

## Ordinations, graduations, jubilation!

Diocese of Greensburg ordains priest, five permanent deacons, celebrates Catholic high school graduates with parades, virtual ceremonies during coronavirus pandemic.



BARRY REEGER FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Father Mark R. Dunmire and Bishop Edward C. Malesic after priestly ordination June 13 (see pages 6-7).



BARRY REEGER FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Five new permanent deacons process out of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral after ordination June 20 (pages 8-9). With Father Alan N. Polczynski, front, are, clockwise from top left: Michael P. Dargay, William D. Wilson, Robert W. Stauffer, Craig A. Gilbert and Steven A. LoCascio.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Greensburg Central Catholic High School graduate Andrew Mazik is congratulated by, from left, GCC administrators Teresa Reha and Carla Burke and his parents, Mary Pat and Michael Mazik, May 21 during the school's #drivinmiles4seniorSMILES.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Morgan Motycki, Geibel Catholic High School salutarian, rides through the school grounds during a senior drive-through May 29.



### ALSO INSIDE

Pastors, community join in prayer vigil for unity, peace in wake of George Floyd death.

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## THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG,  
PENNSYLVANIA

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## OFFICIAL

*The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg, has made the following announcements and appointments:*

*Effective Wednesday, July 1, 2020*

### COMPLETION OF TERM:

**The Reverend Jose Ricky F. Cortez** with the completion of his term in the Diocesan International Priests' Program is returning to the Diocese of Tandag, Philippines.

### The Reverend Gregorio D.C.

**Soldevilla, Jr.** with the completion of his term in the Diocesan International Priests' Program is returning to the Diocese of San Jose de Antique, Philippines.

### The Reverend Andres C. Gumangan

with the completion of his term in the Diocesan International Priests' Program is returning to the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, Philippines.

*Effective Wednesday, July 8, 2020*

### RETIRED:

### The Very Reverend Daniel C.

**Mahoney, VF**, retired from Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, Vicar Forane of Deanery IV and as Bishop's Representative for Matters Pertaining to the Celebration of Mass in the Extraordinary Form, with residence in Saint Rose Parish rectory, Latrobe.

### The Reverend Robert M. Washko,

retired from Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Seward, to private residence

### PASTORS:

### The Very Reverend Thomas A.

**Federline, VF**, from Pastor of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana, and Vicar Forane of Deanery II to Pastor of Saint Pius X Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Mount Pleasant, and Saint Raymond of the Mountains Parish, Donegal, with residence in Saint Pius X Parish rectory, Mount Pleasant.

### The Reverend Richard J. Kosisko,

**JCL**, from Pastor of Saint Pius X Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Mount Pleasant, and Saint Raymond of the Mountains Parish, Donegal, to Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, while continuing his duties with the Tribunal of the Diocese of Greensburg.

### The Reverend William J. Lechnar,

from Pastor of Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning, and Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro, to Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Seward, while remaining Director of Diocesan Pilgrimages.

### The Reverend Ronald L. Maquiñana,

from Pastor of Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Freeport, to Pastor of Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning, and Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro, with residence in Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish rectory, Kittanning.

### The Reverend Victor S. Baguna,

from Administrator *pro tem* of Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning, and Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro, to Pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Brady's Bend.

### The Reverend Gilbert C. Gente,

from Parochial Vicar of Saint Paul Parish and Saint Bruno Parish, Greensburg, to Pastor of Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Freeport.

### PAROCHIAL VICARS:

### The Reverend Rodolfo P. Mejia, Jr.,

from Parochial Vicar of Saint Thomas More University Parish, Indiana, and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Central Indiana County, to Parochial Vicar of Church of the Resurrection Parish, Northern Indiana County, with residence in the rectory in Heilwood.

### The Reverend Mark R. Dunmire, to

Parochial Vicar of Saint Bruno Parish and Saint Paul Parish, Greensburg, with residence in Saint Bruno Parish Rectory, Greensburg.

### VICAR FORANE (DEANS):

### The Reverend Paul A. Lisik, to

Vicar Forane of Deanery IV, while remaining as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish and Saint Rita Parish, Connellsville, as well as Saint Aloysius Parish, Dunbar.

### The Reverend Alan N. Polczynski,

to Vicar Forane of Deanery II, while remaining as Pastor of Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City, and Saint Lawrence Parish, Cadogan.

### CHAPLAIN:

### The Reverend Rodolfo P. Mejia, Jr.,

Chaplain to Indiana Regional Medical Center, Indiana, while remaining Parochial Vicar of Church of the Resurrection Parish, Northern Indiana County.

### OTHER:

### The Reverend Matthew J. Morelli as

Bishop's Representative for Matters Pertaining to the Celebration of Mass in the Extraordinary Form, while continuing as Pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent, and Spiritual Director of the Holy Name Society of the Diocese of Greensburg.

### The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic,

*JCL, Bishop of Greensburg, at the presentation of The Very Reverend Thomas Betz, OFM Cap, Provincial Minister, Province of Saint Augustine (Capuchin Franciscan Friars), has made the following announcement and appointments:*

The establishment of a Capuchin Community and new Friary in the town of Indiana at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish to provide pastoral ministry and leadership at the parishes of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Saint Thomas More University, Indiana, and Our Lady of the Assumption, Central Indiana County, along with university campus ministry services at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Friary will be established at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish rectory.

### PASTORS:

### The Reverend John A. Pavlik, OFM

**Cap**, as Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Central Indiana County, with residence at the Friary at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Indiana.

### The Reverend Richard N. Owens,

**OFM Cap**, as Pastor of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish and Saint Thomas More University Parish, Indiana, with residence at the Friary at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Indiana.

### PAROCHIAL VICAR:

### The Reverend Tage A. Danielson,

**OFM Cap**, as Parochial Vicar of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish and Saint Thomas More University Parish, Indiana, with residence at the Friary at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Indiana.

### OTHER:

### Brother Thomas Choi, OFM Cap,

In Residence at the Friary at Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Indiana.

### PASTORS:

### The Reverend Lawrence L. Manchas,

from Administrator of Saint Bruno Parish, Greensburg, to Pastor of Saint Bruno Parish, Greensburg, while remaining Pastor of Saint Paul Parish, Greensburg.

### The Reverend James H. Loew, OSB,

from Administrator of Christ the King Parish, Leechburg, to Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Leechburg, while remaining Pastor of Saint Gertrude Parish, Vandergrift.

### The Reverend Daniel L. Blout, from

Administrator of Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, to Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, while remaining Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg.

*Bishop Malesic has granted a dispensation from the requirement of a liturgical installation ceremony for the above appointments.*

*Continued on page 3*



# Msgr. Donald J. Mondello remembered for patience, humor and love of the sacraments

*Priest of the Diocese of Greensburg for nearly 60 years, Msgr. Mondello dies at age 86*

**By Jerry Zufelt**  
Editor

**GREENSBURG** — Msgr. Donald J. Mondello was remembered as an excellent teacher, a patient mentor and extraordinarily sensitive pastoral leader by Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, vicar general.

Msgr. Mondello, a retired priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, died May 21 at St. Anne Home, Greensburg. He was 86 years old and would have celebrated his 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood May 28.

Due to the current health restrictions, a private funeral Mass was celebrated May 27. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date.

