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Home parish gives Bishop Kulick the gift of his lifetime.

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Your generosity brings relief to sister diocese in Peru.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Celebrate 20% Enrollment Increase



Catholic Schools Week celebration begins Jan. 30

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — Catholic school enrollment in the Diocese of Greensburg is up 20% from 2019, or nearly 350 students. The news will be celebrated by students, faculty and staff during Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 5.

Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, attributes that growth to three major factors: unprecedented tuition assistance opportunities, the ability of Catholic schools to maintain in-person instruction throughout COVID-19 and the excellent culture of faith-based

academic instruction provided at each of the 12 schools throughout the Diocese.

"In our Catholic schools, this invisible bond with Jesus is made visible on a daily basis because we invite Him to hold our hand as we pray and study our faith. Our faculty and staff make each child feel safe and loved," Marsteller said.

Donors from our community have decided to make long-term investments in our Catholic schools, assisting with both tuition assistance and capital improvements.

An anonymous donor has agreed to continue funding of the St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership for an additional five years.

With this donation, alongside new corporate and individual donors, nearly \$20 million in tuition assistance is expected to be available to Catholic school students in the Diocese of Greensburg over the next five years.

Capital project donations were gifted totaling more than \$300,000 from Lindy Paving, Golden Triangle Construction and Arch Masonry at many of the school campuses.

The St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership is a groundbreaking scholarship opportunity announced July 1, 2020, by the Diocese, thanks to an anonymous donor who

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The one-year anniversary of Bishop Kulick's ordination, in pictures.

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THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
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and strengthen faith formation and
evangelization.



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OFFICIAL

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

Effective Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022

ADMINISTRATOR:

The Very Reverend Paul A. Lisik, VF, continues as Administrator of the Parishes of St. Pius X and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mount Pleasant, while remaining Pastor of the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St. John the Evangelist and St. Rita, Connellsville and St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar. Father Lisik continues as Vicar Forane of Deanery VI and remains in all other Diocesan appointments.

The Very Reverend Tyler J. Bandura, VF, as Administrator Pro Tem of the Parishes of Saint Rose, Latrobe, and Saint John the Evangelist, Latrobe, while remaining Pastor of St. James Parish, New Alexandria, Dean of Deanery V, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Greensburg, and in all other Diocesan appointments.

PAROCHIAL VICAR:

The Reverend Daniel E. Carr from Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St. John the

Evangelist and St. Rita, Connellsville, and St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar, and Chaplain to Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville, to Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of St. Pius X and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mount Pleasant, while remaining as Director of Pro-Life Activities, Marriage Preparation and Adult Education and Formation in the Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship. With residence at St. Pius X Rectory in Mount Pleasant.

The Reverend Arnel Tadeo as Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St. John the Evangelist and St. Rita, Connellsville, and St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar, with residence within the parish.

CHAPLAIN:

Father Julius Capongpongan as Interim Chaplain to Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville, while remaining as Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St. John the Evangelist and St. Rita, Connellsville,

and St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar, and Chaplain to Highlands Hospital.

SPECIAL: RELEASED FOR STUDIES:

The Reverend Alan N. Polczynski has been released from his parochial and Diocesan appointments to full time studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., while remaining in residence at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Rectory in Greensburg.

ASSISTANT EPISCOPAL MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Mr. Gregory De Floria is appointed as Assistant Episcopal Master of Ceremonies.

MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

The Reverend William G. Berkey has been granted a six-month leave of absence for medical reasons while remaining as Pastor of Saint Rose Parish, Latrobe, and Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Latrobe, with residence at the Neumann House located at the Christ our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.

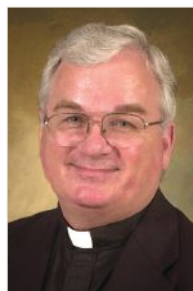
OBITUARIES *(additional obituaries on page 31)*

Father Thomas A. Federline, pastor in Mount Pleasant

GREENSBURG — Father Thomas A. Federline, pastor of St. Pius X Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, both in Mount Pleasant, died Nov. 8, 2021, at UPMC McKeesport Hospital. He was 72.

Born Sept. 4, 1949, in Baltimore, Md., he earned a bachelor's degree from Mount St. Mary University, Emmitsburg, Md., and a master of divinity degree at Mount St. Mary Seminary. He was ordained a priest May 4, 1985, by Bishop William G. Connare at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.

He served as parochial vicar of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Uniontown, and its mission, now St. Joan of Arc



Father Federline

Parish, Farmington (1985-88); Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville, and its former chapel in Dawson (1988-93); and St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon (1993-96). He served as pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Brady's Bend, and its former chapel in Sugar Creek (1996-2002); St. Mary Parish, Freeport (2002-07); St. Paul Parish, Greensburg (2007-13); St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Parish, Indiana (2013-20); St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish, Donegal (2020-21); and St. Pius X Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, both in Mount Pleasant (2020-21).

Father Federline served as clergy moderator for the Deanery V Youth

Ministry Council, diocesan ecumenical officer, spiritual advisor for the Catholic Men's Fellowship and vicar forane (dean) of Deanery 2.

In addition to his parents, James J. Federline and Alice V. Hannon Federline, he was preceded in death by his sister, Jeanette Brinkos, and brothers James and David, who both died in December.

He is survived by siblings Margaret (Robert) Reilly of Muncie, Ind., Richard Federline of Pittsburgh and Robert (Vicki) Federline of Oakmont, and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick Nov. 19 at Mother of Sorrows Church, Murrysburg, followed by burial in Greensburg Catholic Cemetery.

Father Elmer A. Kacinko, retired priest of Diocese

PITTSBURGH — Father Elmer A. Kacinko, a retired priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, died Nov. 2, 2021 in Pittsburgh. He was 91.

Born in Duquesne Nov. 13, 1929, he was a son of the late Frank and Mary (Zeman) Kacinko. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and attended St. Maur's Seminary, South Union, Ky.

Father Kacinko was incardinated Jan. 31, 1958, in the Pittsburgh Byzantine Eparchy and ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Greensburg May 27, 1961, by Bishop William G. Connare.

He served as assistant pastor of

Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin, St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon, and Holy Family Parish, Latrobe. He served as pastor of the former St. Mary, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Parker (1970-72); the former St. Gertrude Parish, McIntyre, and its mission, St. Anthony Parish, Aultman (1972-75); the former St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Brownsville, and its mission, St. Theresa Parish, Allison (1975-79); St. Cecilia Parish, Grindstone (1979-85); St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont (1985); and the former St. Francis Parish, Graceton, and its mission, St.



Father Kacinko

Bonaventure Parish, Blacklick. He retired as pastor of the former St. Francis Parish, Coral, in June 2000.

He was preceded in death by siblings Irene Wilson and Frank, Edward and Robert Kacinko. He is survived by a sister-in-law, Betty Kacinko of Penn Township, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick Nov. 5 in St. Maurice Church of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Forest Hills, followed by burial with military honors in St. Joseph Cemetery, Duquesne.

COVID doesn't dampen Catholic schools celebration

By Maureen Marsteller
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

COVID-19, masks, isolation, quarantine, Catholic Schools Week. Wait! What? Can they exist together? They can and they do.

This year and last year, we have had to celebrate Catholic Schools Week while COVID has remained a constant presence in our lives. The pandemic has tried to dampen our spirits, but it fails to do so as our ingenious educators and parents have created unique ways to celebrate the blessing of a Catholic school education.

And it certainly is a blessing to be in a Catholic school in this time of great uncertainty, because we are surrounded by prayer, faith-sharing and the love of Christ throughout every moment of the school day.

Imagine working and learning in an environment that proclaims the Good News of the Gospel every day, where the school faculty, staff and students stop to pray communally and individually throughout the day, and where Mass is offered on a regular basis. This is why we can celebrate despite COVID. We have hope, resilience and faith that replace fear and doubt.

As we celebrate the presence of Catholic education in our Diocese, I wanted to share the proclamation below that can be found in most Catholic schools. It truly epitomizes the essence of Catholic education and what we believe.

Let it be known to all who enter here that Jesus Christ

*Is the reason for this school,
the unseen but ever-present teacher in all its classes,
the model for its faculty,
and the inspiration for its students.*



How fortunate we are in the Diocese of Greensburg to be able to offer children the opportunity to attend elementary or high school classes in an environment that embraces Jesus Christ as the reason for the school, where He is the model for teachers and an inspiration for students. We celebrate that Catholic schools exist to carry out this mission and spread the Gospel message throughout the world.

A celebration always includes a moment when the people who have made the celebration possible are recognized and thanked for their support. Our deepest thanks are expressed to Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, Vicar General, and all of the priests, deacons and religious for their tireless support of Catholic education. We also are grateful to our generous donors who provide the financial support needed to offer a Catholic education to as many children as possible. And we are happy to acknowledge the donations of time, talent and treasure by parents, guardians and members of the community who recognize and value the worth of a Catholic education. Thank you all!

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank the administrators, teachers and all of the staff whose loving and caring presence inspires the students to become faith-filled leaders of the future.

The years have been difficult ones during COVID, but our schools continue to thrive amid a pandemic that frequently changes the rules that we all must follow on a continuous basis. I am very thankful to all of you for helping us keep Christ as the light that relegates the pandemic to the shadows.

Educators, students to be honored



**GOLDEN
APPLE AWARD**
Celebrating Excellence in Teaching

The Diocese of Greensburg will celebrate excellence in teaching and learning at the "A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast" March 24 at 8 a.m. at Stratigos Banquet Centre, North Huntingdon.

The fourth annual Golden Apple Awards will be presented to three teachers within the 12 schools of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Exceptional student achievement will be recognized through Student Spotlight Awards. Recipients are featured in this issue; comments about them were provided by their teachers and principals.

Capital Sustainability Awards will be presented to schools supporting projects such as heating and cooling upgrades, cafeteria and playground improvements, and investments in gathering spaces and curb appeal.

Visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/GoldenAppleAwards to become a breakfast sponsor or purchase tickets.

Enrollment increases 20% in Diocesan Catholic schools

Continued from page 1

is committed to fortifying Catholic education in Western Pennsylvania. In 2021, more than 900 students benefited from the tuition assistance totaling nearly \$2.7 million. In 2020, available monies offset the cost of Catholic education for nearly 250 students who were new to the Catholic school system.

The anonymous donor has agreed to extend the TOP Student program for an additional five years, with the help of new donors including Jay W. Cleveland Jr., President and CEO of Cleveland Brothers. More than 100 other businesses and individuals have also committed to the Pennsylvania Educational Income Tax Credit program, bringing the five-year outlook for tuition assistance to approximately \$20 million.

"These are major opportunities for our Catholic schools, made

possible by community-minded individuals who understand the impact that Catholic education can have in a person's life," Bishop Larry J. Kulick said. "We are grateful for their commitment to our schools and families through these partnerships."

The qualifications to becoming a TOP Student include the following:

- Student must demonstrate commitment to and enthusiasm for learning.
- Student/family must be registered members of a faith community.
- Student must demonstrate service to that faith community.
- Parent/guardian must demonstrate some financial commitment toward the cost of education.

This information is also available at CatholicSchoolsGuide.org or by calling 724-552-2565.

Catholic schools community continues to excel in year of challenges

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I celebrate my first Catholic Schools Week as Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg, it was my hope that we would all be living in a post-pandemic world by now. Unfortunately, that is not the case. We all have endured another year of challenges both inside and outside of the classroom. Sadly, for many, it has been another year of illness and loss, reminding us how destructive this pandemic is. I continue to pray that this pandemic will quickly come to an end in this new year, and I will remember in my prayers all who have been impacted in any way.

With a few exceptions, students attending our 12 Catholic schools continue their education in classrooms receiving a faith-based education that is truly stellar. Our Diocesan and Catholic school leadership will continue to reevaluate and prioritize protocols for the health and safety of our students in this ever-changing environment. I am

incredibly proud and grateful for our administrators, teachers, staff and parents who continue to work together to provide a successful school year for our children.



Because we have been so diligent, we have been able to maintain in-person instruction through the pandemic at our Catholic schools. Enrollment is up 20% from 2019. I am excited that parents want a culture of excellence and faith-based instruction that our schools provide. Providing a Catholic education is one of the most important youth ministries in the Diocese of Greensburg. It is one of the ways our children can learn to know, love and serve Jesus every day.

We are blessed in the Diocese of Greensburg to be able to continue to offer the wonderful opportunity of a Catholic education to any student who desires one. Thanks to the St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership, we can remove some of the financial barriers that may have prevented parents from considering this important and valuable

option for their children. The program is made possible through donors from our community who have generously made long-term investments in our Catholic schools to assist with both tuition assistance and capital improvements. A generous gift, made anonymously, provided nearly \$2.7 million last year to offset the costs of a Catholic education for more than 900 students. We expect this amount to grow to \$20 million in assistance available to Catholic school students in the Diocese of Greensburg over the next five years.

The education of our students remains a priority for me, whether it is in our Catholic schools or in our faith formation programs across the Diocese. As the recipient of a Catholic education, I know how it shaped me in many ways and prepared me to develop into the person that I have become. I hope and pray that the education our students receive will benefit them in the same way. I ask you to continue to pray for all our administrators, teachers, staff, volunteers, parents and students as we continue to move forward in faith and hope.

