

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 2020

The Official Newspaper of the Diocese of Greensburg

VOLUME 60, NO. 5

INSIDE



Catholics called to respect life at all stages.

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Guardian Angel Appeal soars past \$174,000 to aid Catholic Charities.

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The Diocese of Greensburg releases 2019-20 annual report.

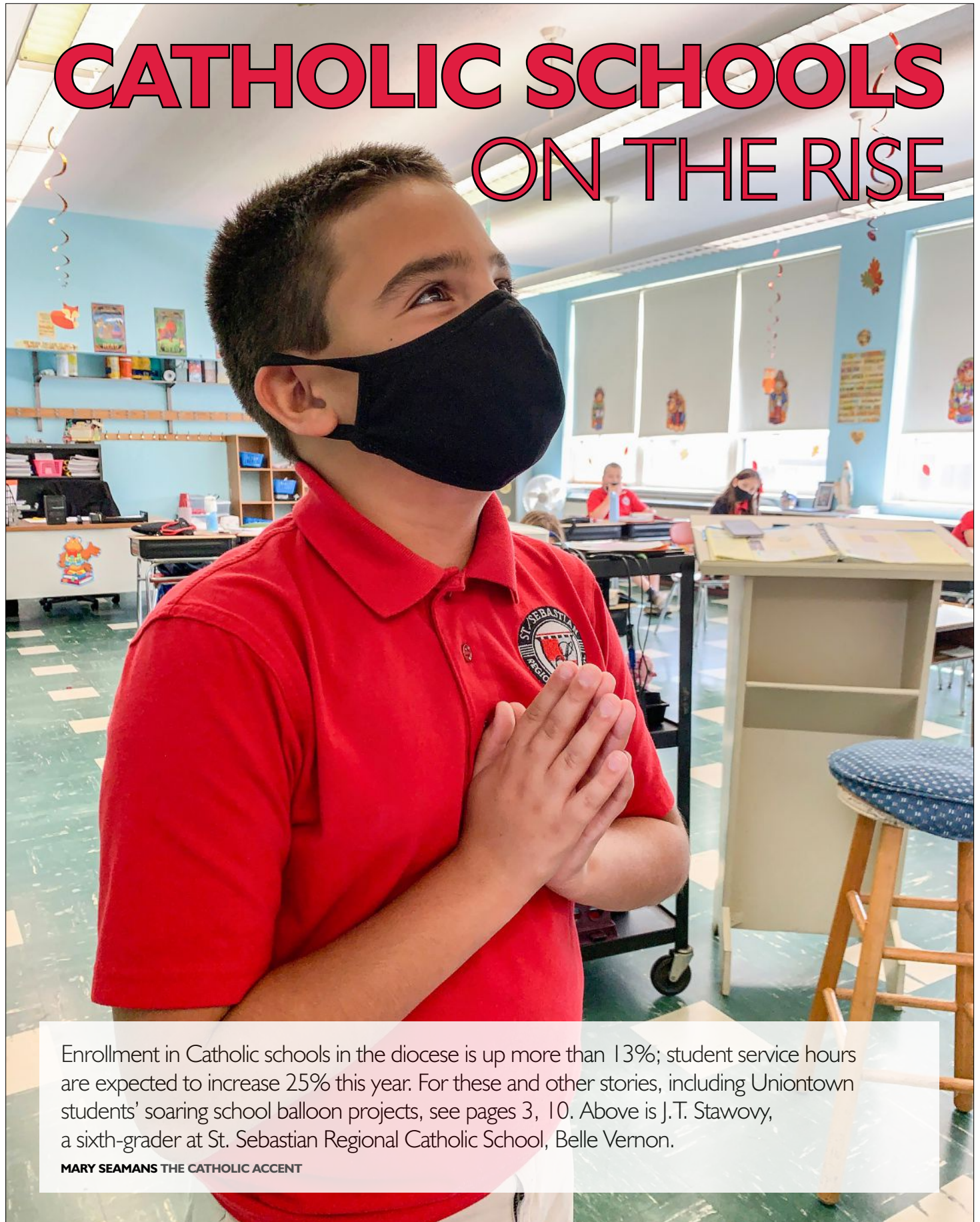
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Church recognizes world missions in October.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ON THE RISE



Enrollment in Catholic schools in the diocese is up more than 13%; student service hours are expected to increase 25% this year. For these and other stories, including Uniontown students' soaring school balloon projects, see pages 3, 10. Above is J.T. Stawovy, a sixth-grader at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School, Belle Vernon.

MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

ELECTION DAY: NOV. 3
VOTE 2020
PCC VOTER GUIDE: PAGES 6-8

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA

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

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



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Yearly Subscription Rates:

Parish \$12.75 Individual \$14
Out-of-State \$16

Moving? Send us the address label from The Catholic Accent plus your NEW address. Please allow two weeks for the update.

The Catholic Accent (ISSN 0745-399X) is published monthly on the third Thursday of the month by Greensburg Catholic Accent and Communications Inc., 725 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601-2660. Periodicals postage paid at Greensburg, PA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send all address changes to Greensburg Catholic Accent, 725 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601.



www.dioceseofgreensburg.org



OFFICIAL

The Reverend Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Diocesan Administrator, has made the following announcements and appointments:

Effective Friday, October 2, 2020

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

The Reverend Robert T. Lubic, has been granted an additional six-month leave of absence.

Effective Sunday, October 4, 2020

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

The Reverend Joseph E. Bonafed, has been granted an additional six-month leave of absence.

Effective Friday, October 30, 2020

The Reverend Thumma Fathimareddy, because of ministerial need, has been

recalled to his home Archdiocese of Hyderabad, India, and completes his service to the Diocese of Greensburg in the International Priests' Program.

PAROCHIAL VICAR:

The Reverend Marlon L. Pates, from Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, and Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, to Parochial Vicar of Saint Peter Parish, Brownsville, Saint Cecilia Parish, Grindstone, and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Western Fayette County, with residence in Saint Cecilia Parish Rectory, Grindstone.

The Reverend Monsignor Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Diocesan Administrator, upon the recommendation of The Right Reverend Martin de Porres Bartel, OSB, Archabbot of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, has made the following appointment:

PAROCHIAL VICAR:

The Reverend Ignatius Camello, OSB, to Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, and Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES POLICY

(Updated Oct. 6, 2020)

With the November 3, 2020, general elections approaching, this is a reminder to parishes about voter guides and what is permitted and not permitted during the campaign season. I would like to draw your attention to the policy on diocesan e-mail stated below. Also, this activities policy applies to homilies or bulletin articles in which candidates or political parties are endorsed from the pulpit because of a single issue.

A Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC)-approved voter guide will be provided by the diocese prior to the election that will include information about the races for U.S. President and the Pennsylvania General Assembly (House and Senate) contests in districts within the Diocese of Greensburg. The voter guide material will be made available to the parishes and posted to the diocesan website.

Diocese of Greensburg Political Activities Policy

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Church is **prohibited** by the Internal Revenue Code from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. The ban is absolute. Any amount of participation in a political campaign, no matter how slight, can put the tax-exempt status of the Church in jeopardy. Therefore, voter guides or flyers that are single-issue guides or that endorse candidates, political parties, or that support single issues cannot be used as bulletin inserts or distributed in parishes.

Churches and church organizations may not endorse or state their opposition to political candidates, including the publishing or distribution of materials that favor one candidate or party over another. Nor may churches or church organizations contribute to political candidates or parties, even in the form of in-kind expenditures such as donations of facilities, supplies, or employee time. Restrictions on political activity apply in equal force to the use of websites and email as well as to more traditional forums.

In addition to the limitations imposed under IRC §501(c)(3), the Federal Election Campaign Act forbids nonprofit entities to work in concert or cooperation with any federal candidate or campaign committee in the development or distribution of campaign materials.

Church officials and employees are permitted, however, to instruct the faithful about the Church's teaching on moral and social issues and identify such issues as important current political topics. Care

must be taken, however, not to identify any particular candidate's or political party's views as preferable on such issues.

Both the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) have issued guidelines for political activities for Catholic churches and organizations. Two areas of concern that come up in our parishes at election time are voter guides and campaign literature in church parking lots.

Voter Guides and Resources

Use of the PCC Voter Guide is approved and encouraged. Candidate questionnaires, interview transcripts, voter guides and other up-to-date election resources from the PCC are at www.pacatholic.org.

Faithful Citizenship materials from the USCCB have been used by parishes for years and continue to be an important resource. Information can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>.

Church Parking Lot Leafleting

Church parking lots are not public forums as a public street or shopping mall would be and remain dedicated to accommodating the religious activities of the church. Churches must avoid complicity in the dissemination of material endorsing or opposing political candidates. Therefore, churches may neither favor nor disfavor any particular group that seeks to distribute materials of that type on portions of its property that are generally accessible to the public. Churches may, as a policy, refuse to allow parking lot leafleting altogether. **At the same time, the law does not impose any obligation on a church to actively monitor and prevent the leafleting of cars parked in its lots.**

Some groups will leaflet during Mass without notifying the parish and/or the pastor. If questioned about a leaflet campaign, note the bold sentence in the paragraph above and the fact the Diocese of Greensburg does not authorize any leafleting or pamphleting.