"His devotion to the sick and dying impressed upon me at an early age the importance of this ministry," Msgr. Kulick said. "He was ever present to anyone who needed him and was fiercely loyal, proud and protective of those under his care and guidance."

Msgr. Kulick was assigned to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg, after his ordination in June 1992 and spent two years with Msgr. Mondello.

"We were both natives of Leechburg, and I remember when I first spoke to Monsignor how graciously he welcomed me to the Cathedral and said how good it would be to have two 'Leechburgers' together," Msgr. Kulick said.

He said Msgr. Mondello was deeply devoted to the celebration of Mass and sacraments.

"He loved celebrating weddings and baptisms. He would often say after a busy day filled with many liturgies and sacramental duties, 'It's a wonderful



Msgr. Mondello

life, and remember, as hard as you work, it still isn't like going down into the coal mines," Msgr. Kulick said.

"His sense of wit and good humor always lightened the day and helped one navigate through the occasional difficulty or trying circumstance."

Msgr. Mondello was born May 3, 1934, to the late Bartholomew C. and Sara Demma Mondello. His home parish was the former St. Catherine Parish in Leechburg.

He was educated in Leechburg public schools, attended Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, and earned master's degrees in philosophy and theology from the former Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto. He attended the North American College Institute of Continuing Theological Education in Rome in 1993.

He was ordained to the priesthood May 28, 1960, by Bishop William G. Connare at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

Msgr. Mondello served as parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville (1960-63), Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin (1963-65), St. John the Evangelist Parish, Latrobe (1965-68) and St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon (1968-70). He served as administrator pro tem of St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont, in 1970. He served as pastor of St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish, Donegal (1970-75), and St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish (1975-83); rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg (1983-94); and pastor of Holy Family Parish, Latrobe (1994-2004).

He retired from active parish ministry Aug. 26, 2004.

Msgr. Mondello was named director of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) in 1974 and served the group as both director and spiritual director for four decades. He also served one term as moderator of the National Council of Catholic Women.

"He loved and was very devoted to the DCCW. As the current chaplain to this group, I try to continue his legacy," Msgr. Kulick said.

Msgr. Mondello served as diocesan pilgrimage director, on the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee, moderator of the Sodality and Catholic Youth Organization, district director for religious education in Deanery VI, moderator of the Deanery V Holy Name Society, and chaplain for the Westmoreland County Chapter of the Council of Catholic Nurses.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II named Msgr. Mondello Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, the second highest rank of monsignor.

## Bishop allows pastors to administer confirmation through November

**GREENSBURG** — Bishop Edward C. Malesic sent a decree of delegation on June 16 to the pastors and administrators of 44 parishes giving them the faculties to administer the sacrament of confirmation in their respective parishes. This delegation is effective through Nov. 28 this year, according to the decree.

Eight confirmations that were to be celebrated by Bishop Edward Malesic this spring were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting young people and adults from the 44 parishes.

Confirmations will be scheduled in the parishes at a time that is best for the community. The sacrament may take place during the week or on the weekend and may be within or outside of Mass. Details will be determined by the pastor or administrator and sent to those who were to have received the sacrament of confirma-

tion this past spring.

All diocesan COVID-19 precautions and social distancing guidelines will apply to the celebration of confirmation. This may require the sacrament to be celebrated in smaller groups, and the priest as minister of the sacrament wearing a face mask during the celebration.

Integral to the rite of confirmation is the laying on of hands and the anointing with sacred Chrism. Per the Congregation for the Discipline of the Sacraments and Divine Worship at the Vatican, the minister of confirmation may validly confirm using a cotton ball or Q-tip for the anointing. All other norms regarding confirmation, including sponsors, etc., are to be observed.

The diocese asks the faithful to hold the confirmands in their prayers over the next few months.

— The Catholic Accent



OFFICIAL

### DEACONS:

**Deacon F. Daniel Frescura**, from Deacon of Saint Ambrose Parish, Avonmore, Saint Matthew Parish, Saltsburg, and Saint Sylvester Parish, Slickville, to Deacon of Saint John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont, and Saint Mary Parish, Export, under the supervision of the Pastor, The Reverend Daniel J. Ulishney, JCL.

**Deacon William M. Newhouse**, Assistant Director of the Office for the Permanent Diaconate while remaining as Deacon of Sacred Heart Parish and Ascension Parish, Jeannette, and Assistant Episcopal Master of Ceremonies.

**Deacon Michael P. Dargay**, to Deacon of Holy Trinity Parish, Ligonier, under the supervision of the Pastor, The Reverend Anthony J. Carbone, JCL.

**Deacon Craig A. Gilbert**, to Deacon of Saint Ambrose Parish, Avonmore, Saint Matthew Parish, Saltsburg, and Saint Sylvester Parish, Slickville, under the supervision of the Pastor, The Reverend John J. Harrold.

**Deacon Steven A. LoCascio**, to Deacon of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, and Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, under the supervision of the Pastor, The Reverend Daniel L. Blout.

**Deacon Robert W. Stauffer**, to Deacon of Saint Edward Parish, Herminie, and Seven Dolors Parish, Yukon, under the supervision of the Administrator, The Reverend Richard J. Ulam, OSB.

**Deacon William D. Wilson**, to Deacon of Saint Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon, under the supervision of the Pastor, The Reverend Monsignor V. Paul Fitzmaurice.

**Deacon John D. Zombar**, from Deacon of Saint Edward Parish, Herminie, and Seven Dolors Parish, Yukon, to Deacon of Saint Paul Parish and Saint Bruno Parish, Greensburg, under the supervision of the Pastor, The Reverend Lawrence L. Manchias.

*Effective Monday, July 27, 2020*

### COMPLETION OF TERM AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

**The Reverend Efren C. Ambre**, with the completion of his first term in the Diocesan International Priests' Program and in anticipation of a second term here, has been granted a six-month leave to return to his home Diocese of Bangued, Philippines, in accordance with U.S. Immigration policy.

## In memoriam

- John K. Nelson, 91, May 30, 2020; grandfather of Father Eric J. Dinga, pastor of St. John the Evangelist and St. Rose parishes, Latrobe.
- Sister Concetta (Connie) Sciberras, SMR, 91, April 17, 2020; sister of Father Michael J. Sciberras, provides pastoral and sacramental ministry for St. Gertrude Parish, Vandergrift, Christ the King Parish, Leechburg, and Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift.
- Fidel Molina, 43, June 9, 2020; brother of Father Rodel Molina, parochial vicar of Mount St. Peter, St. Mary of Czestochowa and St. Joseph Parishes, New Kensington.

See additional obituaries on page 13.





Clockwise from above: Greensburg Police Patrolman Jason Dieter and Jared Thompson; Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, from left, Sister Mary Norbert Long, Sister Kwang Shim Oh and Sister Collette Hanlon; vigil participants; and Bishop Carl Jones Sr.

## Pastors call for unity, peace at prayer vigil for George Floyd

By Lori Padilla  
Contributing Writer

**GREENSBURG** — The Westmoreland County Courthouse served as the backdrop for an interdenominational prayer vigil June 13 to honor the memory of George Floyd and call for change.

"Today, as God's people, let us remind ourselves of who we are and *whose* we are. We have been created in the image of God. We are the Lord's. We were created for unity, not division," said Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, presenting remarks from Bishop Edward C. Malesic, who was unable to attend because the ordination Mass for Father Mark R. Dunmire at the cathedral was being celebrated at the same time. (*Story and photos, page 5.*)

The vigil's theme was "Servants of God Coming Together for Peace."