When I was ordained Bishop in 2021, I chose the Episcopal motto, "Christus is Veritas," which is Latin for "Christ is Truth." This motto reminds all of us that eternal truth comes from Jesus. This is an important message for our youth to hear, especially given the circumstances we face in the world today. I know that this is the message we share with our Catholic school students. They are provided an exemplary education while being spiritually fed in the love and truth of our Lord. That is why I encourage parents to visit a nearby Catholic school. See firsthand the opportunities for spiritual formation, education and tuition assistance. Then, prayerfully consider giving your child the gift of a lifetime — a Catholic education.

In Christ,

+ Larry J. Kulick

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



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Joe and Kristen Mahoney and their four children.

AQUINAS ACADEMY

Lifelong bonds, memories made

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG — The Mahoney family's roots run deep at Aquinas Academy.

Joe Mahoney, 31, is a proud 2005 graduate of Aquinas Academy. His mother, Kate Mahoney, has taught fourth grade at the school since the mid-1990s and in the Diocese of Greensburg for nearly 35 years. His father, Dan Mahoney, is athletic director at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, and was principal at the former St. Bruno, Greensburg, and Sacred Heart, Jeannette, schools, Aquinas Academy and Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School.

The family tradition continues for Joe Mahoney and his wife, Kristen, and their four children. Rowen, 8, is a second-grader at Aquinas Academy; Polly, 7, is a first-grader; Jack, 5, will go to kindergarten in 2022; and Archie, 3, will have to wait a few years to follow in his family's footsteps.

Mahoney is still close with classmates from kindergarten, including Brianna Appleby and Adam Palcic, who are his youngest son's godparents.

Mahoney said he can't imagine sending his children anywhere else.

He credits his Aquinas Academy teachers for tapping into a knack for math and sciences and pointing him in the right career direction.

Mahoney said he loves his job with Chevron Corp. but doesn't like being away from his family. He is currently working off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif. He works two weeks on site and two weeks from home.

The family attends Our Lady of Grace Parish in Greensburg.

Mahoney said there is "just something" about Aquinas Academy.

"Your kids are going to school with great families in an intimate setting where everyone knows everyone. I'm proud to be a product of Catholic education," he said.

Like Mahoney, Mary Stunja Revers, a 2004 Aquinas Academy graduate, keeps in touch with former classmates. She said the school, where the teachers all knew students' names and families, gave her lifetime friends.

Growing up, Revers took care of her grandmother, who was an amputee. She knew early on that she wanted to work in the medical field and give back and continue helping others.

Revers is an emergency medicine

Continued on page 10

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Rhys Weber, Grade 6
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg
Parent: Deanna Weber

Rhys is a remarkable young man who you would never know deals with vision problems. He suffers from a disease, and despite a recent surgery, he will eventually lose his eyesight.

He is a student mentor and a member of the reading and basketball teams and makes morning announcements.

He is a straight-A student and model and friend to all his classmates. We commend him for his strength and maturity while facing life's obstacles.



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PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS PRE-K to 6th GRADE

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CHRIST THE DIVINE TEACHER SCHOOL

Early school days still resonate in graduate's personal, professional lives

By Chris Rodell
Contributing Writer

LATROBE — Nicole Trainer got so much more than a solid education during her years at Christ the Divine Teacher School. She got her whole life.

It was there she met her future husband and the father of her two daughters.

In the fourth grade!

"You could say a big part of everything I have is in some way related to my years at Christ the Divine Teacher," said Trainer, today a psychologist based in Latrobe.

Of course, she and now-husband Jeremy weren't a couple back then. They were playing the field, which makes sense because they were still at an age when children played in fields. She said she doesn't have firm memories of him until sixth grade.

Eventually romance replaced friendship, and today they are the parents of Riley and Willow, a third- and first-grader, respectively, at the school where their parents met.

"I guess I owe that school a lot," she said. "It was and is a big part of my life. I wanted my children to grow up

with the same kind of strong moral compass that a Catholic education instilled in me.

"They taught me early on the value of doing the right thing even when sometimes it wasn't easy."



Nicole Trainer

She said a Catholic education bestows the principles of faith, hope and love, and that those touchstones still resonate in everything she does. The school also was pivotal, she says, in helping her develop a self-confidence so necessary to soulful contentment.

"I was in the seventh grade and I decided to run for student government," she said.

Her platform? More dress-down days.

"And I won! I still remember the feeling of winning and the responsibility," she said.

She recalls having some success in implementation. And today, she's sorry: "Now, I loathe dress-down days for the way they complicate my mornings."

She strives for the same thing Principal J. Kevin Frye does. It's a one-word salutation he uses to conclude his e-mails, an affirmation that at times today seems preposterous.

The word is: "Peace."

Yes, what was once groovy today seems audacious.

But there is an exuberant optimism about Frye and his school that makes one think, yes, let's give peace a chance!

"I used to sign off all correspondence with 'Yours in Christ.' But our school motto is Latin for 'Peace and Virtue,' and I just like the simple ideal of peace between people and peace in your heart. It's what we try and impart here into every student," he said.

In his 11 years as principal, Frye said he is most proud of what

is achieved by the students who've left Christ the Divine Teacher School.

Every spring the Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Chamber of Commerce has a luncheon that honors the best students from each of the school districts in the region. He said he's been awed by years when the best student from every district had his or her beginnings at Christ the Divine Teacher School.

"Our staff and our students never cease to amaze me with their dedication, their innovation and how they represent the best of Catholic education," he said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Margaret Krom, Grade 8
Holy Family Parish, Latrobe
Parents: Dr. Michael and Jessica Krom

The words that best describe Margaret are "humble servant." While naturally quiet, she leads by example. Her kindness and generosity, in addition to her natural talents, represent the very best of what we hope for our students.

Margaret is an exceptional student who never gives less than her best. She is also a gifted singer, writer and actress.

She has been on the cross country team as well as running several 5Ks. She is part of the student council prefect (governing) board of students, has served on the student government committee and as a class representative, and was voted by her peers into a school leadership position this year.



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cdtschool.org



CONN-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Connellsville school's graduates continue lives of service

By Lori Padilla
Contributing Writer

CONNELLVILLE — Conn-Area Catholic School has been shaping the lives of its students for over 50 years, always with the same goal — to instill and encourage a loving relationship with God that fosters the importance of service to others.

Judy Parr Forsythe and her sister, the late Jeanie Parr Humbert, were products of Immaculate Conception High School. Upon retiring, Forsythe and Humbert became involved in cleaning up the garden area around Immaculate Conception Parish and its rectory. During that time, the Conn-Area Catholic School library became their passion. The sisters cleaned, mended and organized books.

"My sister and I couldn't think of a better place to volunteer our time than going and helping at Conn-Area," Forsythe said.

She said her early Catholic education inspired her to work with Conn-Area and its students. She plans to be involved with the school as long as she is able.

"I have always practiced my religion by serving at the church. Service wasn't exactly a focus in my career, but what better way to continue that early seed of service planted than to use my time now helping at Conn-Area," she said.



Alan Colvin

Forsythe worked at the school as supervisor of the extended care program and this year became the official librarian.

Her daughter, Janine, attended Conn-Area Catholic School. She said she believes it is important for a child to have a Catholic education.

"I feel that these early years are for building the foundation of service to others. It is good for keeping children in line with what is going on," she said.

Dedication to service was also ingrained in Alan Colvin, who attended Conn-Area Catholic School and graduated from Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville.

After graduation, Colvin attended West Point and eventually moved to North Carolina.

"I have always wanted to serve in the military, having my father

as a core example of that choice, but I think a good part of my early Catholic education has allowed me to make what I feel are good and ethical decisions, especially when it affects those who were under my charge and their families," Colvin said.

After serving 10 years in the military, Colvin studied to become a physician assistant, which allowed him to reflect on that early education during philosophy and religious doctrine classes.

"That upbringing has continued to be very influential in my decision-making. I have always wanted to lead a life of service," he said.

Sister of Charity Catherine Meinert, former principal of Conn-Area Catholic School, watched Colvin grow in the doctrines of the school.

"Alan has always been surrounded by love and discipline with his mother, a teacher at Conn-Area Catholic School, and his father, also serving in the military. They emulate love, service and caring, which Alan is extending by his current career path," she said.

"Catholic education supports the family unit at home and in the community. It reminds the child that as Catholics, this is who we are and what we do."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mia Pascoe, Grade 6
St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar
Parents: Chuck and Cindy Welling



Mia is an excellent student, extremely conscientious with study habits that have earned her highest honors. She takes great pride in doing her best. Mia is always kind to everyone. She is quick to offer assistance wherever needed and shows a sincere enthusiasm in helping others.

Mia ran cross country and has been involved in the Performing Arts Club since third grade. She enjoys helping the preschoolers at lunch. Mia enjoys making crafts, which are often gifted to others. She is truly a selfless person.

Mia serves as a cantor at school Masses and at her parish, where she is an altar server and member of the youth group.

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 6 • 1-3 PM

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS PRE-K to 6th GRADE



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Centered In Christ

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THE DIVINE REDEEMER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Families continue to flourish at Ford City school

By Chris Rodell
Contributing Writer

FORD CITY — Dave Cippel says students who have attended The Divine Redeemer Catholic School become like family — they each have touchstone memories that will forever bond them to all who have at one time or another trod the school's halls.

"The classes are so small, and you see the same faces year after year that in a way, you all become like family," he said.

And he's a man who knows a thing or two — or four — about family. Four Cippel sons followed in their father's footsteps, so pleased was he at the education he received at the school.

"It's just such a blessing to our family," said Cippel, president of Klingensmith's Neighborly Drugstore in Leechburg. "I'll always recommend the school to parents who care about getting their kids a good education that goes beyond the classroom."

The family theme applies these days to the principal's office, too.

Principal Tom Dinga is being challenged with parental considerations that stem from his own home.

One of his sons seeks fiscal accountability from him, while another needs prayer.

"My 32-year-old son Eric is Father Eric, and he's now the man who signs



Dave Cippel



Tom Dinga

off on the budget," he says. "And my 26-year-old son Troy is taking cancer treatments to overcome the lymphoma he's been battling."

Father Eric J. Dinga is pastor of Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City, and St. Lawrence Parish, Cadogan.

That's all on top of CDC vaccination mandates, fiscal projections, teacher needs, grounds upkeep and maintenance, and the many concerns common to a typical principal.

So, how is he holding up?

"Just fine, thanks," he said. "Troy is making progress with his treatments. We're grateful for all the prayers that have been sent on his behalf. And it's been fun working with my son, Father Eric, as he and I go over the budget. So, things are pretty good."

The same could be said for the school. Its roots go back to 1891 when

it was St. Mary Catholic School, which was razed to make way for the existing building (formerly Ford City Catholic School) in 1958. It was renamed The Divine Redeemer School in 1997.

Cippel says the small classroom sizes is one of the enduring benefits of a Catholic education.

"It's just a place where kids can come and get a really good, well-rounded education and still get a feel of going to church and being part of that," he said. "We put the kids first. The discipline is strong. Lots of collaborative work."

It's no wonder, then, that the school is experiencing its third consecutive year of increasing enrollment.

Cippel says The Divine Redeemer School students also benefit from a situational camaraderie so subtle it may go undetected for decades.

"Kids make friends for life without even knowing it's happening," he said. "It's bound to happen when you're in the same small classroom with the same kids year after year. You get to know people really well just by spending so much time in the vicinity of one another. And they're being taught by many of the same teachers who've been there for 20 years."

The enhanced discipline is evident in children like his sons, he says, in that each has become a productive member of society working to ensure that society continues to thrive.

"I see these kids that come from homes and schools where there is no discipline," he said. "I can tell just by their behavior, nope, there's a kid that has yet to enroll in The Divine Redeemer."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jude Hough, Grade 6
St. Lawrence Parish, Cadogan
Parents: Chad and Denee Hough



Jude was selected for this honor because of the honesty and selflessness that he has consistently displayed over his years at The Divine Redeemer Catholic School, as well as his service at St. Lawrence Parish as an altar server for the last three years.

Jude has been a member of the STEM Design Challenge Club and is a member of the Armstrong Arrows Youth Hockey Team.



The Divine Redeemer School

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GEIBEL CATHOLIC JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni grateful for time at school that set them on path for success

By John Sacco
Contributing Writer

CONNELLSVILLE — Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School fostered a family feel and long-lasting relationships through shared faith and hard work, according to two alumni.

Dave Koval, who lives in Florida with his wife Maryann, returned for his 50th class reunion in August. He is bursting with pride for his school.

"I was the first in my family to go to college," Koval said. "I'm retired now. I was fortunate to go to Geibel and feel glad to still have a relationship with my classmates."

After earning an economics degree and an MBA at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Koval went on to an impressive career that included public accounting and working in the paper, printing and warehousing industries.

"I went to college and somehow through the grace of God and Geibel Catholic, I was able to make it," Koval said. "I'm thankful for the people who helped me along the way. No one can do things and achieve things all alone."

Koval has six children and lived in New York before moving his family to Virginia and eventually to Atlanta.



"You could see the decline in the (Catholic) schools in New York with the cutting back in certain things a few years before we left," Koval said. "I felt bad about it. Geibel gave me a good education. The teachers really cared."

