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, won first place in the district Patriot's Pen essay competition.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAKFAST/BAKE SALE

New Alexandria — St. James Parish will hold a breakfast and bake sale April 30 from 8 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-12 and free for those under 6. Information: 724-668-2829.

BINGOS

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish will hold bingo in the social hall April 16 and 30 and May 7 at 2 p.m.

Greensburg — The Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School Football Boosters will hold bingo May 7 at the Youngwood Fire Hall. Doors open at 12:30, with lunch at 1 and games at 2:30. A basket raffle and games of chance are planned. Admission is \$30. Tickets: bingo@gccboosters.org or Natasha Shawley, 724-244-2720.

Harrison City — St. Barbara Parish will hold bingo April 13, May 3, June 7 and July 5 in the social hall. Packages start at \$27. Doors open at 5 p.m., with games at 6:45. Information: 724-744-4584 or 724-744-7474.

Jeannette — Sacred Heart Parish will hold a “Super Bingo” May 20 in the cafeteria. Doors open at noon and games begin at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 and include lunch. There will also be a 50/50 drawing and basket raffles. Tickets can be purchased after weekend Masses, at the St. Vincent de Paul Store in Jeannette or by calling 724-875-2437 or 724-396-9737.

Trafford — The Knights of Columbus will hold bingo April 23, May 21, Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 19 at St. Regis Parish. Admission is \$15.

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish holds bingo generally the first Sunday of each month. The next bingo is May 7. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with bingo at 2. Refreshments will be available. Information: 724-423-3777.

BUS TRIP

Greensburg — St. Paul Parish is planning a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, to see “Moses” June 23. Cost is \$178. Participants can register, pay a deposit and sign waivers at scholasticatravel.groupcollect.com/go/15477a. Information: 724-989-6034.

CAMPS

Mount Pleasant — Registration is open for summer camps at Laurelville Retreat Center (weeklong day camps for ages 6-12 and overnight camps for ages 6-17). Information/registration: laurelville.org/programs-and-events or 724-423-2056.

CARD PARTY

Apollo — St. James Parish will have a card party April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the activities center. Admission is \$5. Groups of four can play; 50/50 drawings will be held and food will be available. Information: 724-882-8776.

CRAFT SHOWS

Latrobe — St. John the Evangelist Parish will hold a craft and vendor show May 6 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. To reserve a space, contact Gladys Monroe at gladmon@verizon.net or 724-875-0742.

South Greensburg — The Rosary Altar Society of St. Bruno Parish will hold a “Swing Into Spring” crafter’s market May 6 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parish hall. The kitchen will be open; basket and 50/50 raffles are planned. Crafter applications are still being accepted. Information: Beth Iezzi, balwine7@yahoo.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT

North Huntingdon — St. Agnes Parish will hold an Easter egg hunt for children ages 1-12 on Easter Octave Day, April 16, at 12:30 p.m. The event will include lunch and prizes. RSVP: mditoppa@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-836-2626.



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THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

2023 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Publication Date	Deadline to Submit Material
*May 12 (Summer Events)	April 7
July 20 (Jubilarians)	July 6
*Aug. 11 (TBD)	July 7
Oct. 19	Oct. 5
*Nov. 16 (Christmas)	Oct. 13

The Catholic Accent is published monthly on the third Thursday of the following months: January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November. The publication is magazine style (listed in bold) once a quarter and newspaper style the other four months. Please observe the deadlines for submitting advertising and editorial material for each issue.

***The Around the Diocese events and announcements are NOT included in the magazine issues (bold).** Please plan accordingly to have events submitted in time to be included in newspaper issues.

Information: news@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-834-4010.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN EVENTS

Fairchance — SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish will have Stations of the Cross April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

South Greensburg — St. Bruno Parish will hold a fish dinner Good Friday, April 7, from 2:30-7 p.m. in the parish center. Takeout will be available. Information: 724-836-0690.

Jeannette — Sacred Heart Parish will hold a fish fry Good Friday, April 7, from 4-7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Takeout will be available. Orders: 724-527-9940 (beginning at 2 p.m.). Stations of the Cross will be at 9 a.m. Good Friday.

Kent — Church of the Good Shepherd Parish will have Stations of the Cross April 6 at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 6 p.m.

North Huntingdon — St. Agnes Parish will have Stations of the Cross Good Friday, April 7, at noon.

Yatesboro — St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, will have Stations of the Cross April 6 at 6 p.m.

LOTTERY TICKET

Jeannette — Sacred Heart Parish is sponsoring a "Mother's Day Special" lottery ticket. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 or 1 roll each of \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$10 and \$20 PA Instant Lottery Tickets. The winner will be determined on Mother's Day, May 14. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the church after weekend Masses, and by calling 724-396-9737.

MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST

Crabtree — The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat — A Ministry to Catholic Women will hold a breakfast April 29, from 9 a.m.-noon at Rizzo's Malabar Inn banquet hall. Guest speaker Benedictine Father John-Mary Tompkins will talk about his faith journey. Cost is \$25 (students \$20). Registration: 724-836-2094 by April 24 or download a form at magnificatgreensburg.com.

MASS REQUESTS

Greensburg — St. Anne Home is accepting 2023 Mass requests, especially if a parish has more Mass requests than can be accommodated. Also available are \$3 weekly candles and \$10 sanctuary lamps. Send date requests (provide three preferences) to St. Anne Home, 685 Angela Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. Information: Cheryl Hall, 724-837-6070, ext. 3050.

OLDIES DANCE

Indiana — St. Thomas More University Parish will host an oldies dance June 2 from 7-10 p.m. at Indiana Country Club. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are \$25 per person. Information: 724-349-1306 or 724-463-2277.

PROGRAMS

Latrobe — St. Vincent Basilica Parish is offering a seven-week "Discovering Christ" program Tuesdays, April 18-May 30, from 6-9 p.m. (including dinner), plus a retreat May 20 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Reservations: basilicaparishtv.org/christlife or Kristina Davies, 724-539-8629, ext. 19, or kristina.davies@stvincent.edu.

PURSE BASH

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish will hold a designer purse bash (21 and over) April 23 from 1-4 p.m. in the social hall. Tickets are \$30 and include wine, soft drinks, light snacks and desserts (BYOB permitted). Auction baskets, strip tickets and a 50/50 raffle will also be featured. Tickets are available after the Sunday 11 a.m. Mass, at the parish office in Apollo, or by calling or texting 724-980-2087.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet Sunday, April 16, from 3-4:15 p.m. in Brownfield 202 at Saint Vincent Seminary. Benedictine Brother Francisco Whittaker will speak on "Conversatio morum." For reservations, call Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Attendees may attend vespers at 5 p.m. and supper at 5:35; an additional session is available at 6:45 p.m. (discussion based on the "Study Guide for the Rule of St. Benedict"). Call Father Donald a few days in advance to register for supper and evening events. Upcoming dates/speakers are May 21, Archabbot Martin Bartels on "Ask the Abbot"; June 11, Dr. Ralph Martin; and July 16, Benedictine Brother Bede Maxson on "The Benedictine Order in the United States."

Latrobe — The Secular Discalced Carmelites of Latrobe (Community of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) are lay men and women and diocesan priests who live out a vocation of prayer and apostolic activity in the world in the spirit of St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The community is open to practicing Catholics. Information: Stephanie Malley, ocdspa07@gmail.com or 412-373-1915.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

LENTEN REFLECTION: The Ladies of Faith of St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon, hosted an "Afternoon of Lenten Reflection" March 11. The Stations of the Cross were prayed through the eyes of Mary; a series of meditation and prayers followed Mary's thoughts and words leading to the Passion. Seminarian Mario Porreca gave a reflection on the Passion of Our Lord according to Mark. A reception followed in the parish hall. Pictured are members of the spiritual committee and Porreca, from left: Elaine Johnson, Marlene Nicolaus, Lana Gates, Lynn Nallo, Celeste Palamara and Janet Manderino.



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETREATS

Latrobe — The Saint Vincent Archabbey Summer Retreat Program will host three retreats in July. Benedictine Father Nathanael Polinski will conduct a men's retreat July 14-16 on the topic "Put Out Into the Deep (Luke 5:4)." Benedictine Father Donald Raila will lead the Benedictine Spirituality Retreat July 21-23 with the theme "Avoiding the 'Evil of Grumbling': Living in Praise and Thanksgiving." Benedictine Father Alfred Patterson will speak on "More Saints Alive!" a continuation of a similar topic last year, during a retreat for women and men July 28-30. Information/registration: saintvincentretreats.org.

RUMMAGE SALES

East Vandergrift — Rummage sales are held Mondays from noon-3 p.m. in the basement of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish.

SPEAKERS

Greensburg — The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill offer speaker programs to parishes and organizations. For topics or to schedule a speaker, contact Sister of Charity Colette Hanlon at 203-809-1574 or chanlon@scsh.org.

SUPPORT

Freeport — GriefShare, a weekly seminar and support group, meets Sundays from 6-7:30 p.m. at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish. Registration: 724-295-2281.

Harrison City — The St. Peregrine cancer support group meets monthly (usually the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.) at St. Barbara Parish. All cancer survivors and caregivers are welcome. Upcoming meeting dates are April 19, May 17, June 14 and July 12.