Young men and women, older couples, other clergy and several members of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill gathered peacefully to pray for peace and change in the world.

"Our Lord and Savior didn't die for one ethnicity, he died for all," said Bishop Carl Jones Sr. of Greater Parkview Church, Greensburg, one of the event organizers.

"We organized this prayer vigil because we want to do anything we can do to reconcile the spirit of the community. Prayer is the beginning of healing and understanding," said Bishop Dale Adams of LifeSpring Christian Church, Greensburg, the other organizer.

Pastor Bob Ross of Heritage Baptist Church of Jeannette said, "In the story of the Good Samaritan, years-old ethnic hatred was put aside and replaced with one soul helping another in physical need. We should not be fighting flesh and blood but rather fighting



for a positive spirit and peace."

Greensburg Police Patrolman Jason Dieter attended the event and said he wanted to show Greensburg that people can be united.

"There isn't an officer who doesn't see the wrong ones in their field. There needs to be more civil conversation and events such as this, as the more we are together, the more things can change," said Dieter, a police officer for 30 years.

Jared Thompson of Greater Parkview Church agreed with his friend.

"I have seen both sides of the law. We need to treat others as we would want to be treated. If we can effect change in Greensburg, we need to continue from there," he said.

"If people don't understand the Black Lives Matter effort, then they need to educate themselves. Study this as others studied the coronavirus, understand the problem and find a solution."

Bishop Adams said, "I can't say that I understand what black people go through. I'm white. But I can weep with them, hurt for them, rejoice with them."

Bishop Jones added, "If we can put on the same uniforms or the same choir robes, we can put aside our skin color and work together for peace."



PHOTOS BY LORI PADILLA FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



# Bishop Malesic's remarks for Greensburg prayer vigil

*The following remarks were delivered on behalf of Bishop Edward C. Malesic by Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle at the June 13 prayer vigil in Greensburg.*

I am here today personally representing Bishop Edward Malesic and the Diocese of Greensburg. I am Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, Rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, and the Managing Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.

I have been asked by Bishop Malesic to present his remarks to you. The Bishop would love to have been here, but right this moment he is actually just up the hill, at the Cathedral Church, getting ready to ordain a young man into the Roman Catholic priesthood. The following are his remarks to you all on this occasion.

"We are living in a nation on edge. We are weary — having socially isolated for many weeks, and we remain fearfully cautious of the coronavirus. Admittedly, the emotions of many are raw. And those emotions exploded recently as we witnessed the video of a black man, George Floyd, being held down by the knee of a white police officer — as he cried out, "I can't breathe" — to no avail. Nine minutes later, he was dead. Our country was rightfully horrified, and peaceful protests turned into violent riots.

We stand in support of those who peacefully protest racism in any form; the Roman Catholic Church recognizes racism as a sin. However, no one should stand with those who rob their neighbors, burn their cities, or promote anarchy instead of order. To honor the memory of George Floyd with such atrocities is very misguided.

Let me also say that we are grateful for, and offer our support to, those good police officers who do a difficult job every day, putting their lives on the line, trying to keep the order, while being spat upon, beaten up, and sometimes killed themselves. As Catholic Christians, we "reject harsh rhetoric that belittles and dehumanizes law enforcement personnel who labor to keep our communities safe" (Open Wide Our Hearts, p. 4).

It is a fact that racism exists among us — it influences people from all walks of life — and perhaps it is present in more of us than we would like to admit. "Every racist joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity, or place of origin — is a failure." Racism in our country is also a sign of our continuing disregard for the gift of human life, which comes to us from God. God is our common parent. Our disregard for human life begins early, when we reject God's gift of the child in the womb. From there, it is not a big leap to reject an adult child of God outside of the womb. Our disregard for each other can always be traced back to our disregard for God.

This has led to a deep harshness within our society and a quickness to feign outrage with even the slightest inconveniences — so that when something truly outrageous happens, we are either numb to it — or we explode. St. Paul tells us that what *should*



LORI PADILLA FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Above, Msgr. Riffle delivers remarks; below are vigil speakers Pastor Bob Ross, Heritage Baptist Church, Jeannette; Rev. Maryann Schneider, Living Word Congregational Church, Jeannette; Bishop Dale Adams, LifeSpring Christian Church, Greensburg; Bishop Carl Jones Sr., Greater Parkview Church, Greensburg; and Msgr. Riffle, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg.



JENNIFER MIELE THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

be present in us, due to our belief in Christ, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22). We saw evidence of those fruits in the peaceful march two weekends ago in Greensburg. However, we did not see those fruits in the more violent riots we witnessed in Pittsburgh and elsewhere.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, took notice of the events that have unfolded in our country. Last Wednesday he said, "My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that "the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost."

Then, the Holy Father joined us in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives because of the sin of racism. He asked for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, to intercede for all those who work for peace and justice in our land and throughout the world.

Today, as God's people, let us remind ourselves of who we are, and *whose* we are. We have been created in the image of God. We are the Lord's. In the Blessed Trinity, God is a perfect community of persons. It is in that image that we are made. We are created for unity, not for division. This unity, and the peace it brings, comes as a work of justice; and justice is not easily found. It comes primarily from a right relationship with

God, our right relationship with each another, and a right relationship with all of God's creation. St. Paul says today that we should "mend our ways. Live in peace, and (then) the God of love and peace will be with (us)."

This work of justice begins with humility. We must admit, as St. Paul says to the Romans, "all of us have sinned" (Romans 3:23). The First Letter of John tells us: "If we acknowledge our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing." Let us admit our guilt and ask for the Lord's healing love to change our hearts and to remake us into the image of God we were created to be.

When we let God be in charge, the Lord has a way of bringing amazing personal peace to us. Moreover, when the fire of God's love spreads to those around us — it can transform all of our society. Always remember that our fight is against evil of every kind; may we never give in to its darkness. Instead, let us overcome the darkness today by figuratively lighting a candle — and proclaiming in that light that we are *all* children of the same God, whether black or white, Jew or Christian, born or unborn, male or female. Let us proclaim this, not just with our words, but with our witness, that life is good.

Finally, let us recall the story of Cain, who killed his brother Abel. When God asked Cain what had happened — Cain said to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Today, God reminds each of us — Yes, you are. May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit — the God who is a perfect community of persons — teach us how to live in a community of truth and love with each other.



# OVERWHELMING JOY

Father Mark R. Dunmire praises God as he is ordained to the priesthood

**GREENSBURG** — “I was so overwhelmed. As I lay on the altar, I was giving nonstop praise to God,” the diocese’s newest priest, Father Mark R. Dunmire, said after being ordained June 13 by Bishop Edward C. Malesic at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

“Our cathedral is filled with joy,” Bishop Malesic said to the approximately 100 people who attended the Mass, which was limited to invitation only due to restrictions still in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

In his homily, which was directed to Father Dunmire prior to ordination, Bishop Malesic said a priestly vocation is a mysterious call that comes from within us and is very hard to describe.

“It is formed in our families, nurtured by our Church and guided by our pastors,” he said. “But the call, make no doubt, comes from God — Mark, God chose you before you chose him.”