"I wanted to give back to Geibel. I got in touch with the right people, and I told them I wanted to do something helpful for the school."

Koval set a goal to raise \$10,000 to improve the girls' bathroom at the school. He wrote to classmates and pledged to match their donations up to a certain point. Together, his class raised \$21,000.

"Everyone has their ups and downs. Geibel has had its ups and downs," he said. "I felt it was time for us to help them out, return some gifts to the school from our class."

Robert Fetter, the first-year principal at Geibel Catholic, said it's been exciting to see how alumni are interested in helping the school. He is grateful for Koval's spearheading of the effort to help with the new restroom, as well as his classmates' generosity.

"Obviously, he has a great passion for Geibel," Fetter said. "Dave wants to be part of a movement where they become

ambassadors to bring alumni back to be a much bigger presence with the school. That is a necessity for the school moving forward. Anytime you get that kind of alumni support, it is good."

Bernice Zelenoak Waller, a 1970 graduate, said her time at Geibel Catholic "set me up for my life."

"The school and the teachers taught us to work hard. We were taught you had to put in the time and work diligently for what you wanted," she said. "What my parents put out for me (tuition and time), I felt I had to do well. A Catholic education can be expensive. But the results and experiences are worth it."

Waller studied nursing and elementary education at Mount

Aloysius College, a private liberal arts Catholic institution in Cresson. She began her career as a Catholic school teacher and went on to teach at Mount Pleasant Elementary School.

"We were all so close. It was nice to be able to go to our little chapel and have Masses there," she said. "I came there from Mount Pleasant, and we all came together and became a close family. It was wonderful."

"Our teachers were wonderful, caring and supportive. They were always deeply involved with us. If anyone had a problem, there was always someone you could talk to," she said.

"For me, Geibel was just an all-around good experience. It helped me be what I am today."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jillian Balena, Grade 11
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Connellsville
Parent: Lori Balena



Jillian is involved in virtually every facet of our school, her community and parish while battling cystinuria, a kidney disease that at times has debilitating symptoms. She continues her involvement in all phases of her life with a great attitude. She is involved in cheerleading, theater, chamber ensemble, Show Stoppers, Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, 4.0 Penn State Club, Math League, Student Council, eucharistic ministry, youth ministry, dance and tutoring. Jillian is a force of nature. No task is too daunting, and everything she does, she does with great passion. She is truly an asset to our school, our community and her family.

Bonds forged at Aquinas Academy

Continued from page 4

physician assistant for Mon Health in Morgantown, W.Va., and Exela Health hospitals in Westmoreland County.

Revers met her husband, Kasimir Alan Revers Sr., when they were students at GCC. They have one son, Kasimir Alan Jr. (K.J.). They are parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg.

"We were taught strong, moral values. The teachers instilled good behavior and taught us to do the right thing, along with instilling strong religious beliefs. They taught us to open the door for others," Revers said. "What we were taught applies to our lives going forward."

Aquinas Academy graduate Brad Poole, a Pennsylvania State Police corporal and 2005 GCC graduate, said his Catholic upbringing comes into play every day. His mother, Kathy Poole, was his fifth-grade math and science teacher at Aquinas Academy, where she still teaches.

What he's seen in the past 11 years as a trooper, crash reconstructionist, patrol supervisor and corporal has been at times overwhelming. He never knows what to expect; every day is different. He's investigated 80 fatal crashes.

His said he carries his strong Catholic faith with him daily.



Kasimir and Mary Revers

"I think my faith background has helped me in some bad situations and deal with certain circumstances on the job," Poole said.

He and his wife, Samantha, have a son, Baker, 2, and a daughter, Evelyn, 8 months. They are parishioners of Church of the Resurrection Parish, Clymer.

Aquinas Academy Principal Kelly Watkins said many alumni bring their own children back to share the experiences they had and because of the school's tradition of academic excellence.

"Alumni are extremely important to our school because it is their wonderful memories and the strong religious and academic foundations they received here which spread into the community and encourage others to enroll," she said.



Brad Poole

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GREENSBURG CENTRAL CATHOLIC JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Values instilled at GCC help doctors get through pandemic

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG — Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School Alumni like Dr. Greg Bisignani and Dr. Heather (Heinrichs) Walker credit their successful career paths to dedicated faith-centered educators in the Diocese of Greensburg's Catholic school system.

Their faith helped them get through the past year on the front lines of a pandemic that stressed the health care system.

Bisignani, a 1985 graduate, said GCC gave him a strong academic and spiritual foundation that he still carries with him today in his professional and personal lives.

"Without any hesitation or doubt and with 100% certainty, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing today if it weren't for the foundations set in me when I was a student at Greensburg Central Catholic. I hold that in the highest esteem," Bisignani said.

For the past nine years, the Latrobe resident has been president of the Greensburg Central Catholic Alumni Association, noting that alumni are an integral part of the community as teachers, coaches, administrators, parents, volunteers and benefactors.

"I'm so thankful to be a graduate



Dr. Greg Bisignani



Dr. Heather Walker

of Greensburg Central Catholic High School," he said.

Bisignani, an orthopedic surgeon, was GCC team physician for 23 seasons, retired as boys' varsity basketball coach two years ago and was chairman of the Advisory Council for five years. He was honored with the prestigious Centurion of the Year award in 2021.

He and Walker periodically teach a medical perspectives class for juniors and seniors going into health care.

He said GCC is second to none on an academic and spiritual level. His four children are all proud graduates. Like their dad, they took the virtues instilled at GCC with them to college.

Bisignani said he is most proud that his children go to Mass every Sunday. They are parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg.

He credits his faith-filled experience at GCC for helping to deal with being

on the health care front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A lot of things we do in our decision making comes down to our faith. I learned that early on at Greensburg Central Catholic," he said.

Walker couldn't agree more.

Walker, a 1991 graduate, is assistant director of the Emergency Department at Westmoreland Hospital and president of Westmoreland Emergency Medicine Specialists.

She says she strives to use the gifts given to her.

"Success is about what kind of person you've become. It's how you use those gifts to improve the lives of the people around you," she said.

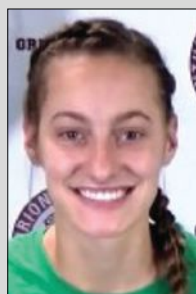
Walker was featured virtually as Distinguished Centurion for Achievement in 2021. She and her husband, Brad, live in Greensburg with their son, Sean, a freshman at GCC.

Walker is thankful to the community for their generosity during the pandemic. Donations of personal protective equipment, meals, baked goods and handmade yard signs reading "Stay Strong" and "We are Grateful For Our Hospital Workers," put a smile on her face during long days and nights.

"I pray on my way to a shift for the safety of myself and my family, my co-workers, staff and everyone in the building, and for help and guidance when I need to make decisions quickly. I draw strength from that," she said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Corinn Brewer, Grade 12
St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon
Parents: Mike and Judy Brewer



Corinn's modest personality makes it easy to forget that she is among the most academically and athletically accomplished students to attend GCC in some time. She is currently ranked second among the senior class while taking an academically challenging schedule including Advanced Placement, College in High School and honors-level courses.

Corrin is an accomplished athlete and leader. She is a 12-time All-American and has received countless academic and athletic awards.

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MARY QUEEN OF APOSTLES SCHOOL

Alumna's career path electrified at New Kensington school

By Chris Rodell
Contributing Writer

NEW KENSINGTON — It would be no exaggeration to say the education Sabrina Helbig received at Mary Queen of Apostles School was electrifying. It was, in every sense of the word, and it could one day save the planet.

A sixth-grade experiment involving live circuitry charged her with a drive to become an electrical engineer. Today, she's a 23-year-old grad student at the University of Pittsburgh, eager to ease some of the environmental traumas of climate change.

"I hope to one day be in a position to contribute to ways that help us incorporate more renewable energies into our power grids to make our systems safer and more efficient," Helbig said. "I really enjoy finding solutions to complicated problems, and for me it all started back at MQA."

Shocked? Don't be.

"We're very proud of our curriculum and how students who attended MQA have taken the disciplines they learned here and are using them to give us a better world," said Principal Cathy Collett.

The school stresses the importance

of a well-rounded education through ample extracurricular activities and encourages students to become agile thinkers capable of communicating thoughtfully either on paper or through the spoken word.

But the lessons don't end there, Collett said. The school also stresses the importance of giving back.

"We make it a practice to fully engage all our students with community service," she said. "Our students learn to be grateful for what each of us has and to be mindful of the needs of others."

School leaders believe that high expectations are a sound way to get the most out of teachers and students.

"I'm always proud to hear high schools say our students are fully prepared for any challenge that might come up," Collett said.

For Helbig, the challenges involved striving to do more, better and faster.

"MQA really helped put me in advanced positions to understand or surpass the requirements going in," she said, adding that she was able to skip some high school requirements and go right to Algebra II.

She said MQA gave her room to grow into a more well-rounded and interesting individual than she

assumes other, more rigid systems would have allowed. For example, she's fluent in French and has nurtured an appreciation of fine art.

She is also grateful for the way the school encouraged students to learn about other faiths. This mindset was particularly welcome for a woman who is neither Christian nor Catholic. Helbig is a practicing Muslim.

"The tolerance they encouraged among those of differing faiths is a valuable lesson for children to learn at an early age," she said.

More earthly concerns hit home, too.

"And they really stressed writing and reading. I have a love for reading that started back then," she said. "I get lots of teacher compliments for my writing, which is something that, stereotypically,

engineers are supposed to struggle with. With me, it's a strength."

The combined factors have given her confidence to enter a field that has traditionally been dominated by men. Her program at Pitt is 70% male, she said.

She enjoyed a summer internship in Milwaukee with Eaton Corporation and said she is open-minded about relocating should the right opportunity present itself. Right now, her focus is on furthering her education so she'll one day be poised to make a difference in a world that needs bright young minds like hers.

And it all goes back to the New Kensington school where she crowded around a table to watch some electrical circuits perform their magic.



Sabrina Helbig

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Domenic Dellemonache, Grade 8
St. Gertrude Parish, Vandergrift
Parents: Eugene and Crystal Dellemonache



Domenic is an exemplary student, a model Catholic and a kind, morally upright person. He is honorable and righteous. A history buff with a strong interest in science, his exemplary work ethic and conscientious attitude are the reasons he excels in academics, earning a 4.0 grade point average. He is a member of the band, track and field team, two robotic clubs, Kindness Club and Betelgeuse Science Club. He holds a red belt in taekwondo and enjoys hunting and trap shooting. At his parish, he is an altar server and member of the youth ministry. He is a reader for school Masses and offers morning/afternoon prayer, announcements and dismissal.

Mary Queen
of Apostles
SCHOOL

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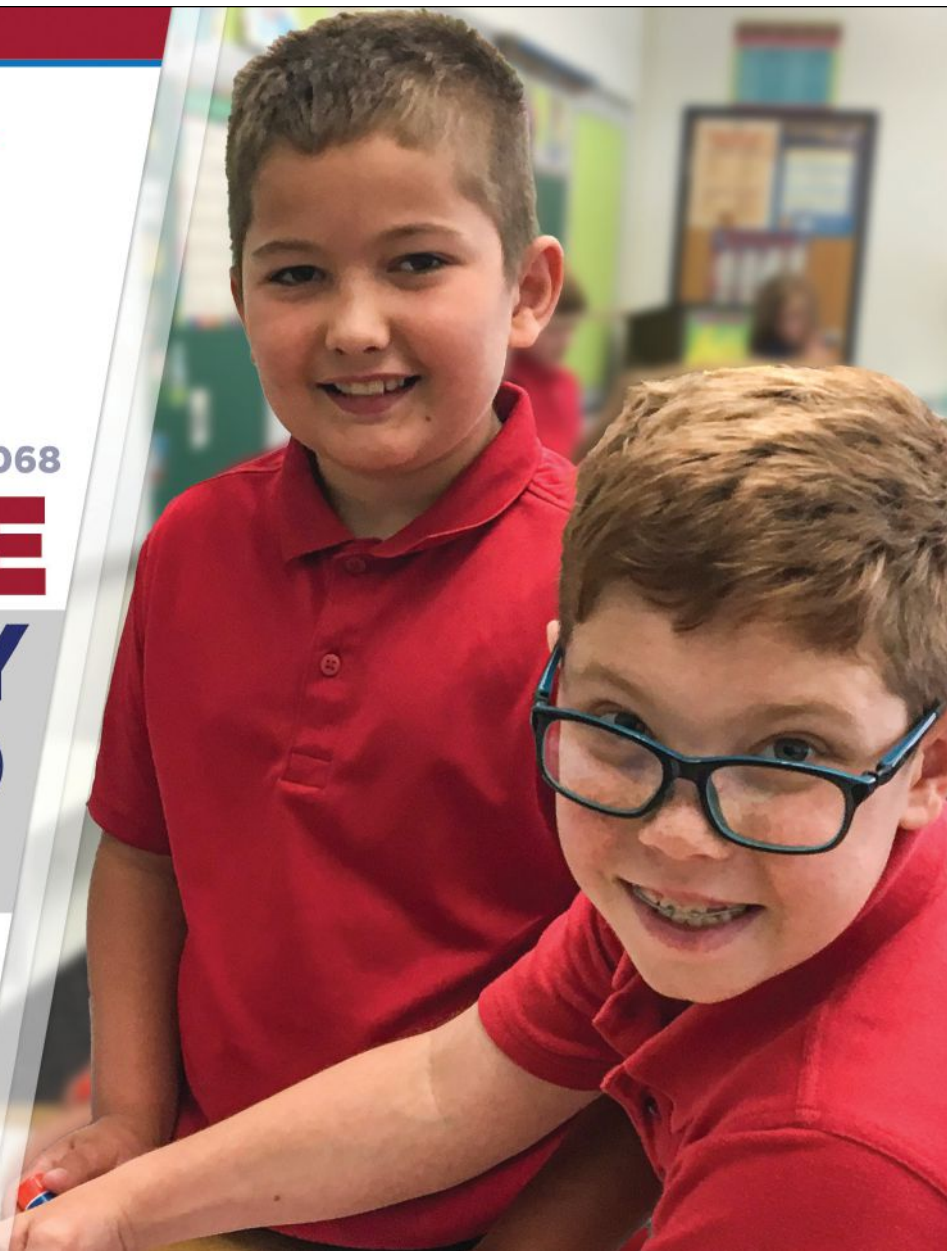
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MOTHER OF SORROWS SCHOOL

Murrysville school gets credit for graduates' life successes

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

MURRYSVILLE — Alison Bauer believes she chose a service-oriented career doing God's work because of the solid foundation she received as a student at Mother of Sorrows School.