Latrobe — Meetings for Always God's Children, a ministry for LGBTQ Catholics and their families, are held in-person and virtually the second Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe. Information: Kristina Davies, kristina.davies@stvincent.edu or 724-539-8629, ext. 19.

Latrobe/Whitney/Youngstown — Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, an ecumenical social outreach mission of St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney, Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, offers monthly support group meetings for grandparents. Information: 724-423-3777 or 724-537-7358.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

North Huntingdon — St. Agnes Parish will hold its Bible Drama Camp for students in kindergarten through 12th grade June 26-29 from 9 a.m.-noon, with an extended rehearsal June 28 and a performance at 6:30 p.m. the final day. This year's musical will be "The Genesis Files." Cost is \$20; reservations are due May 26. Registration: stagneschurch.info.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Freeport — St. Mary, Mother of God Parish will hold a non-denominational Tenebrae service on Good Friday, April 7, at 8:30 p.m. and a Divine Mercy Sunday liturgy April 16 (eucharistic adoration from noon-3 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation 1-1:50 p.m., Divine Mercy devotion 2-3 p.m.).

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

Jeannette — The Thirteen Tuesdays in honor of St. Anthony will be prayed at Ascension Parish, Jeannette, on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. beginning March 21 and continuing through June 13. In addition to praying the Novena, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will take place.

YOUTH GATHERINGS

Mount Pleasant — Laurelville Retreat Center, Mount Pleasant Township, offers youth gatherings Sundays from 6-8 p.m. for students in seventh through 12th grade through May 14 (except Easter Sunday). The gatherings allow small churches to create a space for youth to have fun, form friendships and explore their faith. Adults from participants' home congregations may join in. Information: Leah Rittenhouse, leah@laurelville.org or 724-423-2429.



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Men encouraged to 'stand on the power of God'

By Jerry Zufelt

Special to The Catholic Accent

GREENSBURG — Deacon Ralph Poyo exhorted men to stop being “pew potatoes” and show people how to encounter the living God in his closing talk at THE WELL: “Be Not Afraid,” the Diocesan men’s conference, March 25 at Christ Our Shepherd Center.

“We need to stand on the power of God, but we are not living by the Word of God,” he told the more than 200 participants. “The world sees no conviction in our faith in Jesus Christ. We give it lip service.”

He urged them to instead be “all in” in their commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church.

“We have to turn everything over to the Lord,” said Deacon Poyo, founder of New Evangelization Ministries in Texas and a speaker at parish and diocesan events around the country.

In his keynote address, he said many men have replaced fear of the Lord with fear of man and treat church like a country club.

Deacon Poyo said we need to cry out to God in humility.

“Nothing is stronger than his mercy; we need to ask for it,” he said. “God wants to dwell in us.”

In his Great Commission at the close of the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus



CLIFF GORSKI THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Greg Wasinski speaks during THE WELL: Be Not Afraid men’s conference March 25 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.

reminds the disciples that he would be with them always, Deacon Poyo said.

“Be not afraid. Not because it isn’t scary but because Jesus is right here,” he said.

The day featured a variety of speakers.

Father Joseph Freedy, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, told the men they need to be transformed.

“You cannot conform to this age because it has too much anger and lust; you need to take yourselves out

of this age,” he said. “You have to want holiness and ask for holiness. Share your heart with God.”

Greg Wasinski, executive director of “Let Me Be ...” Ministries near Cleveland, said men need to allow God in their lives the six days of the week after Sunday Mass.

“God’s plan is bigger than our plan,” he said. “He wants us to all journey together. He wants us to be everything he created us to be.”

Vincent Reilly, Managing Director of Faith, Family and Discipleship for the Diocese of Greensburg, presented an overview of the National Eucharistic Revival and emphasized how receiving the Eucharist is to participate in the divine life.

“The Eucharist is the place where Jesus comes into us,” he said. “God is God, and we are his instruments. True humility is taking the place assigned to us by God.”

Bishop Larry J. Kulick celebrated the closing Mass. In his homily about the Gospel account of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the Bishop noted how Lazarus is obedient to Jesus.

“Jesus says, ‘Lazarus, come out,’ and Lazarus is obedient to the Word of God made flesh,” Bishop Kulick said. “Listen and be obedient as Lazarus was. Come out of the darkness into the light.”

Attendees said the presentations were inspiring. Homer Zucconi, a parishioner of St. Anne Parish, Rostraver, said he was inspired by Father John A. Moineau, a priest of the Diocese who, with the help of treatment and prayers, survived a recent battle with pancreatic cancer.

Paul Rockar, a parishioner of Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysburg, said the day will help him inspire others to join ministries to be examples for the whole faith community.

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