Noting that Father Dunmire was being ordained in “strange days in our world ... a time of pandemic, racial tension, protests and riots,” Bishop Malesic encouraged him to “bring your enthusiasm and your desire to serve and lead us to Christ, our hope, the real savior of the world.

“We believe in the triumph of life over death. We find glory in the cross of Christ,” he said. “Be encouraged by the signs of hope all around us.”

And he encouraged the new priest to pray, because that provides the energy to do what needs to be done for the Lord every day.

“Be humble. Be human. Be forgiving — especially of yourself. Always be a disciple of Jesus first, and draw strength from your relationship with him. Then you will be a good priest,” Bishop Malesic said.

“Mark, the grace of ordination does not depend on the number of people in the cathedral at your ordination, but on the capacity of your heart,” he said.

“Open wide your heart to Christ today. He wants to fill it with priestly zeal. But, remember, this is just an ordination liturgy that lasts for a moment in time — your priesthood will be forever.”

He promised to pray for Father Dunmire.

Father Dunmire’s family joined in the celebration, and his parents were overwhelmed, too.

“It’s wonderful, he’s blessed,” his father, Richard, said. “He’s had this calling all of his life.”

Father Dunmire’s mother, Marie, was almost at a loss for words.

“It was just too much,” she said. “I am so happy, I can’t believe it.”

Father Dunmire, 36, who was vested by Father Kenneth G. Zaccagnini, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, said he felt welcome to the presbyterate by his brother priests.

Bishop Malesic announced that Father Dunmire’s first appointment will be as parochial vicar of St. Paul Parish and St. Bruno Parish in Greensburg, effective July 8.

In lieu of the large, traditional Mass of Thanksgiving the day after ordination, Father Dunmire celebrated a Mass for family and priests who helped him on his vocation journey.



## FATHER MARK R. DUNMIRE

**Born:** July 12, 1983

**Parents:** Richard and Marie Dunmire

**Siblings:** Eric Dunmire, Dana Capsambelis, Ryan Dunmire

**Hometown:** Lower Burrell

**Home parish:** St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell

**Education:** Bachelor of fine arts in media arts, television and video production, Robert Morris University, Coraopolis

**Pre-theology:** St. Mark Seminary, Erie

**Seminary:** St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, with baccalaureate in sacred theology and master of divinity



Clockwise from top: Father Dunmire makes the Promise of Obedience to Bishop Malesic; Father Dunmire gives a thumbs-up toward the end of his ordination Mass; Father Dunmire’s parents, Richard and Marie, applaud; and Father Dunmire lies prostrate on the altar during the Litany of Saints.

**PHOTOS BY BARRY REEGER  
FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT**





Clockwise from top: Father Kenneth G. Zaccagnini and Father Dunmire exchange a social distance greeting after the vesting; Father Dunmire poses for a photo with Bishop Malesic, Father Zaccagnini and Msgr. James T. Gaston; Bishop Malesic presents the chalice and paten to Father Dunmire; Bishop Malesic says the prayer of ordination; and Father Dunmire gives the sign of peace.



Diocesan seminarians are introduced at the close of the Mass. From left are Christopher J. Pujol, Zachary L. Lentz, Andrew J. Hamilton, Craig E. Alexander, David M. Slusarick, Jeremy P. Zawelensky and Aidan P. Kerlin.





PHOTOS BY BARRY REEGER FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Malesic stands with the new deacons after the ordination Mass June 20. From left are Deacons Craig A. Gilbert, William M. Newhouse, Steven A. LoCascio, Bishop Malesic, Deacons William D. Wilson, Robert W. Stauffer, Michael P. Dargay and William J. Hisker.

## Five permanent deacons ordained for service to the diocese

*Number of permanent deacons now at 14*



Above, Deacon LoCascio receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Malesic, as Deacon Newhouse looks on; at right, the deacons lie prostrate on the altar during the singing of the Litany of the Saints; below, Kathy Gilbert presents the vestments for her husband, Deacon Craig A. Gilbert.



**By Jerry Zufelt**  
Editor

**GREENSBURG** — The five men ordained to the permanent diaconate were lauded by Bishop Edward C. Malesic for answering the question, “Can I lend a hand?” by committing to help the church to spread the Gospel message.

Bishop Malesic ordained Michael P. Dargay of Tarrs, Craig A. Gilbert of Delmont, Steven A. LoCascio of Greensburg, Robert W. Stauffer of Adamsburg and William D. Wilson of North Huntingdon at a Mass June 20 in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

“Always remember that your desire to serve as an ordained permanent deacon comes from God’s call in your life,” Bishop Malesic said in his homily. “He is the one asking you for help.”

He acknowledged the fact that the deacons were accompanied on their path to ordi-

nation by their wives: Karen Dargay, Kathy Gilbert, Cheryl LoCascio, Bonnie Stauffer and Debbie Wilson.

“You are also serving the church by allowing your husbands to answer the call to ordained diaconal ministry,” he said. “And, after God, you will be their main support in the years ahead. As faithful women of the church, you have also asked us, ‘How can I help to build up the church and to serve its people?’”

He told the deacon candidates to let the gift of the Holy Spirit they would receive at ordination strengthen them for each and every task they faced.

Permanent deacons serve the diocesan bishop and priests in the ministry of the Word, in service at the altar and by performing works of charity, Bishop Malesic explained. The deacons will preside over public prayer, administer the sacrament of

### WHAT DOES A PERMANENT DEACON DO?

Permanent deacons serve the church by proclaiming the Word, serving at the altar and extending service to others. Sacramentally, deacons do not celebrate Mass or hear confessions, but they can baptize, and they can officiate at weddings and lead funeral services where there is no Mass. They receive their appointments from the diocesan bishop and work in conjunction with the priests of the diocese as a complement to the presbyterate.



baptism, assist at and bless marriages, bring viaticum to the dying, and conduct funeral rites.

“You must show yourself to be a servant to all,” Bishop Malesic said. “You will help the church by exhorting believers and unbelievers alike and instructing them in holy doctrine.”

The deacons each prom-

ised obedience to the bishop and his successors and received the Book of the Gospels, with Bishop Malesic exhorting them: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach.”

Bishop Malesic said the men were being asked to per-

form works of charity in the name of the bishop or pastor.

“The poor are the face of Christ in our world in so many ways,” he said. “Love them. Go out to them. Serve them. And learn from them.”

He reminded them to never forget to ask the Lord, “How can I help?”

“And he will show you how and where and when.”



# Permanent deacons bring variety of gifts, talents

By Bill Cone  
Contributing Writer

**GREENSBURG** — A deacon's life is all about service, and the five men who were ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Edward C. Malesic June 20 are anxious to learn how they will serve the Diocese of Greensburg.

Bishop Malesic celebrated the ordination Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, attendance was by invitation only. Everyone else was able to view the celebration on a diocesan live stream.

The five new permanent deacons are Michael P. Dargay, Craig A. Gilbert, Steven A. LoCascio, Robert W. Stauffer and William D. Wilson.

All five have received their first parish assignments (see page 3). Their ordinations increase the number of permanent deacons to 14, said Deacon Bill Hisker, director of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Deacon Hisker explained that each of the men has college degrees and significant gifts and talents that will be put to use in their ministries.

"They all have full-time jobs," he said. "They're all married. They have different professions. They all have a good sense of who they are and how they're connected. They have a strong sense of what the diaconate is all about, how it is focused on service."