Bauer, 37, credits MOSS for preparing her for all aspects of life, but particularly her educational endeavors that culminated three years ago when she completed a doctorate in nursing.

"The commitment to helping others through acts of service, civic engagement and sacramental awareness were ingrained in me from an early age. These qualities contributed to my personal and professional growth," she said.

She is giving back to her alma mater, assisting as a school nurse a few days a week. She and her husband, Jason, parishioners of Mother of Sorrows Parish, have three children: Brynn, 9, a third-grader at MOSS; Clair, 5, a kindergartner; and Jack, 2, who will be in pre-kindergarten.

Bauer said she enjoys watching the students and school thrive.

"Being involved in the school in a professional role separate from parental involvement, I have been able to observe firsthand the pastoral commitment of our faculty, staff and volunteers who demonstrate true service and carry the responsibility of faith formation for our students," she said. "The



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jason and Alison Bauer and their children.

teachers are tremendously dedicated, enthusiastic and forward-thinking advocates for our children."

Bauer said as she proudly walks through the school, she sees God at work and hears His words and actions through the students.

"I have faith that our continued investment in God's children will bear fruit in deepening our Catholic faith," she said.

Like Bauer, attorney Ryan Lemke said the education he received at MOSS shaped him as a person and deepened his Catholic faith. He credits his education for his professional and personal successes.

Lemke recalls needing an extra push with reading. The teachers made sure he received assistance but didn't draw attention to it. Because of their attentiveness, he was way ahead of other classmates

in advanced placement in the public school system. He said he was well prepared for upper grade levels, college and law school because of his MOSS education.

He also was taught to give back to his community and church. He is a board member of Hope Grows, a bereavement support nonprofit; coaches for several youth athletic organizations; and is vice president of the Murrysville Planning Commission.

Lemke said he and his wife Kristen, and their children Chase, 15, Addison, 13, and Chloe, 9, make going to Mass at Mother of Sorrows Parish a priority.

"Mother of Sorrows School also taught me how to be a good person, how to be disciplined and a religious perspective that helped shape me as a person," he said. "The teachers really got to know you



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ryan and Kristen Lemke and their children.

and taught us the importance of going to Mass."

He still keeps in touch with classmates. Two of his closest friends were students at MOSS.

He recalls a few years ago he saw one of his teachers at a convenience store. Forty years had probably gone by since he was a student at MOSS.

"I told her that she probably didn't remember me. She

replied, 'Of course, I do, Ryan.'"

Principal Theresa Szmed said alumni are an important part of the school's history and future.

"MOSS alumni are shining examples and role models for today's Catholic youth. Mother of Sorrows School welcomes all alumni to reach out and make a positive impact on our students," she said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Finn Thompson, Eighth Grade
Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville
Parents: Roy and Kristen Thompson



Finn is the most pleasant, hard-working student a teacher can have. He is helpful and willing to do whatever you ask of him. He always has a smile on his face and a kind word for others. He is that rare combination of academic high-flyer, dedicated athlete and model of Christ-like kindness. An outstanding student and humble leader, he participates in cross-country, the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, robotics and Future Business Leaders of America.

Future Business Leaders club teaches MOSS students business basics

MURRYSVILLE — Forty-three students are learning business basics as members of the new Future Business Leaders of America, Middle Level (FBLA) club at Mother of Sorrows School.

The club helps students in sixth through eighth grades prepare for careers in business and leadership through academic competitions and leadership development. Teacher Jennifer Bayer and Assistant Principal Karen Kolenik direct the chapter.

FBLA is a national organization that connects students with similar interests with each other and with the business community and helps them explore business concepts and become leaders and role models.

With mentoring from local



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the FBLA club at Mother of Sorrows School listen to advice from local business people.

business people, MOSS FBLA members are in the process of creating a school store, set to open in March. Busy Beaver's Joseph Kallen, CEO, and Nick DeMao, CFO and vice president of administration, helped the students with the parameters to create the store.

Students belong to one of five departments: operations, finance, IT, marketing or merchandising.

In addition to the store, students will compete against clubs from other middle-level schools across the state in a FBLA competition.

The competition is aimed at preparing students for successful careers in business by providing opportunities to apply classroom concepts in a workforce-simulated competitive environment.

Events include an objective test, role playing, presentations

and speeches on financial literacy, career research, social media, business etiquette and leadership.

Finally, FBLA members compete in the Stock Market Challenge, a technology-based simulation intended to introduce students to the fundamentals of stocks. Students begin with a hypothetical account balance of \$500,000 and then begin trading, with every 60 seconds representing one day of trading.

"I think FBLA is fun, and I feel it really helps students prepare for business and college," said eighth-grader Jordyn Acie. "I like that it helps me be creative. I can be with my friends, and we have the experience of starting the store together."

Mother of Sorrows School

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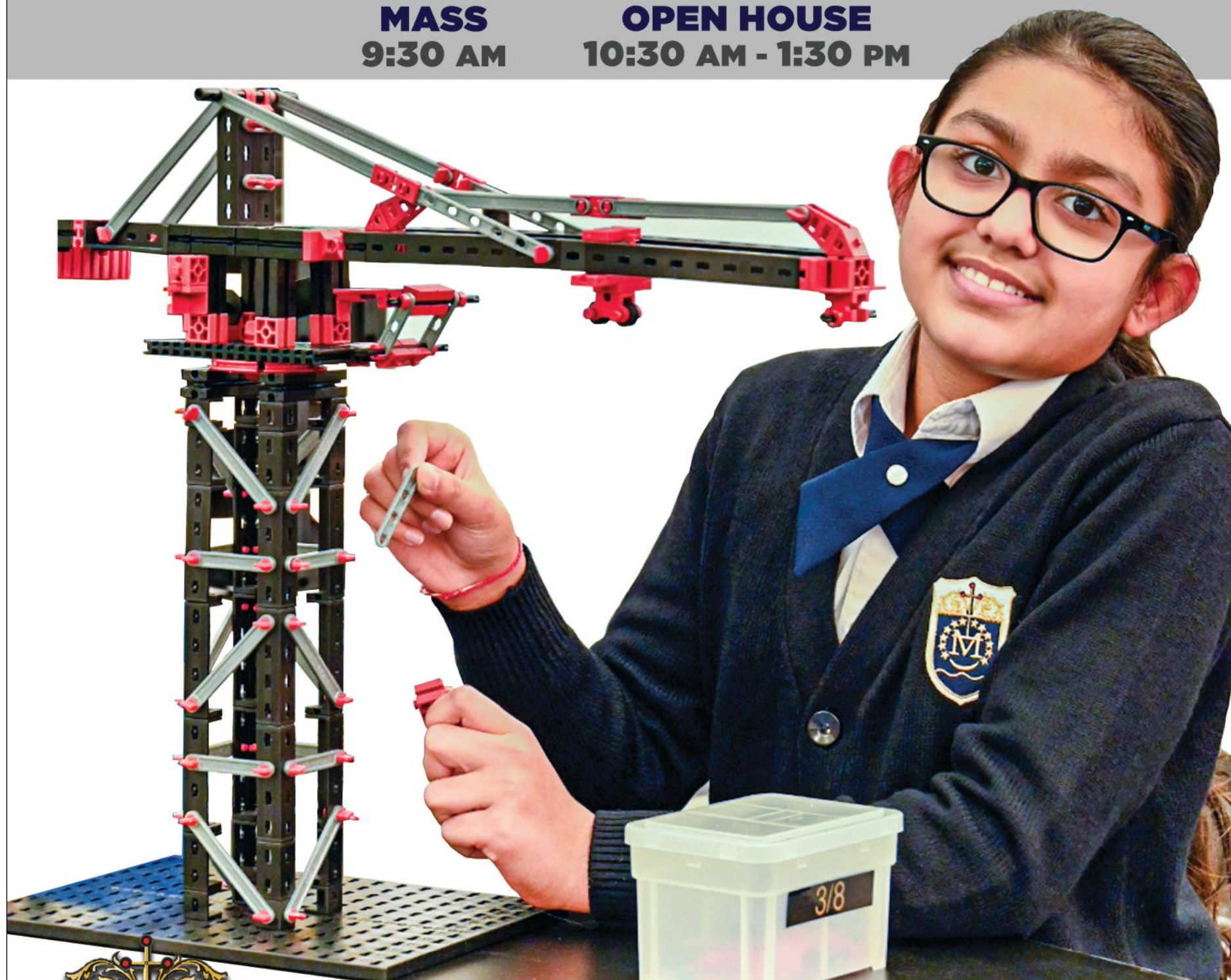
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9:30 AM

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10:30 AM - 1:30 PM



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QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic school a family tradition

By **Melissa Williams Brown**
Contributing Writer

NORTH HUNTINGDON — Jessica Merchant is a proud product of a Catholic school education from kindergarten through college whose friends and classmates are like family.

There wasn't a question of where her children would go to school.

"I can't imagine my kids not having the same experience I did at Queen of Angels," Merchant said.

She and her husband, Edgar Hunt, are parents of Max, 4, a first-grader; Emilia, 4, a preschooler; and Jordan, 4 months old. They are parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin.

Merchant graduated from Queen of Angels Catholic School in 1997, Greensburg Central Catholic High School in 2001 and Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, in 2005. Many of her friends are classmates from all three schools.

A self-employed food blogger and book author for the past 13 years, Merchant released "Everyday Dinners" in May 2021. She published her first book, "Seriously Delish: 150 Recipes for People Who Totally Love Food," in 2014, and "The Pretty Dish" in 2018. She runs a food website, howsweeteats.com, about food and life, has a Facebook page and can be followed on Twitter, Instagram,

Pinterest and Foodgawker.com. She's been featured in national news publications like *The Boston Globe*.

Merchant and her staff test, develop and photograph recipes. She writes on her website every day. Her recipes range from healthy to comfort food and indulgent desserts and cocktails. She has no formal culinary training; she says she's learned along the way. Some day's recipes turn out well, while others, not so much.

Merchant credits her success and drive to her Catholic school education.

"The Catholic school experience was really like one big, happy family. It was the same in our household. We were very close, and it was like that at Queen of Angels, and a very trusting experience. The teachers and staff at Queen of Angels are so amazing," she said.

She has the best of both worlds, writing daily about her love of food and living a happy and busy life with her family. She knows that when she is busy writing and cooking, her children are in good hands at Queen of Angels Catholic School.

"You get one-on-one attention that really helped me learn. Our class sizes were 25-30 students. It's a more intimate setting. The teachers are truly invested in the students' lives. I had a

Continued on page 27



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jessica Merchant prepares food with her children.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Clare Katona, Grade 4
Parish: Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin
Parents: Kevin and Jean Katona



Clare is an extremely well-rounded student who represents excellence in many aspects of our community. She is a lover of learning, and it shows with her high performance in all subject areas. Clare actively participates in class discussions and is not afraid to ask questions. She is an altar server in her parish and a cheerleader in our after-school cheerleading team.

Clare's shining characteristic is her kind leadership. Whether it is at recess or in class for a group project, Clare will be the first person to help a classmate in need or invite a friend to join in. She leads by example with this kindness every day.




Queen of Angels Catholic School

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ST. BERNARD REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Indiana school's lessons, opportunities inspire future music teacher

By John Sacco
Contributing Writer

INDIANA — What Emily Marshall remembers most about St. Bernard Regional Catholic School is the attention received from her teachers and the closeness and friendliness of everyone in the school.

Marshall, 19, is a freshman studying music education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She plans to teach students in kindergarten through grade 12.

After attending elementary and middle school at St. Bernard, Marshall attended Homer Center High School, graduating last year.

"One of the things I always talk about is the stark contrast between each school," Marshall said. "At St. Bernard, I was in class with maybe seven people. There were about 100 kids in the school. At Homer Center, I had 80 in my (graduating) class and a total of roughly 450 in the school."

Marshall recalls how close she and her friends were at St. Bernard.