Diocesan E-mail

You are not permitted to use the diocesan e-mail system for publishing information endorsing or repudiating candidates that support single issues. You could lose your e-mail privileges.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

— The Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, JCL
Diocesan Administrator

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)	
1. Publication Title The Catholic Accent	2. Issue Frequency Monthly, Third Thursday
3. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below October 2020	4. Number of Issues Published Annually 12
5. Annual Subscription Price \$12.75 (Parish) \$14.00 (Individual)	6. Number of Copies of Single Issues Published 12
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 725 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2660	8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (not printer) 725 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2660
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Msgr. Larry Kulick 725 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2660 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Paul J. Pattera 725 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2660 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Beth Tallentire 725 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2660	10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a corporation or other organization, give its name and address.) Greensburg Catholic Accent & Communications, Inc. 725 East Pittsburgh Street Greensburg, PA 15601-2660 No stockholders Msgr. Larry Kulick, Administrator
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box. Full Name Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The owner, publisher, and sender state that this publication and the material within the federal income tax returns: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement) PS Form 3825, July 2019 Page 1 of 2 (See instructions on page 2) PSN 7520-01-000-9001 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER	

13. Separate Data for Circulation Data Below		14. Separate Data for Circulation Data Below	
The Catholic Accent		09/17/2020	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		41,104	48,805
b. Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1) through 15b(5))		12,233	12,237
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1) through 15b(5))		12,233	12,237
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1) through 15d(5))		28,871	36,568
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1) through 15d(5))		28,871	36,568
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		41,104	48,805
g. Copies not Distributed (Sum of 15f and 15g)		0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		41,104	48,805
i. Percent Paid (Sum of 15b(1) through 15b(5) divided by 15f times 100)		29.76%	25.28%

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OBITUARY

Sister Margaret Frazer, CSJ

BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Margaret "Margie" Frazer, 63, died Sept. 20, 2020. She was in her 33rd year of religious life. She was a teacher at St. Bernard Regional Catholic School, Indiana, from 1990-92.

Donors help push Catholic school enrollment past expectations

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — Catholic schools in the Diocese of Greensburg shattered enrollment expectations this year, growing by more than 13%, thanks to a major gift from an anonymous donor.

The St. Pope John Paul Tuition Opportunity Partnership, announced in July, was a \$2.4 million donation, the largest donation the diocese has ever received in one year.

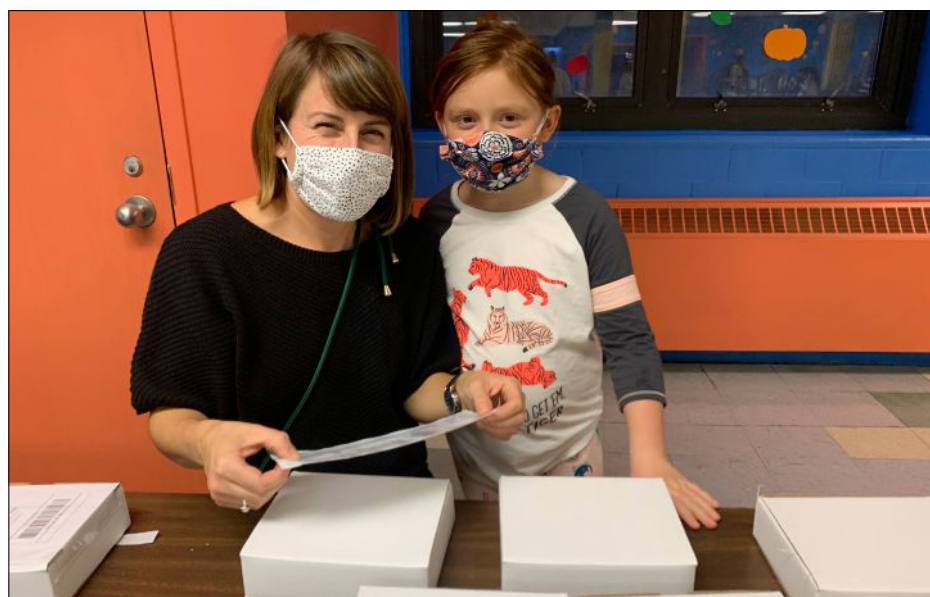
In fewer than three months, principals at the 12 Catholic schools in the diocese fielded more than 1,000 inquiries about the TOP Student Initiative, walking each family through paperwork, which included a financial need analysis. The agreement also requires each TOP student to demonstrate a commitment to academics and service to their faith community.

To date, 825 TOP students have been awarded \$2.1 million in tuition assistance. Many of the students are already paying it forward. In mid-October, 100 TOP students and their families volunteered to pack remembrance boxes for those who recently lost loved ones. The work was done at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High

School, Connellsville, Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon, and Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville.

The student volunteers represented the following 29 parishes: Ascension, Jeannette; Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg; Holy Cross, Youngwood; Holy Family, Latrobe; Holy Trinity, Ligonier; Immaculate Conception, Connellsville; Immaculate Conception, Irwin; Mother of Sorrows, Murrysville; Our Lady of Grace, Greensburg; St. Agnes, North Huntingdon; St. Aloysius, Dunbar; St. Barbara, Harrison City; St. Bartholomew, Crabtree; St. Benedict, Marguerite; St. Bruno, Greensburg; St. Edward, Herminie; St. Gertrude, Vandergrift; St. John Baptist de La Salle, Delmont; St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis; St. John the Evangelist, Connellsville; St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph and St. Mary (Nativity), all in Uniontown; St. Paul, Greensburg; St. Peter, Brownsville; St. Pius X, Mount Pleasant; St. Regis, Trafford; St. Vincent Basilica, Latrobe; and The Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen.

Last year, Catholic school students in the diocese logged more than 20,000 hours of service. That number is expected to increase up to 25% with volunteerism tailored toward par-



JENNIFER MIELE THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Emily Croft and her daughter Susanna, a second-grader at Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon, pack remembrance boxes Oct. 13.

ish-based service. The anonymous donor emphasized the importance of parish-based service, because local assistance from parishes and school fundraisers subsidizes more than a third of the cost to educate Catholic school students.

TOP Student assistance accounts

for 12% of the cost to educate Catholic school students in the diocese this year. Not far behind at 10% is the \$1.7 million in existing funds the diocese has received from more than 100 donors participating in Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Balloons launch learning for St. John the Evangelist students

By Paul Paterra
Editor

UNIONTOWN — There was an air of excitement at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School last month.

The cause for such excitement: A weather balloon that was released Sept. 18 from the parking lot at St. John the Evangelist Church, across from the school.

The balloon launch is a part of the school's "Up, Up and Away" project, made possible with a nearly \$4,000 diocesan Innovation Grant.

"We've been making possible predictions on where it would land," Renee Petrovich, science and math teacher, said shortly before the launch. "They've been adjusting the payload and the weights to make it go a certain distance to where they want it to go."

Where it went was Loysburg, Bedford County, about a two-hour drive from Uniontown. The balloon reached altitudes as high as 108,000 feet during its 131-minute journey.

This was the second balloon launch from the school; a Pico balloon was sent skyward July 29. A Pico balloon is a science-grade balloon that carries solar-powered transmitters to approximately 45,000 feet. The balloon is tracked daily in Petrovich's science classes.



PAUL PATERRA THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Students prepare to send off their weather balloon.

"It's on its fourth trip around the world," she said. "It has been traveling to so many countries and even survived a tropical storm."

At the latest launch, a handful of eighth-grade students helped steady the balloon as it

was prepared for takeoff.

Mike Aesoph, the school's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) adviser, launched the balloon from a Uniontown City Fire Department ladder truck. As it embarked on its journey into

the overcast skies, students shrieked with delight.

"I thought it was extraordinary," said Christine Roskovensky, principal. "I was excited. The kids were excited. This has been a long time coming. The kids are awesome. They've been looking forward to this."

Students did have to be patient, as the launch was initially scheduled for the spring. However, like many other events, it had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was heavy student involvement throughout the project. Eighth-graders Dante Nutt and Ayden Kiefer helped Aesoph build a payload that held all of the GPS tracking devices and cameras. Computer-aided design software was used to build and design the payload. The cameras recorded the entire flight.

Eighth-graders Halie Pletcher and Michael Miller ran the predictions. That process began two weeks before liftoff. The payload and weights were adjusted to try to guide the balloon in the direction the students wanted it to go.

"They've been able to see a trajectory of where it would end up," Petrovich said.

Projections weren't far off. Students nailed the ascent rate with a prediction of 5.0 meters per second. They projected the

burst height at 113,000 feet, only 5,000 off the actual burst height of 108,000 feet.

Their prediction of 115 minutes for a time to burst was just 6 minutes off (the balloon burst at 109 minutes).