"I've been walking with them now for five years, directly involved in their formation. If I could have five more like them every two years, I would be tickled," Deacon Hisker said.

When married men are ordained to the diaconate, their wives are an integral part of their ministry. All five of the men being ordained said that their wives supported their decision to pursue ministry.

"My wife called me out to begin formation in this diocese. She and our children have been a constant source of support and encouragement throughout the process," Dargay said about Karen, his wife of 32 years, and their three adult children.

Stauffer said his 14-year marriage to Bonnie — with five adult children — has grown "deeper and closer" during



PHOTOS BY BARRY REEGER  
FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Top: Deacon Jeffrey Cieslewicz Sr. congratulates Deacon Robert W. Stauffer. Above: Deacon Stephen E. Black helps vest Deacon William D. Wilson.

the deacon formation process.

"We had a good marriage to begin with. This just made it all the better," he said. "Our prayer life has grown because it's part of the program. You just want to pray more and talk more. It's deepened our relationship, and I think it's deepened my relationship with my children, too."

The other men agreed that becoming a deacon has made a similar impact on their marital and family ties, including

Gilbert, married to Kathy for 29 years, with two adult children; LoCascio and his wife, Cheryl; and Wilson, with wife Debbie and four adult children.

Two of the deacons — Gilbert and Wilson — are converts to Catholicism. After converting, they were encouraged to dive deeper into the church, which eventually led to the permanent diaconate.

"I've found in the Catholic faith, it is good theology and it's very consistent with itself," Wilson said. "Really, the deeper you get, the more you realize it's bringing people closer to Christ."

They all credit someone for giving them the idea of pursuing the diaconate. Gilbert said it was Deacon Dan Frescura who felt he might have a calling to the permanent diaconate.

"So, I started looking into it, praying about it, talking with other people about what it was because I really didn't know too much about the permanent diaconate," Gilbert said. He chose Deacon Frescura to vest him in the deacon's stole at the ordination Mass.

Each man spoke of the opportunity that he is being given by the church in the diaconate, with service as the common denominator.

"This isn't about prestige. This isn't about having a title," LoCascio said. "This is about just offering yourself for service to those who need it. And that's what I'm looking forward to."

## MEET THE NEW DEACONS



**Michael P. Dargay**, who will turn 58 in July, served Holy Trinity Parish in Ligonier during formation. He's a plant manager for Forum Lighting.



**Craig A. Gilbert**, 53, who served his home parish, St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish in Delmont, works as a physical therapist for UPMC.



**Steven A. LoCascio**, 66, who also worked during formation at his home parish, St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite, is retired after 41

years as a teacher and administrator in the Greater Latrobe School District.



**Robert W. Stauffer**, 60, who trained at St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon, following retirement after 25 years as a

trooper for the Pennsylvania State Police, has worked for six years as maintenance director for St. Paul Parish, Greensburg.



**William D. Wilson**, 58, who served at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Huntingdon, is senior director of corporate

development and investor relations for Matthews International Corp. in Pittsburgh.



PHOTO COURTESY SAINT VINCENT ARCHABBEY

## Bishop ordains priest, deacon

Bishop Edward C. Malesic ordained one Benedictine monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey a priest and one monk a deacon May 23 at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica. From left are Benedictine Father Ignatius Camello, Bishop Malesic, Benedictine Brother Cassian (Lamar) Edwards and Benedictine Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki of Saint Vincent Archabbey and Seminary. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ordination Mass was not open to the public. Father Ignatius, a native of the Philippines, served at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, and Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, during his diaconate. He migrated to the United States in 2001 and worked as an intensive care unit nurse in Los Angeles before entering Saint Vincent Archabbey in 2013. The deacon is Brother Cassian of Metairie, La. He entered the archabbey in 2015 and began studies at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2016.



# GRADUATION TAKES ON A DIFFERENT LOOK



GERARD PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

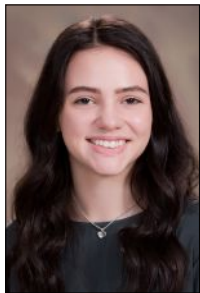
Geibel Catholic High School, Connellsville, hosted a senior drive-through May 29. Above, senior Madison Willson celebrates with her family.



## Geibel Catholic Class of 2020

Ryan Anderson	Cole Kendall	Anna Pilla
Mia Baranowski	Gianna Kolencik	Josephine Pindro
Josie Bittner	Elizabeth Kozel	Gayle Pokol
Jenna Croftcheck	Isaiah Krizner	Maria Ruggieri
Enzo Fetsko	An Le	Ryan Rusko
Dominic Gallo	Jiayou Li	Echo Shaffer
Hannah Geary	Haodong Lian	Joseph Terreta
Harrison Gentile	Zihan Lin	Anika Terry
Dillon Graham	He Lyu	Arielle Terry
Eli Haky	Jacob Mariotti	Lauren Tomasko
Hannah Hampshire	Morgan Motycki	Han Wang
Ethan Jellots	Adam Mucha	Madison Willson
Elizabeth John	Rebecca Perkins	

## Geibel Catholic's top students



### Valedictorian: Josephine Pindro

Josephine Pindro is this year's valedictorian. A parishioner of St. Mary (Nativity) Parish in Uniontown, she was president of Student Council, vice president of the French National Honor Society, and a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society). She participated in the spring musical, and was on the soccer, cross country and track teams. She received the President's Award for Educational Achievement, Seton Hill Women in Science Award for chemistry, Geibel Catholic Physics Award and

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Award. Pindro plans to attend Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, and major in industrial engineering.



### Salutatorian: Morgan Motycki

Morgan Motycki is this year's salutatorian. A parishioner of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Donora, she was secretary of the National Honor Society and the senior class representative on Student Council. She was captain of the girls' soccer team for two years. Motycki received the John Buberniak Jr. Memorial Scholarship and is a five-year Carson Scholar. She volunteers at local food banks and church functions and has traveled on several weeklong mission trips. She will attend Penn State University.



### Alumni Award: Ryan Rusko

Ryan Rusko received the Geibel Alumni Award as the top student in the Class of 2020. A parishioner of St. Mary (Nativity) Parish, Rusko was senior class president, treasurer of the National Honor Society, and a member of the French National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society). His activities included spring musical, chamber ensemble, yearbook and art club, and he was on the cross country, soccer and basketball teams. He received the Burchinal Family Endowment Scholarship, Excellence in

Music Award, Outstanding Service and Dedication Award, Geibel Spirit Award and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Award. Rusko plans to attend Pace University.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

GCC teachers and administrators delivered yard signs, gifts, and caps and gowns to seniors May 21. Above from left are Colleen Sherman, senior Therese Oldenburg, Jeannette Andrews and Jeff Voelker.