"We were given a lot of opportunities there," she said. "I think what we learned there helped give us opportunities as we got older."



"At St. Bernard I truly know everyone there deeply cared about what I was learning. They presented me with so many great opportunities," she said. "Because of that, I have much more confidence, especially now as a college student. Being allowed to communicate there, I know I was given the best help in every class I took there."

Marshall said her time at St. Bernard helped her stay connected to her faith.

"We prayed before school, before lunch and in our religion classes," she said. "I'd go into religion classes and openly talk about my faith and listen to others do the same. Those hourlong talks did a lot in building relationships and associations. All of it helped shape me into who I am today."

Marshall said she developed her love of music at St. Bernard. She credits her music teachers, music classes and an enrichment program for bringing out her best.

"I chose band and musical ensemble in fourth grade. From there I really nurtured my musical education and focus," she said.

Marshall said another highlight for her was being able to help out in Masses and with Diocesan programs.

"I was altar server, lector, cantor and sacristan," she said. "I feel I was more than prepared to move forward in my education, spiritually and socially, because of all the things I had a chance to do and to be."

Marshall said she was anxious when she left St. Bernard for Homer Center High School.

"We were so relaxed at St. Bernard. But there was always a schedule. My teachers (at St. Bernard) told me I would flourish in high school and that I was ready," she said. "I left St. Bernard in a really good spot. I had to find a new crowd to hang out with. I found I could connect with everyone. I was expecting cliques, but that never materialized. I

was surprised by it and excited."

Marshall says the teachers at St. Bernard remain a part of her.

"I take a little bit of all of them and think how I will be as a teacher and use what and how they taught me," she said.

"I would send my kids to St. Bernard if I have them. The school does make a difference. Just about every St. Bernard kid from when I was there who went on to Homer Center did something special in high school."

"I encourage people to look to a Catholic education — not only from the Catholic aspect but also the enrichment a child receives and the friendships that are made. It really sets one up for success at a young age."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sara Gornick, Grade 8
Parish: Holy Family Parish, Seward
Parents: Matt and Kristin Gornick



Sara is a great young lady, a great leader and a hard worker. She is very polite, helpful and caring. She helps with morning prayer and announcements at school, and she is responsible for raising and lowering our country's flag daily in front of the school building. She volunteers during school Mass, serving as a cantor, and also helps with our annual fish fry during Lent.

Sara volunteers her time at her parish, cleaning the pews and helping with activities. She also enjoys being in the outdoors.

Outside of school, Sara helps at her mother's business and helps her grandmother at a local recovery center.

SAINT BERNARD

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY

JANUARY 30

1-2:30 PM

PRE-K to 8th GRADE

[MORE INFORMATION OR REGISTER ONLINE](https://stbernardlc.org)

300 Clairvaux Drive
Indiana, PA 15701

stbernardlc.org

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Siblings' Catholic school lessons lead to careers serving others



Anthony Iannamorelli



Alyssa Iannamorelli-Eddy



Michael Iannamorelli

By Lori Padilla
Contributing Writer

UNIONTOWN — Three St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School alumni attribute their lives of service and continued friendships to their pre-K-8 years at the school.

Siblings Anthony Iannamorelli, Alyssa Iannamorelli-Eddy and Michael Iannamorelli say their educational and spiritual foundation, as well as parental and instructor support, led them to choose careers that focus on service to others.

Anthony Iannamorelli said a special connection with Principal Christine Roskovensky nurtured his passion for a life of service when she was his first- and seventh-grade teacher. Her husband, Vincent, was his basketball coach.

"Along with basketball instruction, Coach Roskovensky taught us how to be gentlemen," he said. "As I get older, I am seeing how much this early instruction has stayed with me. The idea of vocation as a lay person parallels service to the community and trying to do the

right thing every day."

A 2000 St. John graduate, he now serves as a prosecutor in the Westmoreland County district attorney's office. He was formerly an assistant district attorney in Fayette County and a guardian ad litem, representing dependent children.

"I am serving people basically on one of the worst days of their lives," he said. "My Catholic school education not only gave me the foundation to learning and vocations, but offered my siblings and I the knowledge to make choices, do the right things and show that everyone deserves to be treated equally with respect."

Iannamorelli-Eddy, a 2002 St. John graduate, is a licensed professional counselor working with adults, teens and children in Uniontown. She is part of a practice where one of her St. John classmates works.

"Megan David and I have been friends since our days at St. John's," she said. "We often discuss how unique our experience was. There was a powerful connection with everyone, and we strived for inclusion and understanding

for everyone. We would often have value themes that we could chose to focus on, and they can still be applied today. There are values that aren't necessarily focused on in the public school.

"With my career, I can offer those same concepts in service to others to assist them in becoming stronger in their quality of life. This is part of why I love what I do."

Michael Iannamorelli, St. John class of 2004, is a trauma and critical care fellow with Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, passing along the early teachings that shaped his

focus on service to others.

"When teaching residents and medical students, I try to impress on them that even at a young age, self-sacrifice is the purest form of caring," he said. "My education at St. John's definitely prepared me for my future. The structure helped me face the rigorous academics of college and medical school and continue to support me through this fellowship."

All three have lasting friendships with fellow students.

"I have been friends with one

Continue on page 24

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mallory Clemmer, Grade 6
Parish: St. George Maronite Church, Uniontown
Parents: Shawn and Lauren Clemmer



Mallory is hard working, intelligent and conscientious. As a responsible and compassionate young adult, she is a prime example of someone living her Catholic faith.

She is a member of Student Council, plays softball and basketball, and is active at her church, where she belongs to the youth group and volunteers.

Mallory exudes confidence, intelligence and compassion toward others. She is always there to help her teachers and her classmates. She is a true leader in our classroom.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLOPEN
HOUSESUNDAY
JAN 30

12-2 PM

PRE-K to 8th GRADE



REGISTER ONLINE

52 Jefferson Street
Uniontown, PA 15401StJohnEvangelistSchool.org

ST. SEBASTIAN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School's roots reach far, wide

By John Sacco
Contributing Writer

BELLE VERNON — Megan Russell is thousands of miles away from her roots at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School.

The road traveled, however, seems to always lead back there.

"St. Sebastian helped me develop a good foundation, intellectually and in gaining the fundamental principles that make you successful in life — hard work, dedication, leadership skills and the ability to communicate in public. Without a doubt, the school set me up for success."

Russell, who has resided in Long Beach, Calif., for six years, graduated from Belle Vernon Area High School in 2008 and went on to earn her doctorate in physical therapy from Columbia University in New York.

She attended St. Sebastian through eighth grade, taking advantage of all its opportunities — from serving as eighth-grade class president to playing basketball and volleyball, cheerleading and being an altar server.

"Learning about science at St. Sebastian drove me to explore biology and eventually moved me into

physical therapy," she said.

Russell says her involvement in many extracurricular activities at St. Sebastian also led to her knowing about more things outside of the classroom and helped nurture deeper relationships with her friends.



"I was really involved," she said. "Our class of 26 students received a lot of individual attention in the classroom and outside of it. We were led by a good group of people, and we just grew with them."

Russell works with stroke victims, brain injury patients and people with neurological issues at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey, Calif.

She's involved in her community, serving as secretary/treasurer of a physical therapy organization in Long Beach. She is also an adjunct professor at Mount St. Mary's University, Los Angeles.

"It's kind of nice to circle back and remember my time at St. Sebastian," Russell said. "When you've had good teachers, it makes it easier to teach yourself."

St. Sebastian is making the same kind of impact on the five children of Judy and Mike Brewer.

"I think the (school) does an

amazing job," Mike Brewer said. "Clearly, it positioned our family for success academically, spiritually and morally."

"The families there really care about their kids and St. Sebastian. The education is outstanding and athletics were good. It is guided by God's morals and strength of the family, and not by politics or school boards. St. Sebastian is really driven by the fundamental aspects of educating children."

Son Aiden, 21, a senior studying computer engineering at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, where he is captain of the track and field team, attended St. Sebastian from kindergarten through sixth grade and went on to Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School.

Patrick, 19, is a sophomore studying biology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Like his brother, he is a member of the track and field team. Both young men are decathletes.

Corrin, a 17-year-old senior at GCC, plans to study architecture at Notre Dame University in Indiana on an athletic scholarship and be a member of the track team as a pole vaulter and heptathlete.

James, 15, is a sophomore at GCC and a member of the soccer, wrestling, and track and field teams. Grant, 13, is an eighth-grader at GCC and a member of the same sports teams.

Judy Brewer attended the former St. Margaret Mary School in Lower Burrell. Neither she nor Mike attended Catholic high schools.

"I think St. Sebastian helped so much in the formative years from a spiritual standpoint," Judy Brewer said. "The faith-based education held the same values that my husband and I hold. St. Sebastian was more than we even hoped for. It was an awesome experience, and the people there guided our children through every aspect of life."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Natalia Startare, Grade 6
Parish: St. Anne Parish, Rostraver
Parents: Anthony and Kelly Startare



Natalia is exemplary of what we feel a student at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School should embody. Her commitment to her faith is strong and shown by the way she interacts with others.

Natalia donates her time and talents through various service projects. For how active she is within her church and community, Natalia's presence in our school body is ever more present. She is a natural leader who helps others along the way. She participates in sports, clubs and the arts and still maintains highest honors. Her smile, while currently behind a mask, can still be felt by all.

ST. SEBASTIAN

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

815 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY JAN 30 1-2 PM

GRADES PK-8

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE OR BY CALLING SCHOOL OFFICE

724-929-5143 sssbv.org

MAKE A CONNECTION AT A CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Aquinas Academy

FEB. 27, 1-3 PM

Grades PK-6
340 N. Main St., Greensburg
www.aquinasacademy.org
Kelly Watkins, principal, 724-834-7940 or
kwatkins@aquinasacademy.org

Christ the Divine Teacher School

**JAN. 30 AND FEB. 20, 1-3 PM;
MARCH 9, 6-8 PM**

Grades PK-8
323 Chestnut St., Latrobe
www.cdtschool.org
J. Kevin Frye, head of school,
724-539-1561
or kfrye@cdtschool.org

Conn-Area Catholic School

FEB. 6, 1-3 PM

Grades PK-6
613 E. Crawford Ave., Connellsville
www.connareacatholic.org
Cecilia Solan, principal, 724-628-5090 or
csolan@connareacatholic.org

The Divine Redeemer Catholic School

MARCH 20, 2 PM

Grades PK-6
726 Fourth Ave., Ford City
www.divineredeemer.org
Thomas Dinga, principal, 724-763-3761
or tdinga@divineredeemer.org



Register for an open house or schedule a private tour at CatholicSchoolsGuide.org.

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School

FEB. 27, NOON-2 PM

Grades 7-12
611 E. Crawford Ave., Connellsville
www.geibelcatholic.org
Robert Fetter, principal, 724-628-5600 or
rfetter@geibelcatholic.org

Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School

MARCH 24, 5:30-7:30 PM

Grades 7-12
911 Armory Drive, Greensburg
www.gcchs.org
Ben Althof, principal, 724-834-0310, ext. 4214, or balthof@gcchs.org

Mary Queen of Apostles School

JAN. 30, 1-2:30 PM

Grades PS-8
Two sites: 110 Elmtree Road (Greenwald site) and 100 Freeport Road, New Kensington
www.mqaschool.org
Cathy Collett, principal, 724-339-4411 or
ccollett@mqaschool.org

Mother of Sorrows School

**JAN. 30, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM
(Mass at 9:30 AM)**

Grades PK-8
3264 Evergreen Drive, Murrysville
www.mossschool.org
Theresa Szmed, principal, 724-733-8840 or
tszmed@mossschool.org

Queen of Angels Catholic School

FEB. 13, 1-2:30 PM

Grades PK-8
One Main Street, North Huntingdon
www.queenofangelssch.org
Jennifer Filak, principal, 724-978-0144 or
jfilak@queenofangelssch.org

St. Bernard Regional Catholic School

JAN. 30, 1-2:30 PM

Grades PK-8
300 Clairvaux Drive, Indiana
www.stbernardlc.org
Tina Bucci, principal, 724-465-7139 or
tbucci@stbernardlc.org

St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School

JAN. 30, NOON-2 PM

Grades PK-8
52 Jefferson St., Uniontown
www.stjohnnevanglistschool.org
Christine Roskovensky, principal, 724-438-8598 or
croskovensky@stjohnnevanglistschool.org

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School

JAN. 30, 1-2 PM

Grades PK-8
815 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon
www.sssbv.org
Carole Aiello, principal, 724-929-5143 or
caiello@sssbv.org



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Holy Father asks us all to share ideas in survey, Town Hall Listening Sessions

Diocese of Greensburg announces synodal process participation opportunities

By Jennifer Miele

Chief Communications officer

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg is undertaking a massive effort to listen to a broad range of people throughout our faith community and to discuss major issues together with a goal of hearing where the Holy Spirit is calling the Church. These efforts include a pastoral connectivity survey and a series of both in-person and virtual town hall meetings, at which Bishop Larry J. Kulick will be present.

What is a synod?

A synod is a gathering of church leaders, both clergy and laity. In April 2021, Pope Francis initiated a synodal journey of the *whole* People of God, to take place in individual Dioceses in 2022 and culminating in October 2023 in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the current synodal process is guided by a fundamental question: How does this “journeying together” take place today on different levels, from the local level to the universal one, allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? And what steps is the Holy Spirit inviting us to take to grow as a synodal Church?