The descent rate projected was 4.0 meters/second, when it actually checked in at 12.5 meters/second. The total flight time was 131 minutes. Students projected 174 minutes.

Petrovich said there was a slight issue with balloon debris wrapping around the parachute, which caused the balloon to descend quicker than expected.

"The launch was a complete success," Petrovich said. "The students absolutely loved seeing the video. We got the recovered balloon. It was amazing how parts were in absolute shreds."

"I am thrilled that the projections were so close and the launch was such a success," Roskovensky added. "It was wonderful for the children."

Two additional launches are planned. The same process will take place with new student involvement.

"I cannot tell you how great it feels to see the students so excited about a project," Petrovich said. "Their eyes were glued to the footage, and they were full of questions."

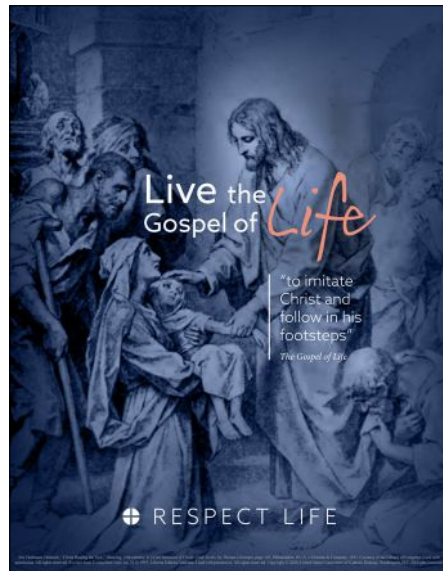
'If we fail to protect life, no other rights matter'

By Msgr. Larry J. Kulick

Administrator, Diocese of Greensburg

The Respect Life theme for 2020, "Live the Gospel of Life," recognizes the 25th anniversary of one of the great papal encyclicals of our time, "The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae)" by St. Pope John Paul II.

I was a young priest, ordained just three years, when the encyclical was released. I was grateful for the Holy Father's moral clarity on the preeminence of life. He made clear from the start of the encyclical that the church opposes whatever is opposed to life itself: murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or self-destruction. He also criticized violence against the person: mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons. All these things, he wrote, and others like them "... poison human so-



ciety, and they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonor to the Creator" (EV 3).

But he also clearly stated that "human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable" and stressed that for this reason "procured abortion and euthanasia are absolutely unacceptable. Not only

must human life not be taken, but it must be protected with loving concern" (EV 81).

A quarter-century later, we are still dealing with these affronts to life and the dignity of the human person, each of whom is created by God in His image. An abortion today can be procured through a prescription. Euthanasia, a direct threat to our older brothers and sisters, has been legalized in nine states and the District of Columbia through legislation known by the innocuous term, "Death with Dignity Acts." The internet facilitates the distribution of pornography, which is an affront to the dignity of every person; human trafficking; slavery; and prostitution.

In recent years, we have seen other affronts to the dignity of human life: immigration and refugee crises around the world, the adverse effects of poverty, and, most recently, the protests against the racism that keeps many of our brothers and sisters in substandard housing, inadequate schools and poor employment opportunities and has led to death and destruction of property. It displays what an absence of respect for human life and dignity produces — chaos.

By the Gospel, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, who came to bring grace, reconciliation and order to the chaos caused by sin and death. Recognizing His face in all people allows us to work to alleviate these many injustices.

At the same time, the U.S. bishops have renewed their commitment to protect the most fundamental of all human rights — the right to life. Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in his Respect Life Month statement, encourages Catholics to allow "the Gospel of Christ to touch and transform our own hearts and the decisions we make."

In that statement, he notes that Pope Francis recently expressed his support for the efforts of the U.S. bishops, observing that "if we fail to protect life, no other rights matter."

This requires us to work to transform our culture and bring the love of Christ to every person in every circumstance and at every stage of life. The Gospel of Life impels us to do this. May our prayers and our actions be focused on the heart of what is our mission.

Pro-life breakfast goes virtual

By Jennifer Miele

Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — The Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women embraced the circumstances surrounding its annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast, inviting participants to join in-person or virtually to hear guest speaker Judy Townsend.

Townsend and about a dozen other participants joined via video conference Oct. 3, while two dozen others came together at Christ Our Shepherd Center to learn more about Townsend's organization, Be Not Afraid (BNA).

The private, nonprofit organization assists families with comprehensive case management, preparing them to carry their children to term following a prenatal diagnosis.

Attendees were moved to tears by stories of families whose babies are diagnosed with conditions characterized as "incompatible with life."

Townsend's eye-opening data revealed an increasing number of physicians who believe terminating pregnancies is a viable option. What's more, she explained how influential physicians can be on families.

She related how many families experience the shocking turn of events: all smiles heading into an ultrasound, then devastation when they hear the news. The shock is compounded by a doctor's recommendation to terminate the pregnancy.

Families who connect with BNA are given bereavement support, birth planning assistance, referrals and peer ministry from diagnosis to birth and for a year following the birth, whether the prenatally diagnosed baby lives or dies.



PHOTO COURTESY BE NOT AFRAID

Guest speaker Judy Townsend

"We help parents develop a plan for the likeliest outcome," Townsend said. "But we also make a plan for life for every baby because no doctor can really predict whether a frail baby will live or die before birth."

President Raissa Federline said the council always looks for speakers who touch on current life issues.

"We have had speakers on human trafficking, the opioid epidemic, the Human Life International education director and the executive director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation," Federline said.

She thanked the committee who worked together to create the hybrid format: Millie Krinock, Betty Nemchik, Denise Pencola and Mary Ellen Pellegrino, under the spiritual direction of Msgr. Larry J. Kulick.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

LIFE CHAIN: People participate in the Life Chain Oct. 4 along Route 22 in Delmont, top, and on the Scottsdale-Everson Bridge, above. The national event has been held the first Sunday in October since the 1980s.

Inspired by prayer, Kent parishioner repairs historic stained glass

By Jerry Zufelt
Senior Writer

KENT — Some parishioners are always at the ready, willing to step up and fill a need, no matter the complexity, when it arises.

Jim Pencola, a parishioner of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish and lifelong resident of the area, observed that three stained glass panels behind the tabernacle in the church were in need of repair.

He alerted the pastor and offered his skills to help fix the windows and their frames.

Pencola took the pieces to a shop he uses at his home. With the help of fellow volunteers Bernie Senick, also a parishioner of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, and Gordon Bish, the windows were repaired and returned to their place in the church two months later.

Pencola, a retired diesel mechanic, is an active volunteer at the parish and the diocese, where he is a member of the Men's Ministry Team. But he avoids the limelight.

In this case, he understood the significance of the stained glass windows to the parish's history. Church of the Good Shepherd Parish was formed in 1989 from the former Holy Cross Parish, Iselin, where he was baptized, the former St. Gertrude Parish, McIntyre, which he attended, and the

former St. Anthony Parish, Aultman. The stained glass came from those parishes and was used in the new church, which was dedicated in 1992.

The windows were removed one at a time, taken to his shop and reframed before being returned to their proper place at the church, Pencola said.

"Each day, when I went to the shop to work on the windows, I would pray," Pencola said. "One thing I would ask God for was that the windows would somehow bring a person closer to Jesus, who sits in the midst of the windows (in the tabernacle) and waits for us to come and adore him in the Eucharist."

"I hope that Jesus will shine forth to the people much more than the windows," he said.

"It's a good thing we did it when we did it," Pencola said of the repairs. "Some pieces of glass had fallen out and needed to be replaced."

Volunteerism is at the heart of the parish, Father Matthew J. Morelli, pastor, said.

"Jim saw the need, stepped up and asked, 'Can I help?' And he brought a skill to the table that most people don't have," Father Morelli said.

"It's the volunteers and their efforts that made it possible to raise money for the church; men of the parish built the rectory," Father Morelli said. "The roof over my head is the fruit of the labor of our volunteers."