## Greensburg Central Catholic Class of 2020

Joshua Altmeyer	Vincent Komoroski	Mikaela Ryan
Alexis Arlotta	Teresa Kondas	Maura Rygg
Thomas Barron	Isaac Kuhns	Sanad Saad
Owen Beer	Zachary Kuvinka	Thomas Salley
Ethan Boyle	Benjamin LaCarte	Giavanna Scala
Patrick Brewer	Mackenna Leonida	Emily Schneider
Brandon Brown	Hunter Lias	Alexa Sebek
Kameron Cervi	Antonio Lubinsky	Brian Short
Hunuk Cho	Melina Maietta	Otto Speal
Alexandra Christlieb	Andrew Mazik	Brenna Springer
Malayna Coddington	Luke Mazowiecki	Michael Stevens
Alexander Colecchia	Ashley McWilliams	Kennedy Szekely
Elizabeth Colecchia	Mitchell Nanney	Lucas Szekely
James Cribbs	Calli-Marie Neil	Christian Totaro
Andrew Daoud	Samantha Nemeth	Meredith Tropeano
Anne DeForest	Therese Oldenburg	Caleb Umbel
Monica Douglas	Connor Petrunak	Thomas Voelker
Thomas Erdely	Ariana Pieretti	Alexis Walter
Connor Gallagher	Chase Pisula	Nathan Ward
Lauren Gill	Emilienne Ponzetti	Sophia Watt
Derek Johnson	Paul Rice	Emily Zaziski



## Soli Deo Gloria Award

Connor Petrunak received the Soli Deo Gloria Award, which goes to the graduating senior who gave total dedication to personal, academic, social and service development over the four years at Greensburg Central Catholic High School while showing a distinct and genuine Catholic attitude and spirit.

Petrunak is a server at his parish, St. Joseph Parish, Derry, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. At GCC, he was an extraordinary minister of holy Communion and a member of the chamber choir, and on the football and baseball teams. He will attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

## 2020 GCC Principal Awardees

The following GCC students earned a minimum 4.2 GPA:

Ethan Boyle	Luke Mazowiecki
Patrick Brewer	Mitchell Nanney
Malayna Coddington	Calli-Marie Neil
Elizabeth Colecchia	Emilienne Ponzetti
Andrew Daoud	Maura Rygg
Benjamin LaCarte	Brenna Springer
Mackenna Leonida	Kennedy Szekely



## The places they'll go

The graduates of Geibel Catholic and Greensburg Central Catholic will be attending the following institutions or enlisting in the armed forces:

Alderson Broaddus University  
American Musical and Dramatic Academy  
Arizona State University  
California University of Pennsylvania  
Clark University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Community College of Allegheny County  
Cornell University  
Douglas Education Center  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
Edinboro University  
Gannon University  
Gettysburg College  
Grove City College  
Holy Cross College at Notre Dame  
Indiana University (Bloomington)  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
John Carroll University  
Juniata College  
Lake Erie College  
La Roche University  
Lancaster University  
Laurel Business Institute  
Michigan State University  
New York University

Pace University  
Penn State University, Fayette  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pennsylvania State University Behrend  
Point Park University  
Providence College  
Purdue University  
Purdue University Global  
Saint Vincent College  
Seton Hill University  
The College of Wooster  
Slippery Rock University  
United States Air Force  
United States Army  
United States Marine Corps  
University of Akron  
University of Dayton  
University of Guelph, Ontario  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg  
University of San Francisco  
University of South Carolina  
University of Tampa  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Washington & Jefferson College  
Waynesburg University  
West Virginia University  
Westmoreland County Community College



THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

### VIRTUAL GRADUATION:

"You have faith that God has a bigger plan for you, which will be revealed through time. You have hope for a better tomorrow," Dr. Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools, tells Greensburg Central Catholic High School seniors in a virtual commencement address June 17.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Geibel Catholic High School senior Joey Terreta rides in the school's drive-through May 29.

## Class of 2020 scholarships

The 2020 graduates of Greensburg Central and Geibel Catholic high schools were offered a combined total of \$9.3 million in higher education scholarships and grants and earned a combined total of 831 college credits from the College in High School program.

## Catholic schools to bring students back to buildings this fall

**GREENSBURG** — After Catholic school students spent the last quarter of the 2019-20 academic year in distance learning away from their classrooms, the Diocese of Greensburg has informed Catholic school families that plans are being made to return to school buildings for the 2020-21 year.

"We are proud of what our schools were able to provide your children academically and spiritually through distance learning," Dr. Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools, wrote in a June 5 letter to parents.

"But, we have every intention of returning to our buildings next school year as soon as that return can be done safely," she said.

Marsteller said plans and strategies are being developed for a safe return to schools in August so

schools "can continue to offer our vibrant, Catholic education to your children in person."

Task forces are meeting to develop a physical safety plan for students and families as the diocesan schools work toward the return to school buildings, she said, noting that all plans will reflect the guidance and requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"However, we also envision scenarios where a student or a family member is exposed to the virus or becomes ill and the student is required to stay at home for an extended period of time," Marsteller said.

The plans that are developed will include two paths so Catholic schools in the Diocese of Greensburg

will be positioned to provide distance learning for any students who have to be away from the school building because of their own or a family member's health circumstances.

"We are also reviewing our technology needs with special attention to equitable learning opportunities for all students. The current learning management system, Schoology, is being expanded to encompass both elementary and secondary schools so parents and guardians will be able to reference a central location for their students' instructional needs," Marsteller said.

The Diocese of Greensburg began virtual instruction for students immediately following the closure of schools in March.

"We have all learned a great deal since then and have emerged from this experience even stronger in our

instructional capabilities. Meeting the academic and spiritual needs of students and families is always the mission of Catholic education. The safety and health of students is always a top priority," Marsteller said.

"A Catholic education is uniquely equipped to address the faith needs of students, offering them hope for the future as Disciples of Christ. Their ability to withstand the turbulence of current times rests in their belief in God's plan for their future.

"Thank you for believing in Catholic education. We sincerely appreciate your trust while we work tirelessly to provide your children with a rigorous education and blessed assurance for the future. I will keep you informed as plans for next year are finalized."

— Jerry Zufelt, *The Catholic Accent*



# Filak 'returning home' as Queen of Angels principal

By Jerry Zufelt  
Editor

**NORTH HUNTINGDON** — Jennifer Filak began her Catholic education career more than 20 years ago as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at Queen of Angels Catholic School.

She is returning as the school's principal effective July 1, Dr. Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools, announced last week.

"It feels like I never left Queen of Angels," said Filak, who was a parishioner of St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. "I have fond memories and learned so much at the school. I am looking forward to returning.

"The school is such an important part of the community, and I am looking forward to using my knowledge and experience in Catholic education to help the school continue to grow. I am so blessed."

Marsteller said Filak brings a wealth of teaching and administrative experience in Catholic education to Queen of Angels.

"And she will lead students on their Catholic faith journey," Marsteller said.

Filak said she has worked in Catholic schools because she can live and teach her faith in that environment.

"Our faith is at the center of everything we do in a Catholic school," she said. "I really believe in leading by our faith. My job is to make sure God's presence and grace are reflective in all of my interactions with students, families, teachers, and the community."

Filak spent the past 14 years at The Campus Laboratory School of Carlow University in Pittsburgh, where she was the pre-kindergarten and first-grade teacher, assistant director of early childhood programs and assistant head of the school.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a concentration in natural sciences from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Gannon University in Erie. Filak is currently working on her Pennsylvania Department of Education principal's certification.

She worked with The Campus Laboratory School faculty to implement its remote learning structures. She also helped develop an outdoor classroom.



Jennifer Filak

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

The following were state winners in this year's Pennsylvania National History Day competition:

Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington: Seventh-graders **Maggie Nesko** and **Leah Troiano**, first place, junior group performance: "They are Humans, too: Dorothea Dix Breaks the Gender Barrier to Advocate for the Mentally Ill." Eighth-grader **Grace Nesko**, sixth place, junior individual website: "Defining History: Liberty, Justice and Truth through DNA Testing."