The USCCB says this “Synod on Synodality” is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, to warm hearts, and to restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

Pope Francis made this clear when he issued a direct invitation to all the People of God to contribute to Church efforts towards healing: “Every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does.”

The Diocesan phase of a synodal process

The USCCB provided an explanation of the Diocesan phase of a synodal process, saying “In this listening phase, we encourage people to gather, respond to stimulus questions/images/scenarios together, listen to each other, and provide individual and group feedback, ideas, reactions and suggestions. However, if circumstances (such as pandemic restrictions or physical distance)



make face-to-face interaction difficult, then it is possible to use moderated online discussion groups, self-guided online activities, chat groups, phone calls and various forms of social communication, as well as paper-based and online questionnaires.”

How you can participate

1. Take the Pastoral Connectivity Survey.

This short survey is open to everyone and can be taken online at dioceseofgreensburg.org/synod. Click on “Take Pastoral Connectivity Survey.” A QR code is also available that will link you directly to the survey. Or take the paper survey included in this issue of *The Catholic Accent*. Please mail your completed survey response to: Office of Communications, 725 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

2. Attend an in-person Town Hall Listening Session.

Town Hall Listening Sessions are open to all members of the community, including our young people. These locations were selected because of their accessibility to highways and abundance of parking. They are not exclusively for members of the parish where they are being held. Parishioners and members of the community are invited to join Bishop Kulick at any of them, no matter the location. Each will begin with a short prayer service in the church, then move into small group break-out sessions in the social hall of each parish. It is important to note that break-out

sessions are being facilitated by volunteers and faith formation/youth ministry staff members from area parishes who will work to engage parishioners of all ages in the discussions.

See list of dates and locations at right.

3. Participate in a Zoom Town Hall Listening Session.

There are currently three sessions scheduled: one for young adults ages 18-30, one for individuals who are 18 and younger, and one for all parishioners, including those who may feel more comfortable participating virtually. Each will begin with a virtual prayer service and then participants will be sent to a virtual break-out room for small group discussion.

Zoom break-out sessions are being facilitated by volunteers and faith formation/youth ministry staff members from area parishes who will work to engage young and young adult parishioners.

See list of dates at right.

Additional synodal process efforts

Bishop Kulick will meet with the pastoral and finance councils of a dozen Diocesan parishes in February. He is hopeful this will provide him an opportunity to listen to lay leaders and to learn more about the viability and vitality of our parishes.

Bishop Kulick is thankful to the Diocesan Synod Committee, who has assisted him in these efforts, including Deacon F. Daniel Frescura, who will preach at each of the prayer services.

Town Hall Listening Sessions

**Wednesday, Feb. 2
2-4 p.m.**

St. James Parish
306 St. James Lane
New Alexandria, Pa. 15670

**Thursday, Feb. 3
6-8 p.m.**

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish
200 Clairvaux Drive
Indiana, Pa. 15701

**Tuesday, Feb. 8
6-8 p.m.**

St. Rita Parish
116 S. Second St.
Connellsville, Pa. 15425

**Thursday, Feb. 10
4-6 p.m.**

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
101 W. High St.
Kittanning, Pa. 16201

**Wednesday, Feb. 16
6-8 p.m.**

Our Lady of Grace Parish,
Albanese Hall
1011 Mount Pleasant Road
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

**Thursday, Feb. 17
6-8 p.m.**

St. Margaret Mary Parish
3055 Leechburg Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

**Tuesday, Feb. 22
6-8 p.m.**

St. Joseph Parish
180 Old Walnut Hill Road
Uniontown, PA 15401

VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Register at
DioceseofGreensburg.org/synod

**Wednesday, Feb. 9
5:30-7 p.m.**

For young adults ages 18-30

**Sunday, Feb. 20
6:30-8 p.m.**

For youth, individuals who are 18 and younger

**Monday, Feb. 28
6-7:30 p.m.**

For all parishioners, including those who may feel more comfortable participating virtually

All hands on deck for Synod on Synodality!

By Deacon Dan Frescura
Co-chair of the Synodal Process

What's the buzz? Tell me what's happening!

These words from the musical Jesus Christ Super Star in the early part of Act 1 portrays the discussion among Jesus and his disciples. They were on a journey of discovery. They kept asking Jesus who he is. They wanted to know not only what to expect from him, but what he expected them to be. This is the synodal process upon which everyone embarks as the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The voice of everyone, not only those who attend Mass, not only the clergy, but everyone! Your Church needs your voice!

The challenge today is to try to envision being one Church that exists world-wide. Jesus challenged his apostles to see beyond their personal concepts of being a faith community, in order to accept the image of what it means to be children of the living God. As we hear in the exchange between Jesus and his apostles in the Gospel of Matthew (16:13-18), "Who do people say that I am?" The apostles provide several answers, and Jesus listens patiently to their responses. Peter then give his famous reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Upon hearing that response Jesus responds, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so, I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." Peter's revelation comes not from human understanding, but from the Holy Spirit speaking through him.

In addition to Peter's declaration that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah, the apostles, in the presence of Jesus, are discerning the vision of their mission. They are still trying to understand exactly who the messiah is, what he will do, and how he will help them. They are listening to what others had said, reporting it to Jesus, and listening to what each other had to say in order to deepen their understanding of their purpose. Finally, after Peter makes the statement that reveals the true nature of Jesus, the Son of the living God, the apostles begin to form a vision of their mission.

Another key event in this scene is that Jesus establishes ownership of the Church. He assigns Peter the task of being the foundation of "his" Church. The Church is not Peter's, James', John's, Martha's, or Mary's. The Church is Jesus' Church. Like the first apostles, the church today is also on a journey through life trying to discern her purpose. Often, this takes place individually, or in small parish gatherings, but now we are once again going to have the opportunity to journey together as the whole Church of Jesus Christ.



Pope Francis has called for a synod of all the faithful, not just the clergy. He wants to hear the voice of the Church as she seeks to identify herself once again as members of the Body of Christ. As Austen Ivereigh writes in his article *Speak Boldly, Listen Carefully**, "discernment and decision-making are the business of the whole body, not just of the few entrusted with governance." In the Gospel scene above, listening to the whole Church was not very difficult because of the relatively small number of disciples following Jesus. Today, the task of listening is much more challenging

because those few followers who made up the early Church have become a population of over one billion members. How can the whole Body of Christ possibly be heard?

Listening to the whole church, which is what the synod is all about, can only be done through subsidiarity. Each bishop throughout the world has been asked to gather input within his diocese and then to submit a report to the council of bishops for their country or region. These summaries will then be presented to Rome. Pope Francis hopes that through this process someone will once again have a Petrine epiphany that reveals the purpose of the Church in the world today.

This process begins with each member of the Church being willing to make the sacrifice of time and comfort to participate in the synodal process. The synodal team is working on trying to reach as many people as they can. They are mailing surveys, placing information on the internet, and conducting listening sessions open to all the faithful, not only a select few. Everyone who has an interest is welcome to come and share ideas on where the Church is today and where they think it should be in the future. The importance is, like Peter, having a vision of the potential of what can be. And, like Peter, having the courage to speak boldly the inspired thoughts that may arise.

The synodal process opens with prayer, asking Jesus to be present just as he was with the apostles as they discerned who he is. After prayer comes time for a small social to relax and enter into a communal spirit. Then, participants will break into groups of no more than 10 per group in order to provide an opportunity for all to share. One person will be asked to facilitate the group and another will be asked to take notes. The facilitator will keep everyone focused on the vision of the future and make sure everyone has time to talk. The note taker will provide a summary of the conversation to share with the whole group.

This process will take place in each deanery. However, parishioners may attend any of the seven synodal



sessions. Our diocese is especially blessed because Bishop Kulick has committed to attending each session to hear first-hand what the Church of Greensburg has to say. Every voice needs to be heard for the synodal process to have meaning. Everyone is invited: children, elderly, middle age, young individuals. Each person reading this is encouraged to invite someone else to come to these sessions. The voices of those who may not be fully practicing, especially those who feel left out, need to be heard. A wide variety of ways to reach out to those who feel disenfranchised are being implemented, but the best way to do that is through personal contact. Through the efforts of the faithful to talk with those who may no longer frequent the Church, this process will be successful.

The purpose of this synodal process is to help the Church prepare for the future. Like the apostles trying to define Jesus, human beings usually fall short because we keep going back to what we know. When Jesus asked who do people say I am, the answers given showed how the apostles went back to what they already knew, "Some say you are John the Baptist, some say Elijah, others a prophet." The lesson here is that in order to encounter Jesus, we must live in the present and hope for the future. Returning to the old, while nostalgic, does not lead to a deeper awareness of Christ. Recall the old maxim: Nostalgia is the antithesis of hope. The discussion of the synod should reflect the present and lead to a future we cannot imagine. This is not a time to reminisce about the "old days" or to rehash the sins of the past. As Jesus once said, let the dead bury the dead. To follow Jesus is to go beyond what we can imagine. To follow Jesus is to create a future that allows the Holy Spirit to speak through the faithful witness of all members of the Body of Christ. To follow Jesus is to enter into a new way of living that transcends human imagination.

The future can only be discerned by listening to each other with open hearts and minds. The opportunity to gather is not a time for debate or argumentation, but a time to allow others to express their opinions, even if we disagree. The synodal process must be based on mutual respect and charity, the love of Christ. Each attendee must avoid reactions and body language that may be conceived as judgmental in order to encourage others to share freely. The Pope has given everyone an opportunity to be heard. No one knows who will speak the words that reveal a new understanding of what it means to be Church. Only by listening to as many voices as possible can the hope of hearing the Holy Spirit revealing the Truth of the Gospel to the Church today.

Everyone is invited to participate. Even if attending the synodal discussion sessions is not possible, please make time to complete the surveys. Everyone can at least support the process by praying daily the synod prayer.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Some material taken from "Speak Boldly, Listen Carefully: Inside the synod" by Austen Ivereigh, Oct. 21, 2021, commonwealmagazine.org.



A Synod on Synodality: Your input is needed!

Millions of Catholics across the country and around the world are being called to communion, participation and mission by our Holy Father Pope Francis. He is asking that we assemble in a "synod" by sharing our thoughts on the pastoral connectivity of our Church. This is the start of an important journey together, to listen to, and discern the realities, needs and hopes of the faithful.

While individual responses are anonymous, the overall results of this survey will be presented to Bishop Larry J. Kulick and then to the Holy Father at the Ordinary Synod of Bishops in October 2023 in Rome.

When you answer the questions in this survey, you have an opportunity to share your voice to help us fully live out our call to build communion, encourage participation and live out our mission.

Please take this written survey and return it to your parish or use the QR Code below to take the survey online. The survey closes on Feb. 14, 2022. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your responses.



1. What is the name of your parish? _____
2. Please circle your age range: Under 18, 18-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, over 70
3. I can explain the mission of the Church to others.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
4. I leave Mass feeling spiritually fed.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
5. My parish is sensitive to the major needs of parishioners.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
6. The music at Mass helps me enter into a prayerful attitude.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
7. The homilies at Mass are relevant and meaningful.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
8. The money spent by my parish reflects its commitment to the mission of the Church.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
9. The religious education at my parish is forming well-rounded disciples.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
10. My parish communicates with me about opportunities for worship and service.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
11. I feel that my parish welcomes my ideas and participation.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
12. I feel that I am an integral part of the parish community.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
13. I participate in activities of my parish beyond Mass attendance.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
14. The Church is a visible, integral part of my neighborhood and the larger community.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
15. The Church reaches out to those who feel disenfranchised.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know

Please return to your parish or mail to: Office of Communications and Evangelization,
725 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601

St. Martha Parish chalice a sentimental presence for Bishop

By **Cliff Gorski**
Executive Editor

GREENSBURG — Bishop Larry J. Kulick has many fond memories of growing up in Leechburg, particularly of his home parish, the former St. Martha Parish founded in 1911. It's the church where he received all his sacraments and became an altar server in second grade. The Slovak parish is where the Bishop gave his first homily as a deacon and celebrated his first Mass as a priest.

"I even heard my first confession at St. Martha," Bishop Kulick said, recalling that he heard those confessions the Saturday after he was ordained.

In 1999, the Leechburg parishes of St. Martha, St. Catherine and Assumption, and its mission, St. Francis in Hyde Park, merged to form Christ the King Parish. In 2012, then-Father Kulick served as Episcopal Master of Ceremonies as a new church was built and consecrated by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt.

For nearly 75 years, there was a constant presence of Christ in all of the celebrations. It was what Bishop Kulick calls the "St. Martha chalice."

The chalice, adorned with enamel medallions featuring the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Peter and St. Joseph, dates back to 1925, when it was presented by the young men and women of St. Martha parish upon the dedication of the second church building, a new larger brick church building. The parish was served by immigrant priests, many of whom could not afford their own chalice.

For Bishop Kulick, the St. Martha chalice has sentimental significance.

"As an altar server starting in the second grade, it was always the chalice that was used at daily Mass, Sunday Mass, funerals and weddings. It was the chalice the priests always used," Bishop Kulick said. "It was the chalice you brought to the altar. It was the chalice you took away from

the altar as an altar server."