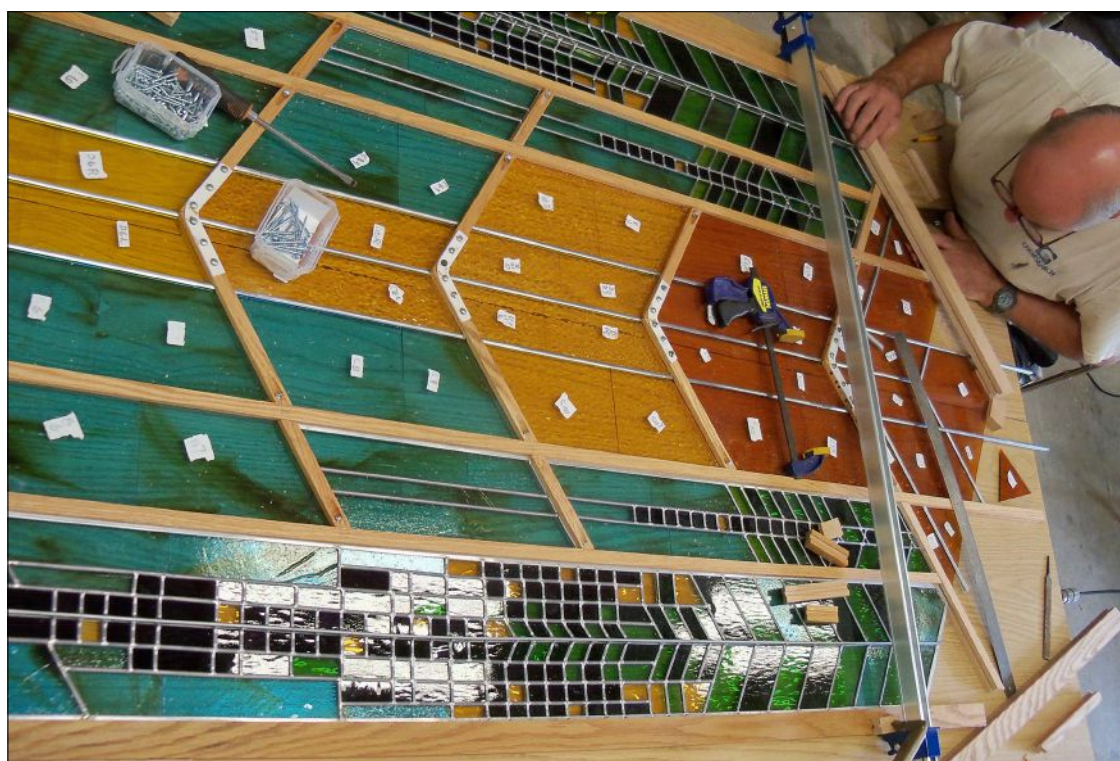


PHOTO ABOVE: SUBMITTED
PHOTO AT LEFT:
MARY SEAMANS THE
CATHOLIC ACCENT

Above, Jim Pencola works on the window in his shop. At left, Pencola, left, Father Matthew J. Morelli, pastor, center, and parishioner Bernie Senick prepare to place the window.

Pope Francis calls for unity in new encyclical 'Fratelli tutti'

VATICAN CITY (CNA) — Pope Francis presented his vision for overcoming the world's growing divisions, laid bare by the coronavirus crisis, in his new encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, published Sunday.

In the letter, released Oct. 4, the pope urged people of good will to promote fraternity through dialogue, renewing society by putting love for others ahead of personal interests.

Throughout the encyclical, the pope emphasized the primacy of love, in both social and political contexts.

"*Fratelli tutti*," the text's opening phrase, means "All brothers" in Italian. The words are taken from the writings of St. Francis of Assisi, to whom the pope paid tribute at the beginning of the encyclical, describing him as the "saint of fraternal love."

The pope said he was struck that, when St. Francis met with the Egyptian Sultan Al-Kamil in 1219, he "urged that all forms of hostility or conflict be avoided and that a humble and fraternal 'subjection' be shown to those who did not share his faith."

"Francis did not wage a war of words aimed at imposing doctrines; he simply spread the love of God ... In this

“Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all.”

POPE FRANCIS

way, he became a father to all and inspired the vision of a fraternal society," the pope wrote.

Pope Francis explained that his new encyclical brought together many of his previous reflections on human fraternity and social friendship, and also expanded on themes contained in the "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together," which he signed with Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, in Abu Dhabi in 2019.

"The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to

every man and woman," he wrote. "I offer this social encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words."

The pope signed the encyclical in Assisi Oct. 3. He is thought to be the first pope to sign an encyclical outside of Rome for more than 200 years, since Pius VII issued the text *Il trionfo* in the Italian city of Cesena in 1814.

Pope Francis noted that, while he was writing the letter, "the COVID-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities."

"Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident," he said. "For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all."

The pope divided his third encyclical, after the 2013 *Lumen fidei* and 2015 *Laudato si'*, into eight chapters.

In the encyclical's conclusion, Pope

Francis said that the text was inspired not only by St. Francis, but also by non-Catholics such as Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu and Mahatma Gandhi, as well as the French Catholic missionary Blessed Charles de Foucauld, who the pope is expected to canonize.

Francis ended the letter with both an ecumenical prayer and a "Prayer to the Creator," which read: "Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace."

"Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war."

"May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen."

For complete text, go to www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON // NOV 3, 2020

In keeping with its mission, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information compiled here has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of September 1, 2020, to help voters form their consciences before voting in November. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

“The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights - to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors - basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work - is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best ways to respond to these needs.... Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture - is false and illusory if *the right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nos. 25, 26, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019)

President DONALD TRUMP



Former Vice-President JOE BIDEN



ABORTION

In 2016, [Trump said](#) that the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* “will happen automatically...because I am putting pro-life justices on the [U.S. Supreme] Court.”

In 2017, [Trump signed into law](#) a resolution to allow states to restrict Title X funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

According to his website, “As president, [Biden will work](#) to codify *Roe v. Wade*, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop the rash of state laws that so blatantly violate the constitutional right to an abortion...”

“As president, [Biden will...reverse](#) the Trump Administration’s rule preventing Planned Parenthood and certain other family planning programs from obtaining Title X funds.”

DEATH PENALTY

In 2020, [the Trump Administration presided](#) over five executions (three in July and two in August), the first to be carried out by the federal government in 17 years. Two additional executions are scheduled in September 2020.

According to his website, “[Biden will work](#) to pass legislation to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level, and incentivize states to follow the federal government’s example. These individuals should instead serve life sentences without probation or parole.”

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In February 2020, [Trump said](#), “Yet, for too long, countless American children have been trapped in failing government schools. To rescue these students, 18 states have created school choice in the form of Opportunity Scholarships... no parent should be forced to send their child to a failing government school.”

In January 2020, [Biden tweeted](#), “When we divert public funds to private schools, we undermine the entire public education system. We’ve got to prioritize investing in our public schools, so every kid in America gets a fair shot. That’s why I oppose vouchers.”

ENVIRONMENT

[Trump has begun](#) the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change, an international agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

According to his website, [a Biden administration will re-enter](#) the Paris Agreement on day one.

ETHICS IN RESEARCH

In 2019, [the Trump Administration announced](#) its decision to discontinue research conducted within the National Institutes of Health “involving the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortion.”

While serving in the U.S. Senate: In 2007, [Biden voted](#) in favor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 (S.5), which provides for human embryonic stem cell research. In 1998, [Biden voted](#) against the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S.1601).

GENDER ISSUES

In 2019, [the White House confirmed](#) Trump’s opposition to the [Equality Act](#), which would add the new terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the definition of “sex” in federal civil rights laws, and would exempt itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993: “The Trump Administration absolutely opposes discrimination of any kind and supports the equal treatment of all. However, this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights.”

According to his website, [Biden believes](#) the [Equality Act](#) is the “best vehicle for ensuring equal rights under the law for LGBTQ+ Americans, and will guarantee that LGBTQ+ individuals are protected under existing civil rights laws.” Biden lists enacting the Equality Act as a top legislative priority.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON

DONALD TRUMP

JOE BIDEN

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

According to his website, [Trump](#) “repealed the Obamacare individual mandate, expanded plan choices and increased competition to bring down costs for consumers.” In June 2020, [the Trump administration argued](#) in a legal brief that the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA) should be invalidated. Signed into law in 2010, ACA expanded access to health care coverage for the uninsured.

According to a White House fact sheet, [Trump](#) “is using all available means to ensure safe vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics are developed, manufactured, and distributed in unprecedented time and scale in response to COVID-19.”

According to his website, [Biden will protect](#) the Affordable Care Act and build on it by “giving Americans a new choice, a public health insurance option like Medicare; increasing the value of tax credits to lower premiums and extend coverage to more working Americans; [and] expanding coverage to low-income Americans.”

According to his website, [Biden’s COVID-19 plan](#) “ensures the wide availability of free testing; the elimination of all cost barriers to preventive care and treatment for COVID-19; the development of a vaccine; and the full deployment and operation of necessary supplies, personnel, and facilities.”

IMMIGRATION/REFUGEES

According to his website, “Upon entering office, [President Trump called on](#) Congress to fully fund a wall along the Southern border, to close legal loopholes that enable illegal immigration, to end chain migration, and to eliminate the visa lottery program.”

In July 2020, [the Trump Administration announced](#) it would reject applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program stating, “...the fact remains that Congress should act on this matter.”

[The Trump Administration proposes](#) resettling 18,000 refugees under a new refugee ceiling. The number admitted in 2016 was nearly 85,000.

According to Biden’s website, “As president, [Joe will prioritize](#) a comprehensive immigration reform to finally give 11 million undocumented immigrants a roadmap to citizenship.”

In June 2020, [Biden stated](#), “As President, I will immediately work to make [DACA] permanent by sending a bill to Congress on day one of my Administration.”

[Biden will set](#) the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000.