St. Joseph High School, New Kensington: Senior **Ethan Schroeder**, fifth place, individual performance: "Failure is Not an Option: Breaking Barriers to Land Man on the Moon."

**Rory Pallone**, an eighth-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, was named the 2020 YWCA Sports Girl of the Year, Excellence in a Team Sport, by YWCA Westmoreland County. She also was named the Arnold Lions Club's student of the month for January.

**Donovan Polito**, an eighth-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, placed second in the 70th annual Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee in March.

**Veronica Koval**, an eighth-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Carson Scholars Fund, which honors academic excellence and humanitarianism.

**Angelo Bolcato**, a third-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, is a finalist in the WQED Writers Contest. To read or vote for his story, visit [www.writeonkids.org](http://www.writeonkids.org). Winners will be announced June 27.

The following Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, forensic team members won awards in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Forensic League Tournament in January: fifth-grader **Mia Andring**, two firsts in prose; the team of fifth-graders **Vanessa Ibrahim** and **Louisa Palumbo** and sixth-grader **Elissa Mlinarcik**, two firsts in multiple reading; fifth-grader **Logan Polito**, first and second in prose; and seventh-grader **Abby Ruffini**, two seconds in poetry.

The following students were winners in the Serra Club of Greensburg's annual letter-writing project: **Grant Miller** and **Riley Polomoscianik**, eighth-graders at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School; **Jennifer Novak** and **Dominic Gadagno**, Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon; **Bridget Waterhouse** and **Isabella Fulmer**, seventh-graders at St. Bernard Regional Catholic School, Indiana; eighth-grader **Juliann Zimcosky** and seventh-grader **Autumn Bartos**, St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown; and seventh-grader **Elias Martin** and sixth-grader **Brandon Plunko**, St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School, Belle Vernon.










## MEETINGS • BANQUETS • RETREATS

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## OBITUARIES

## Sister Therese Burns, SC



**GREENSBURG** — Sister of Charity Therese Burns, 91, died at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, May 15, 2020.

Sister Therese entered the congregation Sept. 8, 1951. A long-time teacher in Pittsburgh and Arizona, she was assistant to the general treasurer of the Sisters of Charity in Greensburg from 1974-89; she later served as assistant to the archivist for the sisters.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later time.

## Sister Mary Joseph McElhinny, SC



**GREENSBURG** — Sister of Charity Mary Joseph McElhinny, 90, died at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, May 27, 2020.

Sister Mary Joseph entered the congregation Sept. 8, 1950. She served as a teacher and principal at intermediate and high schools in Pittsburgh and Arizona for many years. She was supervisor of schools administered by the Sisters of Charity from 1976-78.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later time.

## Sister Rose Mary of the Sacred Heart



**LANCASTER** — Dominican Sister Rose Mary of the Sacred Heart (Ethel Marie Concheck), 94, who was born in Youngstown and was a parishioner of the former St. Cecilia Parish, Lemont Furnace, died March 12 at her monastery.

For 68 years, she was a Dominican Nun of the Perpetual Rosary at the monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a cloistered community. She entered the monastery in October 1952.

A funeral Mass was celebrated March 16 in the Dominican Monastery Chapel followed by burial on the monastery grounds.



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## Pathways sessions begin in September

**GREENSBURG** — Registration is open for Pathways, the diocese's commitment to adult faith formation and nurturing mature discipleship, tentatively set to begin in September (pending possible restrictions on gatherings).

The session includes 12 evenings (Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m.), three workshops and a closing retreat at St. John the Baptist Parish, Scottdale.

Registration/information: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/pathways](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/pathways), [pathways@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:pathways@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or 724-552-2598. For Francis Fund financial aid information, call 724-837-0901, ext. 1249.

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADDICTION SUPPORT

**Irwin** — Sage's Army will host the following meetings/classes at its headquarters (unless otherwise noted):

- Veterans X group, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 6-8 p.m., Sage's Army Recovery Center, Greensburg
  - Waking with Willingness, July 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 and 31 (virtual), 8-8:55 a.m.
  - Grief without the Stigma, July 8 and 22, 6-8 p.m.
  - Family/Reinforcement/Recovery, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6-8 p.m.
- For more information, visit [www.sagesarmy.com](http://www.sagesarmy.com).

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

**Greensburg** — Catholic Charities is offering virtual counseling to help people address anxiety, depression, interpersonal conflict, grief and more. Information: 724-837-1840 or [counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org).

### CHEERLEADING

**North Huntingdon** — The Queen of Angels cheerleading squad is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Information: [jmiele@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jmiele@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or [cheribyers@gmail.com](mailto:cheribyers@gmail.com).

### CHRISTMAS IN JULY

**New Kensington** — A "Christmas in July" indoor/outdoor fair is planned July 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Knead Community Cafe. Masks will be required except when eating in the cafe.

### DRIVE-THRU MEALS

**Connellsville** — St. Rita Parish will hold a drive-thru Italian food sale in lieu of its annual festival July 10, 11 and 17 from 4-8 p.m. Menu items will be available until sold out.

**Irwin** — Immaculate Conception Parish will hold drive-thru Burger Bashes the second Saturday of every month through November from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Information: 724-863-9550.

### FAITH AND REASON PROGRAM

**Latrobe** — Saint Vincent College's Faith and Reason Summer Program, for advanced high school and first-year college students (15 and older) seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and its integration in college education, will be held July 20-24 with virtual and on-campus day camp (9 a.m.-8 p.m.) options. Cost is \$250 for day camp, \$100 for virtual. Information: Dr. Michael Krom, 724-805-2844 or [michael.krom@stvincent.edu](mailto:michael.krom@stvincent.edu), or [www.stvincent.edu/academics/summer-sessions/faith-and-reason](http://www.stvincent.edu/academics/summer-sessions/faith-and-reason).

### GCC VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

**Greensburg** — Prospective students and families can learn more about Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School in a virtual open house and tour. Students can meet administrators, faculty and staff; learn about the college prep curriculum and the school's many extracurricular and athletic offerings; and see how Catholic identity is at the center of the school's mission. Registration: [www.gcchs.org](http://www.gcchs.org).

### GOLF OUTING

**Natrona Heights** — St. Joseph High School has rescheduled its Spartan Scramble Golf Outing to Sept. 18 at Lenape Heights Golf Resort, Ford City. Registration (beginning in July): [www.saintjosephhhs.com](http://www.saintjosephhhs.com).

### MAGNIFICAT

**CANCELED: Greensburg** — The Magnificat Breakfast, originally scheduled for July 25, has been canceled. Magnificat — A Ministry to Catholic Women is in search of a new venue and hopes to hold the breakfast Oct. 24.

### RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

**Latrobe** — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet July 19 from 3-4:15 p.m. (tentatively in the crypt church of Saint Vincent Archabbey). Benedictine Father Cyprian Constantine will speak on the Liturgy of the Hours. Attendees must wear masks, and attendance is limited. Reservations: Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291.



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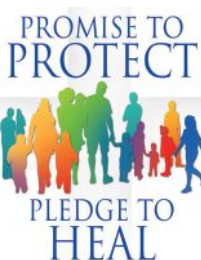


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### St. Rita Parish to Hold Italian Food Drive-Thru

St. Rita Parish in Connellsville will be holding a drive-thru Italian food pick-up in lieu of their annual Festival.