If burglars had been successful in the 1990s, the chalice may have been lost forever. St. Martha Parish was targeted during a rash of church burglaries in the Alle-Kiski Valley. Thieves managed to get into the sacristy, where they pried open the vesting cupboard. Their plan was foiled when a cleaning woman saw them and called police. As they were fleeing, they took a chalice they may have believed was valuable because of its red stone. In their haste to leave, they left behind the St. Martha chalice.

When he was planning his Ordination Mass for the priesthood, Bishop Kulick thought that the St. Martha chalice would be of great significance since it played an important role in his life. However, the chalice belonged to the parish, so he chose one from the Diocesan archives; his parents had it restored for him as their gift.

Bishop Kulick always used the St. Martha chalice when he returned to the parish for family weddings, baptisms and funerals prior to becoming Bishop.

"It was a part of my life and the lives of so many in the parish," he said.

He asked to use the St. Martha chalice when he was ordained and installed as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg last year. The chalice was on the altar for this momentous occasion in Bishop Kulick's life.

Shortly after his ordination and installation Mass, Bishop Kulick was invited to return to his home parish to celebrate Mass. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Mass was postponed. The Bishop and Benedictine Father James Loew, Pastor, decided that it would be meaningful for the Bishop to return for Mass on Christ the King Day, Nov. 21, the patronal feast day for the parish.

"I was able to go back home, and we had a beautiful, solemn Mass, and it was so nice to see so many



PHOTO COURTESY BISHOP KULICK

The chalice from the former St. Martha Parish in Leechburg.

people," Bishop Kulick said.

He said he was not expecting what happened after Mass. Father James presented the Bishop with a new chalice box. Inside was the St. Martha chalice, fully restored, as a gift from the parish to the Bishop.

"I took out the box and placed it on the altar, and when I opened it up and saw what it was, I became speechless and so emotional," Bishop Kulick said as a flood of memories washed over him. "I was choking up and I tried to talk because there couldn't have been a more perfect gift and a more sentimental and historic gift that would mean so much to me. It's attached to my life, and the life of my whole family and the life at St. Martha and family friends and parishioners who are now gone."

After receiving the chalice, the Bishop made a promise to parishioners.

"I told them I would accept the chalice on one condition: that I would be the custodian of it, and I will use it at the cathedral for our major Masses," he said.

He also promised that in his will, he will ask that the chalice return to Leechburg to continue to serve future generations of priests and parishioners.

School lessons lead to careers serving others

Continued from page 18

classmate since we were 8 years old," Michael Iannamorelli said. "Growing up in the Catholic institution felt like everyone was a brother or sister. The teachers and staff of St. John's were wonderful at fostering that atmosphere."

Principal Roskovensky said the Iannamorelli family exemplifies the school's motto: "We are here to serve and not be served."

"Each of the members of this outstanding family has chosen a career that illustrates the ideals of our school. I couldn't be any prouder of them and the role we played to help form them," she said.

The Iannamorelli siblings all say they strived for a life in service to others, with their parents, a doctor and a nurse, as perfect examples, along with their faith. Spiritually and physically, they each search for ways to improve others' lives.

"Catholic values of being altruistic have been ingrained in me, putting patients above self, staying focused on not taking the easy way out," said Michael Iannamorelli.

Iannamorelli-Eddy agreed: "We were given a foundation to look back on which was connected and kind. I want to apply those concepts in everyday life."

"Each of us can be serving someone who is having the worst day of their lives," said Anthony Iannamorelli. "We are still influenced by our foundation from St. John's and strive to treat everyone with respect and equality as we were taught in our young lives, to do the right thing and to do it well."



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Young people from the Diocese participate in the 2020 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Bishop to celebrate Mass at March for Life

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 49th annual March for Life is scheduled for Jan. 21.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the National Shrine. Seating for the Mass is first come, first served. Following the Mass, the March for Life rally will begin at noon on the National Mall. The march from the Mall to the United States Supreme Court will begin around 1 p.m.

Every year, tens of thousands of people peacefully converge on the National Mall and march to the Capitol on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion. Last year's march was virtual due to COVID-19.

Parishioners from around the Diocese are traveling to the march and rally on their own or on buses organized by Diocesan parishes.

— The Catholic Accent

Clothes Closet celebrates 10 years of community kindness

By Maria Guzzo
Contributing Writer

NEW KENSINGTON — Bishop Larry J. Kulick felt the embrace of the fabric of the local community firsthand when he visited the Community Clothes Closet's 10th anniversary party Dec. 11.

Making the rounds of the New Kensington facility, housed in the former St. Joseph Church school, the Bishop, who had been Pastor at St. Joseph years ago, remembered the bustle of activity in the former classrooms. While the activity these days targets clothing sales, volunteers who run the ministry more importantly offer customers kindness, compassion and fellowship.

"It's so wonderful to see everyone in the community working together and offering service to others across all faith traditions," he said. "It's important for people to pull together."

Community Clothes Closet founder Christina Discello, a Mount St. Peter parishioner, 13 years ago began gathering donated clothes for students at the career school where



MARIA GUZZO FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Larry J. Kulick talks to volunteers at the Community Clothes Closet's 10th anniversary celebration.

she worked so they had job interview outfits. That idea expanded three years later into offering all types of clothing, toiletries, household items and food, helping customers improve their living standards with dignity.

The CCC initially set up shop in a tiny building in downtown New Kensington

donated by the city. When that building was razed to make way for an apartment complex, the ministry moved into more spacious accommodations at the former school a few blocks away at the corner of Kenneth Avenue and Locust Street.

Prices at the CCC are low, from 25-cent children's

clothes to \$3 winter coats.

"So it's not a handout," Discello said. "But it gives people a chance to have nice things."

New customers receive 15 items free, and naturally, those in need after a fire or other dire circumstance are helped gratis.

"We share what we have,"

Discello said, and that includes generous amounts of coffee and conversation, which help tie the community together.

Volunteers from Mount St. Peter, and now also St. Mary of Czestochowa Parish and St. Joseph Parish, staff the two shifts the CCC is open weekly - Mondays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations can be dropped off during those hours, and volunteers sort and hang the best items. Overflow is donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

During the anniversary fete, CCC customer Denise Burton of Plum tucked into a celebratory lunch of salad, rigatoni, chicken and cake. She said she's been shopping there with a friend from the neighborhood for a couple of years and appreciates all the CCC has to offer.

"Everybody is so grateful they're here," Burton said. "You can't find better people."

Bishop Kulick said he was pleased to receive an invitation to the CCC's anniversary event.

"I try to go around to ministries within the Diocese and support them," he said.

Special collections set in February, March

GREENSBURG — The Diocesan Mission Office reminds parishioners of two national collections to be taken at all Masses in February and March.

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken Feb. 5-6. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops uses the proceeds to "help to renew vital aspects of Church life and to aid and support seminaries; family education ministries; construction of and rebuilding of churches; and renewal of community life." Contributions help

29 countries in Central and Eastern Europe to "Restore the Church, Build the Future."

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is made yearly at the beginning of Lent, March 5-6. This collection helps provide material support and spiritual aid to U.S. dioceses in need.

"Strengthening the Church at Home" is this year's theme. Proceeds will be used to promote vocations; assist dioceses and parishes; safeguard human life and dignity; provide faith formation; strengthen marriage and family life; and recognize cultural diversity.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

AUXILIARY BISHOP ORDAINED IN PITTSBURGH: Bishop Larry J. Kulick, right, attends the ordination and installation of Bishop Mark Eckman, center, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Jan. 11 at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland. Also shown from left are Bishop David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh; Bishop William J. Winter, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh; and Bishop William J. Waltersheid, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh.

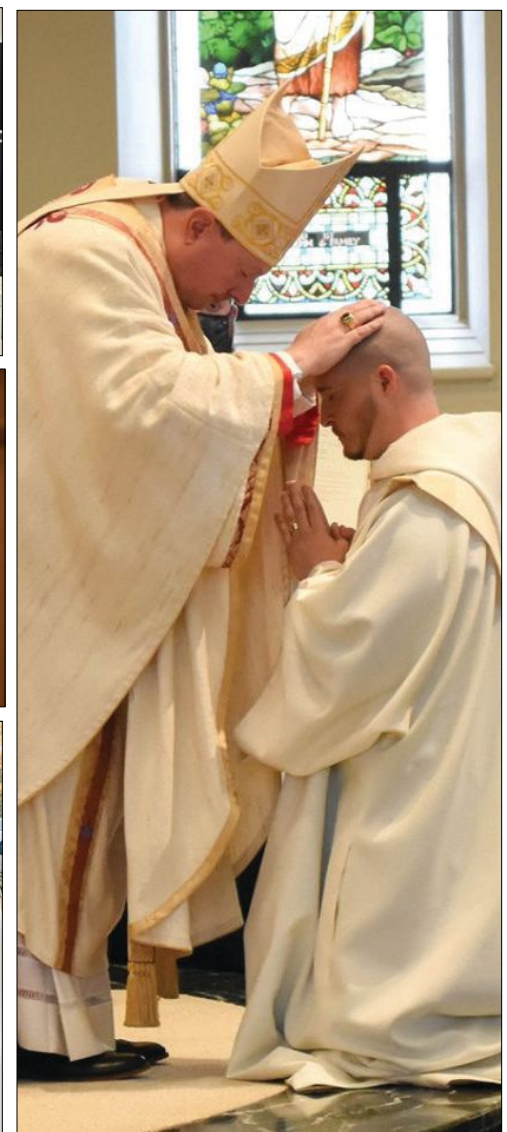


CHILDREN FOLLOW STAR FOR FAITH, FUN:

Children from St. Anne Parish, Rostraver, and Holy Family Parish, West Newton, participated in "Follow That Star," a night described as "a week's worth of Vacation Bible School wrapped up in 2½ hours." The children, supervised by teens and adults from the parishes, did crafts, heard stories, sang and performed for family and friends.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED



BISHOP MARKS FIRST YEAR: Bishop Larry J. Kulick will mark the one-year anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination as Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg Feb. 11. In his first year as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese, he has traveled frequently throughout its four counties, celebrating Masses, joining in celebrations, and gathering with parishioners, Catholic school students, clergy and religious, and members of various organizations.

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS





PHOTO COURTESY DIOCESE OF SICUANI

Bishop Pedro Alberto Bustamante Lopez of the Diocese of Sicuani celebrates Mass in the mountains of Peru.

Diocese of Greensburg continues commitment to Sicuani, Peru

By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor

Sicuani, Peru is a harsh and remote town in the southern Andes. It's a place far removed from the comfort we experience when we gather as a community of faith.

The people live in extreme poverty. The only way for residents to make a living is through farming, which remains a challenge due to drought, flooding, lack of machinery and poor techniques. There is little access to medical care and an inadequate educational system that leaves many unable to read or write.

Despite the challenges of great distances between parishes and a lack of clergy and religious, the people's desire and commitment to celebrate their Catholic faith is as large as the divide that physically separates them.

Decades ago, Bishop William G. Connare visited the Prelature of Sicuani, which spans four of the



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

The Bishop visits the school for special needs students in Sicuani.

poorest provinces of Peru. He developed a relationship that resulted in the Prelature becoming a sister diocese to the Diocese of Greensburg. As part of that commitment to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ, Bishop Connare offered Diocesan priests to serve in parish ministry through the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle. Carmelite missionaries have served the Prelature Sicuani since 1958.

Priests from the Diocese of Greensburg continued to serve in Sicuani until the mid to late 1980s. In September of 2020, the Prelature officially became the Diocese of Sicuani.

Today, the Diocese continues its commitment by providing financial assistance for ministry support along with heartfelt prayers.

Recently, Bishop Pedro Alberto Bustamante Lopez from the Diocese of Sicuani

sent a letter to Bishop Larry J. Kulick to report on two critical renovation projects on crumbling structures in his diocese. The cost of the renovations was supported in part through donations made to the Missions Office.

Bishop Bustamante said repairs to the buildings are important because they allow priests in the region to carry out pastoral work and evangelization in the high Andean parishes.

"Our priests and religious, in their daily pastoral work, are strengthened and encouraged by people like you who do a great job promoting pastoral and religious projects of the Church in need," he wrote. "Our diocese would not have been able to fully pay for this project without help from you and the people of Greensburg."

It is through the generous support from parishioners and donors that enable the Diocese of Greensburg to continue its commitment to the Diocese of Sicuani.

"We are able to send a portion of the funds collected through the Home Missions Appeal, which is collected during the first weekend of Lent," said Father Anthony J. Carbone, Director of the Mission Office for the Diocese of Greensburg. "We also have several private donors who earmark gifts for the Diocese of Sicuani."

Some of the proceeds from Prayer and Perfect Pairings, a fundraising dinner featuring recipes selected and prepared by Diocesan priests, also benefit the Peruvian diocese.

To help the Diocese of Sicuani, Peru, mail donations to the Diocesan Mission Office (attention "Sicuani"), 723 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601. Checks should be payable to the "Diocese of Greensburg Mission Office." All funds will be processed through secure channels to Sicuani, Peru. Only monetary help can be accepted due to Sicuani's difficult terrain and road system.

Catholic school a family tradition

Continued from page 16

wonderful Catholic school experience," Merchant said.