POVERTY

In 2019, [the Trump Administration opposed](#) a House-passed bill that would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15, stating, “efforts to reduce taxes, eliminate regulations, and implement fairer trade deals are driving economic growth and increasing workers’ take-home pay far more effectively and efficiently than legislation like H.R. 582.” The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour; a number of states and localities have adopted higher rates.

According to Biden’s website, “[He firmly believes](#) all Americans are owed a raise, and it’s well past time we increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 across the country. This increase would include workers who aren’t currently earning the minimum wage, like the farmworkers who grow our food and domestic workers who care for our aging and sick and for those with disabilities.”

RACIAL EQUITY

In June 2020, [Trump announced](#) four steps to address racial inequity and police reform: 1) aggressively pursuing economic development in minority communities; 2) confronting healthcare disparities, including addressing chronic conditions and investing in minority-serving medical institutions; 3) an [executive order](#) that will encourage police departments nationwide to meet the most current professional standards for the use of force, including tactics for de-escalation; and 4) renewing a call on Congress to enact school choice.

In a June 2020 op-ed, [Biden said](#), “We should also be directing our resources to actively undo the negative effect systemic racism has had on opportunities for black Americans,” citing inequities for African-American entrepreneurs, the gap in home ownership and discriminatory lending practices. [Biden also said](#), “...I’m proposing an additional \$300 million to reinvigorate community policing in our country. Every single police department should have the money it needs to institute real reforms...”

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In 2017, [Trump signed](#) an executive order, which states, “Federal law protects the freedom of Americans and their organizations to exercise religion and participate fully in civic life without undue interference by the Federal Government. The executive branch will honor and enforce those protections.”

In response to a July 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling preserving the religious liberty of the Little Sisters of the Poor, [a White House statement said](#), “As the Supreme Court has previously stated, protecting the ability of people to worship and live according to the dictates of their conscience is part of ‘the best of our traditions.’”

According to Biden’s website, “The Trump-Pence Administration has deliberately and systematically attempted to gut protections for the LGBTQ+ community by carving out broad religious exemptions to existing nondiscrimination laws and policies across federal agencies. [Biden will reverse](#) Trump’s policies misusing these broad exemptions...”

Regarding the July 2020 ruling, [Biden said](#) the decision, “will make it easier for the Trump-Pence Administration to continue to strip health care from women—attempting to carve out broad exemptions to the Affordable Care Act’s commitment to giving all women free access to recommended contraception.”

STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES IN THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs arm of the Catholic bishops across the state. We monitor hundreds of pieces of legislation throughout the year and determine whether or not to take a position for or against what we feel are the ones most important to our faith.



nor opposes any candidate or political party. The Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues.

List of issues included for comparison:

PRO-LIFE

House Bill 321 was a pro-life measure which would prohibit the aborting of a fetus solely on the basis of a possible diagnosis of Down syndrome. **The PCC strongly supported** this bill and worked with pro-life lawmakers to gain its passage. The bill passed both the House and the Senate, but was vetoed by Gov. Tom Wolf.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Senate Bill 637 is a bill that will remove procedural boundaries that have prevented many ex-offenders from getting professional licenses in a number of professions. **The PCC supported** this measure, which got bipartisan support. It's a bill that many

law enforcement professionals say will result in a reduction of crime. The bill passed both chambers and was recently signed by the governor.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

Senate Bill 906 was a measure that would delay the closing of two state long-term centers. The Wolf administration had called for the closing of both facilities, but **the PCC** had concerns about what would happen to the residents. We supported the bill, which passed both the House and Senate but was vetoed by the governor.

HEALTH CARE

House Bill 427 required that health insurers stay out of decisions between doctors and patients suffering from Stage IV metastatic cancer. **The PCC supported** this measure.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Senate Bill 60 increased penalties for those connected with crimes of human trafficking. **The PCC actively supported** this measure in continuing with our efforts to work against human

trafficking. This bill was one such bill that was passed and signed into law by the governor this session.

POVERTY

House Bill 33 was a move to eliminate public assistance due to a purported lack of accountability of recipients. Voting "yes" on the bill would advocate the ending of that \$200 per month payment. **The PCC opposed** this bill. The bill ultimately was signed into law.

SCHOOL CHOICE

House Bill 800 was a bill that would have provided tax credits toward children who were attending a failing public school and wanted to attend another school of their choice. **The PCC supported** this measure as we do with all bills designed to further school choice. Both the House and Senate approved the measure but it was vetoed by the governor.

Below is a detailed voting breakdown of legislators voting with or against PCC's positions.

SENATE
*incumbent

District	Candidate	HB 321	SB 637	SB 906	HB 427	SB 60	HB 33	HB 800
39	Kim Ward (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
39	Tay R. Waltenbaugh (D)							
41	Joe Pittman (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
41	Anthony J. Deloreto (D)							
45	James R. Brewster (D)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
45	Nicole W. Ziccarelli (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

HOUSE

District	Candidate	HB 321	SB 637	SB 906	HB 427	SB 60	HB 33	HB 800
33	Francis Dermody (D)*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
33	Carrie L. Delrosso (R)							
49	Bud Cook (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
49	Randy J. Barli (D)							
50	Pam Snyder (D)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
50	Larry W. Yost (R)							
51	Matthew David Dowling (R)*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
52	Ryan Warner (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
52	Harry Young Cochran (D)							
54	Robert Brooks (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
55	Joseph A. Petrarca (D)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
55	Jason Roy Silvis (R)							
56	George Dunbar (R)*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
57	Eric Nelson (R)*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
58	Eric M. Davanzo (R)*	NV	Yes	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
59	Michael P. Reese (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
60	Jeffrey Pyle (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
62	James B. Struzzi (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
62	Dennis R. Semsick (D)							
63	Donna Oberlander (R)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
66	Brian A. Smith (R)							

Inaugural Guardian Angel Appeal off to phenomenal start

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — It's safe to say the Diocese of Greensburg Catholic Charities virtual fundraising campaign is off to a rousing start.

As of Oct. 16, the six-week Guardian Angel Appeal had brought in \$174,037.

The appeal has taken off thanks to a \$100,000 anonymous donation. The campaign was launched by an anonymous donor, who issued a challenge to match \$25,000 in donations.

"So far, so good," said Heather Rady, director of community relations and special events for Catholic Charities. "I think we would have done well despite these two large donations. We've received a lot of small donations. These elevated us into the stratosphere."

Rady said the person who made the \$100,000 donation is someone who regularly comes to see her.

"This year, he said he had a revelation," Rady said. "He said



The appeal has taken off thanks to a \$100,000 anonymous donation. The campaign was launched by an anonymous donor, who issued a challenge to match \$25,000 in donations.

he's done well in life, and his family is taken care of, and this is not his money. It's God's money, and he's just the steward of it."

The virtual fundraising campaign began Oct. 2.

Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the cancellation of Catholic Charities' three major in-person fundraisers, including the annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner, which raises nearly \$100,000 each year.

Also canceled in an effort to prioritize the health and safety of those who regularly attend the events were the Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing and the Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale.

The mission of Catholic Charities continues with the first-ever Guardian Angel Appeal, which gives everyone the opportunity to become a Guardian Angel for those who may be struggling to afford necessities such as food, utilities, water or medical supplies.

To support the appeal, visit the appeal page at www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org and select a sponsorship level. Donations directly help people, regardless of their faith, in Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

HEROES OF HOPE

The Guardian Angel Appeal features six Heroes of Hope being recognized for donating their time and talents to support people in need during COVID-19.

The Heroes of Hope are:

Dr. Heather Walker, assistant director of emergency medicine, Excelsa Health Westmoreland, parishioner of Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe.

Cathy Duez, treasurer, Tri-City Meals on Wheels, parishioner of Ascension Parish, Jeannette.

Jeff Peterinelli, firefighter, Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department, parishioner of St. Bruno Parish, Greensburg, and a Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Council 1480.

Joe Rice, principal, Aquinas Academy, Greensburg, parishioner of Christ the King Parish, Leechburg.

Ashley Chappell, EMT, Mutual Aid Ambulance Service, parishioner of St. Paul Parish, Greensburg.

Anne Kovalcik and Debbie Sorce, parishioners of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent, for a parish project in which wedding gowns are repurposed for seriously ill infants to be baptized at the hospital.

Watch videos of the Heroes of Hope at www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org.

Catholic Charities staffer honored with lifetime achievement award

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — Dr. Paul Niemiec was surprised when he found out he would receive the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Counseling Association.

His first thought: "Lifetime achievement? Am I that old?"

His second thought: "What have I done, really?"

But the director of counseling services for Catholic Charities has done quite a bit and is quite deserving of the honor that was bestowed upon him. Niemiec is in his 20th year with the diocese. He's also been an instructor at the Community College of Allegheny County's South Campus in West Mifflin, worked for child welfare agencies in Westmoreland County and been a part-time teacher at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, for about 30 years.

At a virtual award ceremony Oct. 3, Niemiec expressed gratitude for the honor and said there is one thing about his professional career of which he is especially proud.