**Friday, July 10 ~ Saturday, July 11 ~ Friday, July 17**  
**4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

The menu will consist of:

Cavatelli & Meatball Combo for \$5.00  
Manicotti & Meatball Combo for \$5.00  
Sausage Sandwich for \$5.00  
Meatball Sandwich for \$5.00  
Pizza (1 box of 4 slices) for \$8.00  
Fried Dough (limited to 1 package of 4 slices per car) for \$8.00

Traffic will be directed to enter the drive-thru on Third Street in Connellsville from Crawford Avenue. Traffic patterns will be adjusted to accommodate the overflow of traffic, if necessary. Menu items will be sold as advertised and will be available for purchase until they are sold out. We appreciate your patronage and support.

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"Classic Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden, Denmark" ♦ July 7, 2021 – July 17, 2021  
"Danube River Cruise with Prague" ♦ August 14, 2021 – August 25, 2021  
"Kaleidoscope of Peru" ♦ October 2, 2021 – October 13, 2021

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# Father Nathan thanks God every day during battle with ALS

By **Samantha Hilyer**  
Intern

**LATROBE** — Benedictine Father Nathan Munsch, former pastor of St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite, and a retired theology professor at Saint Vincent College, relies on his faith and perspective as he faces the challenges of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

Father Nathan, a professor for 25 years, said he had no concept of what ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's disease, was until the day of his diagnosis.

He said an astounding number of people have expressed interest in learning about his journey. He attributed the fascination to curiosity about the rare, debilitating disease, along with the publicity ALS gained through the "Ice Bucket Challenge" started in 2014 to raise awareness.

He does not see ALS as an evil. Rather, borrowing words from an email from a friend, Father Nathan hopes to turn his situation into a blessing to those who are witnessing his



PHOTO COURTESY SAINT VINCENT ARCHABBEY

Benedictine Father Nathan Munsch teaches a class at Saint Vincent College prior to his retirement.

ALS journey by acting with both graceful composure and steadfast faith.

He wakes up every morning "thanking God for existence

and for the existence of the world in all its complexity," Father Nathan said.

Father Nathan noticed the onset of symptoms of the

neurodegenerative disease — hand weakness — in 2017, but he was misdiagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome.

Within a year, he developed drop foot, which caused him to fall frequently, and had back surgery to correct the issue. His ability to walk seemed to improve, he said; however, his condition swiftly deteriorated. By 2019, he depended on a walker.

Father Nathan was diagnosed with ALS in May 2019. Since then, the disease has progressed to include paralysis below his right knee, difficulty breathing and loss of fine motor skills in his extremities. There are few options for symptom management for ALS. Father Nathan has been doing mild, regular exercise as well as using equipment to assist his lungs.

He has transitioned from being an independent person to needing assistance for various daily tasks.

He said retirement earlier this year has given him time to pray and to contemplate his circumstances.

While he mourns for his community and his wish to be a wise, guiding figure in the monastery in his later years, Father Nathan is not bitter.

"I have had a remarkable life in so many ways, so being bitter about it ending doesn't make any sense," he said.

Father Nathan said his experience gives him a renewed sense of gratefulness for his Catholic faith and the privileges he has had to receive an education and become a priest.

The Pittsburgh native is being supported through his difficult journey by his family and the Benedictine community.

The college has established an endowed scholarship in his name, and \$60,000 has been raised thus far, Father Nathan said. Funds will benefit students studying theology.

He is grateful for all the love and support he has received, but most of all, he is "enormously grateful" for his faith.

"It is important to me to still be able to attend daily Mass and receive the sacraments," he said.

## Franciscans to establish friary in Indiana, provide pastoral ministry

By **Jerry Zufelt**  
Editor

**INDIANA** — Four Capuchin Franciscan friars are coming to the Diocese of Greensburg to establish a community at a new friary in the town of Indiana, where they will provide pastoral ministry and leadership at three parishes in Indiana County, along with campus ministry services at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Bishop Edward C. Malesic made the announcement May 18 after two years of discussions with Capuchin Father Thomas Betz, provincial superior for the Capuchin Friars of the Province of St. Augustine in Pittsburgh.

"This is a historic and exciting moment for our diocese," Bishop Malesic said. "The Capuchins have experienced tremendous growth in vocations in recent years and have several younger priests and brothers who will serve the people of Indiana well."

After community discernment, the friars accepted the invitation of Bishop Malesic to establish a friary at the rectory of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, where the friars will live in community.

"Three of the friars are ordained priests. They will serve the pastoral and administrative needs of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish and St. Thomas More University Parish, also in Indiana, and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish," Bishop Malesic said.

The friars will also oversee campus ministry at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, one of the largest universities

in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

"We want to work in a university town and believe we can provide ministry that meets the needs of parishioners and college students," Father Betz said. "The friars going to Indiana include one of the most experienced priests in our community, who happens to be a native of the diocese, and some of our best young friars."

Capuchin Father Richard Owens will serve as pastor of St. Bernard Parish and St. Thomas More University Parish. Ordained a priest in 2014, he is currently director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Capuchin Father Tage Danielson, who was ordained to the priesthood in September, will serve as parochial vicar of the two parishes.

Capuchin Father John Pavlik, a native son of St. Mary of Czestochowa Parish, New Kensington, will serve as pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in central Indiana County. He has served as provincial superior for the Capuchins and as executive director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. He has been providing weekend ministry at the three parishes in New Kensington since last fall.

Capuchin Brother Thomas Choi, a native of South Korea who is a registered nurse, will also live and work in the community.

Father Andres C. Gumangan, the current pastor of St. Thomas More University and Our Lady of the



From left, Father Richard, Father Tage, Father John and Brother Thomas.

Assumption parishes, is returning to the Philippines at the end of his term.

Father Rodolfo P. Mejia, parochial vicar of the two parishes, has been appointed parochial vicar of Church of the Resurrection Parish, northern Indiana County.

Father Thomas A. Federline, pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, has been appointed pastor of St. Pius X Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Mount Pleasant, and St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish, Donegal.

The Capuchin Friars are no strangers to the diocese, having provided pastoral ministry at St. Mary Parish in Export until 2002.

Throughout its history, the Diocese of Greensburg has collaborated with a variety of religious communities to serve the people of the diocese. Those include the Benedictine monks at Saint Vincent Archabbey and Seminary in Latrobe; the Pauline Fathers in Kittanning; the Franciscans, who formerly served in Uniontown; and

the Carmelite Hermits in Bolivar.

The diocese also continues to collaborate with several communities of women religious to serve the diocese, including the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Felician Sisters, Benedictine Sisters at St. Emma Monastery and Daughters of Mary in Greensburg; Ivrea Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Mount Pleasant; Sisters of Mary Immaculate in Leechburg; Discalced Carmelites of the Assumption in Latrobe; Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden; and Sisters of Mercy, who formerly had a school and convent near Latrobe.

The Capuchin Friars trace their origins to 1528 in Italy when they were organized to live as St. Francis of Assisi envisioned. They arrived in Pittsburgh from Germany in 1873, and the Capuchin Friars Province of St. Augustine, named for the first parish they served in Pittsburgh, was established in 1882.

For information about the Capuchins, including their history, see Capuchin.com.