Her siblings attended Catholic high school and college, which she said set the foundation of how to treat others. One of her brothers is a Catholic school teacher.

Merchant said she has been impressed with how the Queen of Angels School staff handled the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I knew that our kids were safe. It was the best place for them to be. The teachers and staff are so exceptional. It's like we hit the jackpot," she said.

Queen of Angels Catholic School

Principal Jennifer Filak said she thinks that one of the things that makes the school so special is the fact that so many alumni send their children there.

"When I talk with these families, I hear time and time again about their lasting impressions of the experiences they had as students of Queen of Angels and how much they want their children to experience the same," she said.

Filak said Queen of Angels Catholic School has always been described as a family-centered community.

"The fact that we have so many legacy families is a testament to that," she said.

Lenten prayer series set in Freeport; afternoon of reflection in Harrison City

St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Freeport, will host a Lenten series on prayer beginning in February.

In-person sessions will be held Mondays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m., both in Fellowship Hall. People also can join virtually at formed.org (register for a free account at signup.formed.org). A workbook is available for \$9. The series begins Feb. 28 and ends April 7.

To register, visit stmaryfreeport.com (under "Events"), call 724-230-4450 or email kristine7@zoominternet.net by Feb. 7.

The Ladies Guild of St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City, will host a Lenten afternoon of reflection and prayer April 3 from 1-3 p.m.

Deacon William M. Newhouse will be the presenter. Refreshments will be served.

Reservations are due March 27 by calling 724-744-3171 or 724-744-1019.

Bishop helps DCCW celebrate 60 years of supporting Church

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG —It didn't take Betty Nemchik long to figure out that Msgr. Larry J. Kulick would be named a bishop one day. She was quickly impressed in the two months she worked with him at St. James Parish in New Alexandria, but never imagined he would be shepherd of the flock in his own beloved Diocese of Greensburg.

Nemchik, parish bookkeeper and secretary for 14 years, is now retired and past president of the Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women (DCCW). She reflected on the power of prayer for vocations as the DCCW observed its 60th anniversary Dec. 12, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Kulick at St. Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center.

The group of about 200 faithful DCCW members opened the celebration by praying the rosary for Pope Francis and all bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians who faithfully serve God's holy people, and in a special way for Bishop Kulick and the priests of the Diocese of Greensburg.

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliated organizations to support, empower and educate Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. Programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world.

Bishop Kulick thanked the group for helping in the role of advocates, especially against human trafficking and for the pro-life cause.

"Our faith calls us to action," he said.

Bishop Kulick said the faithful, tight-knit group has given so much back not only to the Diocese of Greensburg, but on the national and international levels.

"This is a tremendous milestone," he said. "Bishop (Edward C.) Malesic talks of his five years here and how much you were in support of him."

Bishop Kulick read a letter from Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt, extending congratulations to the group and expressing gratitude to members for providing funding for the golden recasting of the Blessed Mother statue at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.

Denise Pencola, past DCCW president and past Philadelphia province director, who serves on a pro-life special committee with Nemchik and Millie Krinock, said the group speaks the truths of the Catholic faith.

During the anniversary celebration, a chalice was donated in honor and memory of Msgr. Donald J. Mondello's 40 years of faithful service to the council, as moderator and spiritual advisor, and to the Diocese of Greensburg.

Father Eric J. Dinga currently holds that position.

Pencola explained the mission of the National



MELISSA WILLIAMS BROWN FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Kulick celebrates with, from left, past presidents Denise Pencola, Millie Krinock and Betty Nemchik during the group's 60th anniversary celebration Dec. 12.

A prayer card printed in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women reads in part:

"We are truly thankful for the many wonderful women who have laid the foundation of our ongoing work today to build God's kingdom under the leadership of our Bishop Larry J. Kulick in accord with our mission statement: to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. May you continue to bless our Council to faithfully serve the women in our parishes and communities. Help us to be model disciples in the mold of Our Lady of Good Counsel. We pray for more women to join us in this important ministry, to carry on the mission of building the Kingdom of God in our Diocese through advocacy and service. Amen."

Council of Catholic Women is carried out though the work of three commissions, each under the direction of a national commission chairman and often mirrored at archdiocesan, diocesan,

regional and local parish levels. The three commissions are spirituality, specifically spiritual adoption of the unborn; leadership, where Catholic women are called to witness; and service.

Theresa Klimko, past president, is a true testament to the power of prayer for vocations. She told her fellow DCCW members that she thought her son, Anthony, had a calling to be a priest. Klimko and the group prayed with her.

Father Anthony J. Klimko has returned to his Fayette County roots as a priest in the Diocese of Greensburg. He is pastor of St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish, St. John the Evangelist Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Mary (Nativity) Parish, all in Uniontown.

Nemchik said she is proud of what the group has accomplished over 60 years.

"We are like family. We all have the same thing in common that is our love for the Catholic Church locally, nationally and worldwide," said Nemchik.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

YOUNG PEOPLE CONFIRMED: Bishop Larry J. Kulick gathers with some of the young people confirmed Nov. 30 at St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon. Young parishioners from St. Sebastian Parish, St. Anne Parish, Rostraver, The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Monessen, St. John the Baptist Parish, Perryopolis, Holy Family Parish, West Newton, St. Peter Parish, Brownsville, and St. Cecelia Parish, Grindstone, were confirmed that day. At left are Father Rodolfo Mejia Jr., priest in residence at St. John the Baptist Parish, and Father David J. Nazimek, pastor of St. Anne Parish.

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

2022 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Publication Date	Deadline to Submit Material
*Feb. 17 (Faith and Food) April 21	Jan. 21 April 7
*May 19 (Summer Events Guide) July 21	April 14 July 7
*Aug. 8 Oct. 20	July 14 Oct. 6
*Nov. 17 (Christmas Traditions)	Oct. 13

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

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

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



CYO girls basketball tournament results

GREENSBURG — The 2021 CYO girls basketball tournament wrapped up in early January 2022 at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. Results are below, and winning teams are pictured at left.

VARSITY FINALS

Mother of Sorrows 35, Mary Queen of Apostles 10
High scorers: MOS, Brooklyn Morgan 19
 MQA, Niviah Andree and Jocelyn Spinelli, 4

JUNIOR VARSITY FINALS

Mother of Sorrows 27, Christ the Divine Teacher 23
High scorers: MOS, K.C. Yaniga 17; CDT, Georgia Evans, 8

VARSITY SEMIFINALS

Mary Queen of Apostles 27, St. John the Evangelist 2
High scorers: MQA, Bella Graff 8; SJE, Mallory Clemmer 2

JUNIOR VARSITY SEMIFINALS

Mother of Sorrows 21, Mary Queen of Apostles 12
High scorers: MOS, K.C. Yaniga 10; MQA, Elizabeth Kleckner 8

Christ the Divine Teacher 30, Aquinas Academy 15
High scorers: CDT, Georgia Evans 12; AA, Payton Hassler, Lulu Lim and Grace Rennie, 4

JV QUARTERFINALS

Mary Queen of Apostles 14, Queen of Angels 5
High scorers: MQA, Elizabeth Kleckner 6; QA, Dreana Clark and Joyce Cheplic, 2

Christ the Divine Teacher 34, Conn-Area Catholic 6
High scorers: CDT, Georgia Evans 14; CAC, Paige Dolan, 4



PHOTOS SUBMITTED



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADDICTION SUPPORT

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

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

BIBLE STUDY

A virtual workshop on "St. Francis of Assisi — His Life and His Times" is set for Jan. 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. There is no cost. Registration: Molli Vassar, molli.vassar@gmail.com.

BINGO

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish will resume its monthly bingos the first Sunday of each month, beginning in February. Upcoming dates are Feb. 6, March 6 and April 3. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with bingo at 2. Refreshments are available. Information: 724-423-3777.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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

DINNER, DINNER/DANCE

Scottsdale — St. John the Baptist Parish will hold its quarterly dinner March 13 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the social hall. Cost is \$12. Takeouts will be available. Orders: 724-887-7013.

New Alexandria — St. James Parish will hold a Valentine's Day dinner/dance Feb. 5 from 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$7 for ages 12 and under. Register by Feb. 1: 724-668-2829 or stjamesnewalexandria.org.

LGBTQ MINISTRY

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

LOTTERY TICKET

Apollo — St. James Parish is sponsoring a "Luck of the Irish" lottery ticket, with the winner determined by the 7 p.m. March 17 Pennsylvania Lottery drawing. Tickets are \$10 (two numbers); prize is a roll of \$5, \$10 and \$20 scratch-off lottery tickets. Tickets are available at the church after weekend Masses, at the parish office or by calling 724-882-8776.

NIGHT AT THE RACES

Indiana — Knights of Columbus Council 10960, serving the parishes of Church of the Good Shepherd, Kent, and Our Lady of the Assumption, Lucerne Mines and Coral, will host "A Knight at the Races #2" (ages 21 and over) Feb. 26 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and racing will start at 7. Tickets are \$25 and include a buffet and adult beverages; a cash bar will be available. Horses cost \$10. Tickets: Norb Rayko, 724-422-1533 or nmrayk@hotmail.com.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet Feb. 20 (speaker Benedictine Father Jude Brady on "Obedience in Benedictine Spirituality"), March 13 (speaker Benedictine Father Nathanael Polinski on "Holiness in Benedictine Spirituality") and April 10 (speaker Benedictine Father Earl Henry on "Stability in Benedictine Spirituality") from 3-4:15 p.m. in Brownfield 202 at Saint Vincent Seminary. Masks required. Reservations: Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Attendees may also attend vespers at 5 p.m. in the nave of the basilica. Supper at 5:35 p.m. and additional sessions at 6:30 p.m. (discussion based on the "Study Guide for the Rule of St. Benedict") in Brownfield 202 are also available; call at least two weeks in advance to register for supper and evening events.

RUMMAGE SALE

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish will host a rummage sale Feb. 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Feb. 6 from noon-1 p.m.

VENDOR FAIR

Apollo — St. James Parish will host a vendor fair Feb. 12 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All vendors are needed. Cost is \$15 (\$20 with electric). Registration: 724-882-8776.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM: Children perform the Nativity story at "Breakfast in Bethlehem" Dec. 4 at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana. The event was hosted by Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Bernard 339, with the help of the parish's Grandmothers Corps and Knights of Columbus Father McNelis Council 1481.

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OBITUARIES

Father Augustine Flood, OSB, former president of Saint Vincent College

LATROBE — Benedictine Father Augustine Flood, the 12th president of Saint Vincent College, died Nov. 11, 2021. He was 83.

He came to the Saint Vincent Benedictine community in 1974, serving in many positions before serving as president from 1982-85. He served as administrator of St. Bartholomew Parish, Crabtree (1994-2002).

He is survived by a number of great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 16, followed by interment in Saint Vincent Cemetery.

Father Thomas Smith, Derry native

LATROBE — Father Thomas James Derito Smith, a Derry native and retired priest of the Diocese of Norwich, died Friday, Oct. 22, 2021. He was 68 and had retired to Gables Manor, Latrobe.

Father Smith served as pastor of numerous Connecticut parishes and also served in many positions with the Diocese of Norwich, and as a prison chaplain in the Archdiocese of New York. He was a member of the Murrysville/Trafford Assembly 2192 of the Knights of Columbus and Manordale Valley Council 4226 of Murrysville.

He is survived by siblings Harry Earl Smith Jr. of Apollo, MaryAnn Smith (Andrew) Kelly of The Villages, Fla., and Joanne Eleanor Smith Bernabei of Derry; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 27 at St. Louise Chapel, Pittsburgh, with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Derry.

Sister Judith Ann Worden, RSM

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Sister of Mercy Judith Ann Worden (Sister Mary Leo), 84, died Oct. 24, 2021. She was in her 66th year of religious life. She entered the congregation from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Pleasant Hills.



Sister Judith taught in Catholic

schools in the Dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh, including the former St. Xavier Academy, Latrobe. She was director of apostolic ministry and coordinator of apostolic works for the Pittsburgh Diocese from 1983-2007.

Funeral services were private, with burial in St. Xavier Cemetery, Latrobe.

Sister Mary Eileen Cook, CSJ

BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Mary Eileen (Mary Immaculate) Cook,



91, died Nov. 19, 2021. She was in her 73rd year of religious life. She entered the congregation from St. Raphael Parish, Pittsburgh.

Sister Mary Eileen served 17 years as an teacher

in Catholic schools in the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg. She was principal at the former St. Mary School, Freeport (1966-72).

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 30 in the motherhouse chapel.

Sister Rosemary Fleming, SC

GREENSBURG — Sister of Charity Rosemary Fleming, 86, died Dec. 1, 2021, at Caritas Christi.



Born in Pittsburgh, Sister Rosemary entered the congregation Jan. 1, 1967, from St. Kieran Parish, Lawrenceville.

Sister Rosemary served in the

Diocese of Greensburg adult religious development program from 1970-72. A parish social minister, she later worked with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, served in the Allegheny County social service department and established and administered the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Roselia Manor.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 3.

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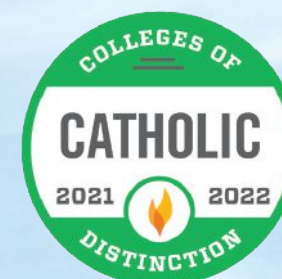
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