"I realize that when I think about all that I have done, I don't think any of it is outstanding, but what I've done for 40 years in one capacity or another is I've shown up," he said. "I'm trying to be true

to the work, whether I'm working with clients, working with supervisees, students or whatever, I've tried to show up. I've tried to be present to people. I hope to give them the attention and care that they seem to need that I seem to be capable of giving them."

That has presented different challenges in current times. Face-to-face counseling had to be shelved during the pandemic. Catholic Charities was not offering virtual counseling at the outset of state shutdowns. However, within a month, virtual options were available.

"We haven't missed a beat," Niemiec said. "It's something of a challenge for all of us who have been trained in face-to-face, person-to-person kind of work. The challenge for me has been teaching an old dog new tricks."

"I'm not saying I never want Catholic Charities to go back to seeing people face-to-face again. One of the things the pandemic has blessed us with is it has potentially expanded our outreach, it has potentially expanded our range of services. People who may not have been able to get into our office or who may be reluctant to come in and see somebody face-to-face for whatever reason may be able to do so virtually now



THE CATHOLIC ACCENT FILE PHOTO

Dr. Paul Niemiec, director of counseling services for Catholic Charities, counsels a client in his office.

even after the pandemic."

Stephen Kuniak, PCA president, nominated Niemiec for the award. The pair have quite a history, meeting when Kuniak was a sophomore at Saint Vincent College in 2002.

"I owe Paul all of the initial direction of my career," Kuniak said. "I've had quite a few mentors, but Paul was one of the first professors to step into that role."

Niemiec, a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg, recommended Kuniak apply for the master's program in counselor education at Duquesne University and

eventually supervised him as Kuniak worked to earn his license as a professional counselor.

"The lifetime achievement award is traditionally awarded to a professional counselor who is a more senior professional and has demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and/or achievement in professional counseling," Kuniak said. "Paul more than exemplifies these qualities. He has had a full career of dedicated service as a counselor, counselor educator and clinical supervisor."

For Niemiec, it's just a matter of continuing to stay true

to his work and his calling.

"At Catholic Charities, it's a form of ministry; and as a form of ministry, what I think is most gratifying is whenever we see people that we work with moving forward with their lives, dealing with conflict, coming to grips with loss," he said.

"Whenever you see the struggle that people go through and the strength that people can show, it gives me hope for the human race. It really is very humbling. I've always felt that counseling was a very, very privileged profession. We're invited into people's lives, and I don't take that lightly."

GCC teacher wins state arts honor

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — Erin Tiedeman said she was humbled by her recent recognition by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association.

"I have the coolest job, and to get recognized for something that comes

natural is very humbling," Tiedeman said.

Tiedeman, the visual and performing arts chairperson at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, was selected as the PAEA Non-Public Art Educator for 2020.



Erin Tiedeman

The award was presented virtually at the PAEA conference Oct. 16.

Tiedeman has been teaching for 11 years, seven at GCC.

In her role as department chair, she acts as a support system for the school's music and arts departments and attends academic council meetings throughout the year to make sure academic excellence is maintained.

Tiedeman also is a moderator for the National Arts Honor Society and the Interact Club, as well as senior class moderator.

She has a simple teaching philosophy.

"I think it is an imperative skill to learn because the process of learning and creating through art teaches skills that can be translated into every other aspect of one's life," she said. "Learning and practicing art develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be translated into areas other than academia. The study of art gives students skills that can translate into their environment and society as well."

For Tiedeman, teaching is a learning experience.

"The opportunity to teach young people is an opportunity to learn and grow as an artist and an individual myself," she said. "I believe sometimes I learn more though teaching than I could ever begin to teach. We learn through experience and exploration and mistakes — you will find these opportunities in the studio."

"I have found her to be an advocate for students, to inspire creativity and to be a respected leader," said Nicole Marchese, assistant principal at GCC.

Marchese said Tiedeman is valuable to the school in a number of ways.

"Mrs. Tiedeman is committed to improving the Greensburg Central Catholic community, never hesitating to volunteer in any way," she said. "Students are eager to learn from Mrs. Tiedeman and are engaged in the learning environment. Her students show pride in their work and take ownership of their projects."

GCC, Geibel Catholic golfers dominating

By Paul Pattera
Editor

There is some great golf being played by the young women at the Diocese of Greensburg's two high schools.

The Greensburg Central Catholic girls have been the class of the WPIAL in recent years, winning six straight WPIAL Class AA championships.

It's quite a period of excellence, which continued with the Lady Centurions' latest championship. On Oct. 5, they claimed the Class AA championship by an amazing 99 strokes. The Centurions will play for their third straight PIAA championship Oct. 26 at the Heritage Hills Golf Resort in York.

The key to GCC's success this season is quite simple.

"We have five really good players," said Gerry Police, who is in his third year as coach. "The girls understand that if they just play their game, their level of play is much better than the other teams around here."

One of the teams around here that's doing quite nicely is the Geibel Catholic Lady Gators. In just the program's second year, the girls accomplished their team goals amassing an 8-2 record (after going 6-5 in its first year) finishing second (behind GCC) in Section 1-AA and placing second in the WPIAL Class AA tournament behind GCC.

ment behind GCC.

Brian Konieczny is the coach of a program that features his two daughters — Caroline, a senior, and Claire, a sophomore — among his players.

"My two daughters were instrumental and very helpful to incentivize the other girls to succeed," he said.

The "other girls" have interesting stories.

Junior Kharisma Zylka, like Caroline Konieczny, started playing golf for the school's boys' team before the girls' program was established. Junior Paige Karpiak just picked up the sport a few years ago, and fellow junior Audra Holonich just started playing in the last few months.

The coach said the goal for his team was to go 8-2, finish second in the section and place second in the WPIAL. Missions accomplished.

"They were able to do what was required with a lot of hard work and effort and got us to a place where we were competitive," Konieczny said.

Of course, the team they finished behind was that juggernaut at GCC, where Police said he has a team that he admits is tough to beat.

"There's no team in our section that has as many talented players at one time on the team," said Police, a 1966 graduate of GCC.

Not only did the Centurions dominate at the team



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Top, GCC golfers, from left: Meghan Zambruno, Isabela Aigner, Angelika Dewicki and Ella Zambruno. Above, Geibel Catholic golfers, from left: Kharisma Zylka, Paige Karpiak, Audra Holonich, Claire Konieczny and Caroline Konieczny.

WPIAL championship, they had players finish in second through fifth place at the individual championships, each qualifying for the PIAA championship, which was scheduled for Oct. 19 at York.

Junior Ella Zambruno finished second, two strokes out of first place. Ella's twin sister Meghan finished third, senior Angelika Dewicki placed fourth and freshman Isabela Aigner placed fifth. The fifth regular player for the Centurions, junior Olivia Kana, just missed qualifying for the individual finals by one stroke.

"The girls, besides being talented golfers, are just

wonderful young ladies. They're intelligent. They have good attitudes about themselves and the game," Police said.

The GCC quartet was joined at the PIAA individual championships by Claire Konieczny.

The coaches say the girls of the two teams are friends. Plus, each coach respects what the other is doing.

Konieczny said he would be willing to pit the GCC girls against any team in the country.

"It's kind of special to have those teams finish 1-2. It speaks well for the programs," Konieczny said.

GCC runner prepares for WPIAL competition

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — Corinn Brewer feels quite comfortable in the Westmoreland County cross country meet.

The Greensburg Central Catholic junior should, as she just won the race for the third straight year.

But this year's race, held Oct. 15 at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, saw Brewer have to fight off the challenge of Kiski Area freshman Eliza Miller.

"It felt like a big accomplishment because I was able to win the race three years in a row as a junior being pushed by a strong competitor," Brewer said.

"For three miles, I let another runner pace me so that I would draft off of her because of the strong winds," Brewer explained. "With about 400 meters to go, I knew I needed to break away from her before it was too late."

"When we were neck-and-neck, I used my long stride to get past her, and then kick it in to hold on and win the race. I also felt very exhausted after the race due to the strong winds



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Corinn Brewer

and fast pace of the race."

Brewer, 16, has been running since she was 5. The Belle Vernon resident started off with track and field, then began running cross country when she turned 8.

Then again, running is the family sport. Her older brothers, Aiden and

Patrick, compete in the decathlon at Bucknell and Cornell universities respectively. Her younger brothers, James and Grant, also run.

Running also brings peace to the parishioner of St. Sebastian Parish in Belle Vernon.

"I like cross country because I feel that it is peaceful to run through God's creation," Brewer said. "Running is a time for me to set aside academics and focus on something else. I also like the feeling you get after you complete a hard workout. I use cross country to perfect other character assets, such as dedication and perseverance."

Brewer, who also participates in track and field and gymnastics, will need that dedication and perseverance at the WPIAL Class AA cross country championship Oct. 28 at White Oak Park.

"The key to having success at the WPIAL race will be to start out with the leaders and to push myself through the second and third miles when it gets hard," she said. "Just like at counties, I will use my power, strength and determination to allow me to finish strong and pass the other runners."

A message from Msgr. Kulick

While I was only recently elected administrator of the Diocese of Greensburg, I know from my work as vicar general and a parish pastor that this was not an easy year for the Catholic Church or its faithful people.

As the 2019-20 fiscal year began, the Diocese of Greensburg was addressing the needs of the survivors of clergy sexual abuse through the Comprehensive Reconciliation Initiative and Survivors' Compensation Program.



Later in the fiscal year, the diocese had to quickly respond to the challenges of a global pandemic. That meant dispensing Catholics from the obligation to attend Mass in person to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and using technology to stay connected with our

people by streaming Masses, devotional activities and catechetical events.

During these challenging times, the mission, ministries and work of the church continued. Catholic schools and parish religious education programs continued through distance learning. Catholic Charities continued to serve people in need while responding to record levels of requests for assistance.

We were able to continue the work of the Church because of your generosity and sacrifices. That, along with our participation in the Paycheck Protection Program, enabled us to keep more than 1,000 full- and part-time employees on the payroll.

One of my responsibilities as administrator is to oversee the stewardship of the diocese's material blessings — which are the result of your charity — and to report on the diocese's financial status. Despite the challenges, we are meeting our financial obligations and providing for the pastoral and material needs of our diocese and parishes. At the same time, we are meeting the needs of the survivors of clergy sexual abuse no matter when it occurred.

In the diocese's ongoing commitment to transparency, it publicly reported in late August the status of the Survivors' Compensation Program: settlements with 72 survivors totaling \$5,908,293. This annual financial report also shows the legal fees incurred as a result of the investigations and responses to past clergy abuse that were undertaken by state and federal investigators, local officials and by the diocese.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact our chief financial officer, Sheila Murray.

I deeply appreciate your continued support of the diocese and its clergy. As we await the appointment of our new bishop, I ask for your continued prayers and support so that together we may continue to fulfill our diocesan mission and together welcome and support our new bishop.

Msgr. Larry J. Kulick is Diocesan Administrator.

Analysis from the chief financial officer

I am pleased to present the overview of the finances of the Diocese of Greensburg for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The audited financial statements, as well as other supplemental financial information, are available at dioceseofgreensburg.org and theaccentonline.org. Our Catholic Church certainly looked different these past six months during the pandemic, but we continue to minister to all in our diocese in Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.



The pie charts indicate where the funding came from to support the central administration offices, as well as the cost centers where those funds were spent in the fiscal year from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

The Diocesan Lenten Appeal continued to be the greatest revenue source with 32% of diocesan revenues. In the midst of the pandemic, our parishioners continued to strongly support their church through this Appeal by contributing almost the same amounts the past two years. The Diocesan assessment on parish income generated another 25% of diocesan income, and program fees generated 17% of the revenues.

On the expense side, faith formation and Catholic education expenses accounted for 21% of the total expenses of the central administration offices, while Bishop's offices and other Chancery offices accounted for 11%. The administrative arm of the Pastoral Center operations, the finance department, was about \$1.7 million, or 17% of total expenses. We had six seminarians in our vocations formation programs, and 19 international priests were serving in our diocese at June 30, 2020, accounting for about 13% of our total expenses. We also spent \$1.2 million toward the corporal works of mercy, which provided materials and services to people in need.

Legal and professional fees are included in the "Other" administration category. We incurred legal

fees of approximately \$300,000 in fiscal year 2020. These fees were due to state and federal grand jury investigations and the establishment of the Diocese's Survivors' Compensation Program, which was part of our Comprehensive Reconciliation Initiative. No diocesan legal fees were spent to defend a priest accused of sexual abuse.

On the Statements of Financial Position, total assets have decreased about \$5 million over the past year and \$11 million over the past two years. The decrease between fiscal years 2020 and 2019 was mainly due to a decrease in investments of \$3 million as we continued to fund our Survivors' Compensation Program. Over the two-year period between fiscal years 2018 and 2020, investments decreased by about \$5 million, which is due to settlements paid from our Survivor's Compensation Program. This initiative has resulted in settlements with 72 survivors totaling \$5.9 million, with other Catholic institutions contributing almost \$700,000 toward those settlements. Fixed assets also decreased about \$5 million over the two years, due mainly to additional depreciation expense incurred as we adjusted the lives of our fixed assets. Sale of fixed assets was not part of this decrease.

In the Liabilities section, accrued expenses decreased by about \$3.5 million. This was from settlement amounts from the Survivor's Compensation Fund that were accrued at June 30, 2019, but paid during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. This decrease was offset by the accrued pension-lay plan liability increase of about \$5 million due to a decrease in the discount rate and actual return on investments. The refundable advance of almost \$1.7 million represents a Small Business Administration loan that was received through the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The loan is allocated with \$1.1 million to the Current Fund, \$400,000 to Greens-

burg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School (GCC) and \$200,000 to Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School. It is anticipated that the majority of this loan will be forgiven, pending submission and approval of the loan forgiveness application.

Net assets without donor restrictions decreased \$7 million, mainly due to the Pension Accounting Fund (\$5 million) and the Pastoral Center (\$1 million). The Pastoral Center reduction of \$1 million was primarily caused by a transfer to the self-insurance fund to help fund the Survivors' Compensation Program.

GCC and Geibel Catholic continued to provide an excellent education even during the midst of the pandemic. Both schools provided online learning to their 450 students immediately after schools were closed by state order in March. One-to-one learning initiatives previously in place made a seamless transition possible.

On the Schedules of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets, GCC reflects a positive change in its Net Assets without donor restrictions by about \$200,000. This was mainly due to an increase in Special Purpose Entity EITC funds (SPE) of about \$400,000. These funds were received during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, but were distributed and reflected as revenue during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Geibel Catholic reflects a decrease in its Net Assets without donor restrictions by about \$130,000. This is mainly attributed to fewer students in the school resulting in less tuition revenue.

In summary, the diocesan financial report shows that the parishioners of our diocese continued to graciously support their church over this past year, even during the pandemic. Even though offertory income throughout our parishes, which is not reflected on these statements, has decreased by about 10% these past six months, we continue to livestream our Masses and offer ministry and support to the people in our diocese. Together, we continue to serve the Lord with gladness. We are most grateful to all the people who demonstrate their commitment to the Church.

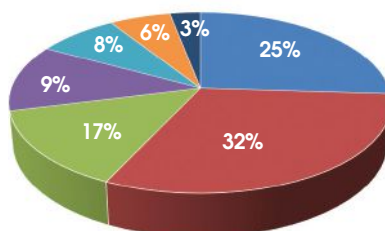
FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ONLINE

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

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

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

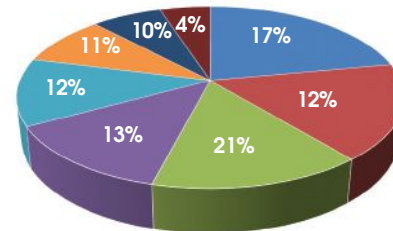
REVENUE



Diocesan Lenten Appeal (32%)	\$3.4 million
Diocesan assessment on parish income (25%)	\$2.7 million
Program fees & other revenue (17%)	\$1.7 million
Christ Our Shepherd Center rental, fees, food service (9%)	\$967,000
Investment & endowment income (8%)	\$836,000
Communications assessment (6%)	\$587,000
Other contributions & grants (3%)	\$352,000

TOTAL: \$10,537,892

EXPENSES



Faith formation & Catholic education (21%)	\$2.1 million
Finance Department (17%)	\$1.7 million
Vocations, clergy formation, international priests (13%)	\$1.3 million
Corporal works of mercy (12%)	\$1.2 million
Communications & Evangelization Office (12%)	\$1.2 million
Chancery offices (11%)	\$1.1 million
Christ Our Shepherd Center (10%)	\$966,000
Other administrative (4%)	\$396,000

TOTAL: \$10,038,053

A message for the celebration of World Mission Month

By Father Anthony J. Carbone
Director, Diocesan Mission Office

If we have heard it once, we have heard it innumerable times — this year is different from all others. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has probably touched every aspect of our lives.

Yet some things are unchangeable, one of them being the mission of the Church. Jesus Christ founded the Catholic Church and gave us our task. We participate in the mission of the Church when we “go out to all the nations and tell the Good News.”

Even in the midst of a pandemic, we announce the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Several inquiries from around the world to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples regarding World Mission Sunday 2020 received this response — the congregation “confirms that it will be celebrat-

ed this year at the universal level on Sunday, Oct. 18, without changes in the calendar.”

The communication from the congregation insists that “the missionary zeal of the People of God remains pre-eminent.” The congregation concludes its note by reminding us that the faith we have “by its nature is missionary.”

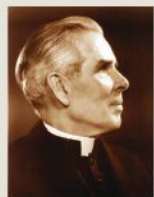
The celebration of World Mission Sunday and World Mission Month can enliven our faith and desire to share it. Please be generous in prayers and material support. Your contributions to the World Mission collection benefit the Pontifical Mission Societies, “which work in a universal context for an equitable support of the Churches in mission territories.”

If you have any questions, would like further information about the mission work of the Church or want to make



a donation to support that work, call the Mission Office of the Diocese of Greensburg at 724-837-0901.

Visit www.missio.org to learn more about the mission work of the universal church.



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

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

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

Visit www.missio.org to learn more about the mission work of the universal church.

DAILY PRAYERS FOR THE MISSIONS

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

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

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

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



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

Students earn national honors for mission artwork contest

GREENSBURG — The diocese extended its run of winners in the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Christmas Artwork contest as the works of two elementary students were selected from the thousands of entries for the 2019-20 contest.

The honorees are Emma Thimons, an eighth-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, and Eva Delaney, a third-grader at Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville.

Since the diocese began participating in the Christmas card art contest, nine students have been national winners, including five from Mary Queen of Apostles School.

All winning entries are scheduled to be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during the Advent and Christmas season. In addition, the winning artwork will be available as sharable digital greetings at www.mcakids.org.

Plans for the annual celebration at the basilica with the winners have not been finalized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

— *The Catholic Accent*



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Emma Thimons, left, and Eva Delaney with their winning Christmas artwork.

Vocation discernment events set for boys, teens, young adults

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg Office of Priestly Vocations is planning the following discernment events:

- **Jeremiah Days** is an opportunity for middle school-aged boys and their parents or guardians to gather to learn, discuss and pray about a vocation to the priesthood. The group will meet on the following days: Nov. 14, Feb. 20, and April 17 from 9:30–11:30 a.m. at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City.

- **Exploring God's Call**, for boys in grades 9–12, is offered Nov. 22, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16 from 6:30–8 p.m. at Greensburg Catholic High School. Sessions include prayer, discussion, dinner and fellowship.

- **The Melchizedek Project** is designed for ages 18 and up and is intended to help participants grow in their understanding of how to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Sessions include prayer, discussion, dinner and fellowship. Sessions are set for Nov. 1, 15 and 29 and Dec. 13 at St. Rose Parish, Latrobe.

To register for any of the programs, visit gbgvocations.org.

Retired religious collection Oct. 31–Nov. 1

GREENSBURG — The collection for Retired Religious and Diocesan Priests will be conducted in the Diocese of Greensburg the weekend of Oct. 31–Nov. 1, 2020.

Since 1999, this collection has supported retired diocesan priests. Revenue generated through this collection allows the retirement fund for diocesan priests to provide periodically for an increase in the retirement benefit. Twenty-five percent of the total of this

year's collection will be designated for the retired diocesan priests' fund. The remainder goes to the National Religious Retirement Office for distribution to religious communities in need.

Today, the majority of women religious in congregations and men in religious orders are past age 60; many are past age 80. Many institutes do not have the resources to meet the dramatically escalating costs of care for their growing populations of elderly.



60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

John and Patricia White of Lower Burrell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 3 at a Mass at Mount St. Peter Parish, New Kensington. They were married Sept. 3, 1960, at St. Mary of Czestochowa Parish, New Kensington, where they are lifelong parishioners. Both retired, they are members of the parish pastoral council and faith formation instructors. John is a member of the Holy Name Society and the Serrans; Patricia is a member of the Christian Mothers Association. They have three sons, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

In memoriam

- Joseph R. Bugay, 84, Sept. 21, 2020. Brother of Father Stephen R. Bugay, pastor of SS. Simon and Jude Parish, Blairsville.

PROMISE TO PROTECT



If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer, you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

CHAPEL OPEN

Latrobe — The eucharistic adoration and prayer chapel at Holy Family Parish, which is dedicated to fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life, has reopened. Hours for adoration are Sundays, noon-6 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: Carol Pratt, 724-858-7333

CHRISTMAS EVENT

Kittanning — St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will hold a Holly Berry Fair Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in St. Mary Parish Hall. The event will include basket and cash raffles, a soup and bread sale, stuffed chicken breast dinners (pre-orders only, pickup from 3-6 p.m.). Baskets can be previewed Nov. 28 from 2-6 p.m., Nov. 29 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Dec. 4 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 724-548-7649 or www.stmarykittanning.org.

DRIVE-THRU/TAKEOUT MEALS

Everson — St. Joseph Parish will hold a Polish platter takeout dinner Oct. 31 from 3-6 p.m. or until sold out at the parish hall. Cost is \$10. Frozen turkeys will be collected for a charity drive,

and a 50/50 drawing and raffle are planned. Orders (day of dinner only): 724-220-5321 (walk-in orders also welcome).

Irwin — Immaculate Conception Parish will hold a drive-thru Burger Bash Nov. 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Information: 724-863-9550.

Jeannette — Ascension Parish will hold a takeout spaghetti dinner Oct. 27 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in Mersinger Hall. Cost is \$10 for dinner, \$8 for meatballs and \$5 for a quart of sauce. Advance orders: 724-527-2659 Oct. 27 only.

Kent — Church of the Good Shepherd Parish will hold a drive-thru turkey dinner Nov. 1 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church. Cost is \$12, \$5 for ages 6-12 (free for 5 and under). Frozen pierogies will be available at \$13 for two dozen.

Kittanning — St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will hold a drive-thru takeout stuffed pork chop dinner Oct. 24 from 3-7 p.m. in front of the parish hall. Cost is \$12, preorders only. Orders: www.stmarykittanning.org or 724-548-7649 by Oct. 21.

New Alexandria — The St. James Parish Rosary Altar Society will hold a drive-thru takeout soup sale Nov. 7 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5:30-6 p.m. Cost is \$9 per quart, preorders only. Orders: 724-668-2829 or stjamesnewalexandria.org by Nov. 4.

Virtual catechetical certification courses offered

GREENSBURG — The Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship will be holding two online permanent catechetical certification courses this fall live on Zoom. You are required to attend both days of the course to receive credit for the course.

Christology will be offered Oct. 26 and 28, and Catholicism in America will be offered Nov. 9 and 11. Both are from 6:30-9 p.m.

To register, visit www.dioceseofgreensburg.org (click on "Online Registrations").

Scottsdale — St. John the Baptist Parish will hold a takeout chicken and biscuit dinner Nov. 14 from 3-6 p.m. at the parish hall. Cost is \$10. Frozen hams will be collected for a charity drive. Orders: 724-887-7013 Nov. 14 only.

GCC VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Greensburg — Prospective students and families can learn about Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School in a virtual open house and tour. Registration: www.gcchs.org.

KOLACHE SALE

United — St. Florian Parish is selling nut, apricot, poppyseed and prune rolls. Cost is \$12, preorders only. Pickup will be Nov. 14 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Nov. 15 from 10 a.m.-noon. Orders: 724-423-5233, 724-423-2455 or 724-423-5275 by Nov. 2.

RELIGIOUS ORDER

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet Nov. 15 (topic: "Hospitality in Benedictine Spirituality") and Dec. 20 (topic: "Humility in Benedictine Spirituality") from 3-4:15 p.m. in the Archabbey Basilica Crypt. Masks required. Reservations: Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Supper at 5:35 p.m. and additional sessions at 6:30 p.m. may be added; call for details.

ROSARY

Harrison City — The Ladies Guild of St. Barbara Parish will hold an outdoor Rosary Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. at the church. Rosaries via Zoom are planned Nov. 4 and 18 at 7 p.m. (Oct. 21 will be via Zoom if necessary due to weather). Information: Dee Davis, 724-244-6812.

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Natrona Heights — St. Joseph High School will host an open house by appointment Nov. 7 from 10 a.m.-noon. Registration: SaintJosephHS.com. Information: admissions@SaintJosephHS.com.



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Note: This ad was inadvertently left out of September's special Bishop Malesic farewell issue.

Duquesne creates Catholic studies department

PITTSBURGH — Duquesne University has established a new interdisciplinary Department of Catholic Studies in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts. Proposals for the major and minor in Catholic studies are currently under review by the University Academic Council.

With an initial gift from an anonymous donor, the Department of Catholic Studies will draw on curricular resources from the nine schools at Duquesne University to create a hub where the Catholic tradition can be explored in its rich breadth and depth. The department will encourage research and organize conferences, symposia and other scholarly endeavors.

LECOM begins nursing master's program

ERIE — The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), with a campus at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, will start a Master of Science in Nursing-Clinical Nurse Leader program in January.

The program is designed to prepare practicing registered nurses to tackle the complexities of health care delivery systems. To learn more, visit www.lecom.edu or call 941-782-5955.

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Virtual Fall Open House:
10/24

Virtual Griffin for a Day:
11/10

*Virtual Physician Assistant
Information Session:*
11/19

*Visual and Performing Arts
Virtual Major for a Day:*
11/5

INDIVIDUAL IN-PERSON VISITS ALSO AVAILABLE
MOST WEEKDAYS & SOME SATURDAYS!

LEARN MORE AT **setonhill.edu/visit**.

COVID-19 safety protocols are in place for all visitors.