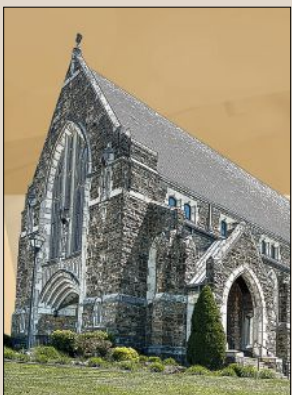


INSIDE



Seminarian Christopher J. Pujol is ordained a transitional deacon.

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Jeannette parish ready to reopen amid ongoing repairs.

PAGE 8



Sisters of Charity install members of Provincial Leadership Team.

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MISSION FUNDING IN **CRITICAL CONDITION**

DONATIONS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE POOR



Fallout from pandemic creates tidal wave of need

GREENSBURG — Funding for mission work in local communities, around the country and around the world diminished during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving the poorest among us without the help they desperately need.

A fundraising deficit of nearly \$100,000 for mission work now affects the capability of the Diocese of Greensburg to meet the material and spiritual needs of the poor in our country and abroad.

Inside this issue, learn about how you can help by supporting the Missions of Faith Appeal.

- In parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia, families experiencing economic hardships rely on the helping hands of youth missionaries from the Diocese for repair of deteriorating houses, building of beds and other furniture, and planting and harvesting of much needed food.

- In our sister Diocese of Sicuani, Peru, a fifth of its people live in poverty. There, the Diocese of Greensburg supports faith formation, education and church outreach for the poor.

- In Haiti, the economy is in freefall amidst droughts, gang violence and child malnutrition. Missionaries provide aid for education, social and material infrastructure, and the environment.

INSIDE: A special collection envelope for donations.

This issue of *The Catholic Accent* shares other stories about the valuable impact of the Missions Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Holy Childhood at the Diocese of Greensburg.

THE MISSIONS OF FAITH APPEAL

DioceseofGreensburg.org/Missions



Commencement, Baccalaureate Masses celebrated at Geibel Catholic, Greensburg Central Catholic high schools.

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THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA

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

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



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www.dioceseofgreensburg.org



OFFICIAL

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

Effective March 4, 2021

SPECIAL:

The Reverend Eric J. Dinga to
Spiritual Advisor of the Diocesan
Council of the National Council of
Catholic Women while remaining
Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist and
Saint Rose Parishes, Latrobe.

Effective April 5, 2021

RESIGNATION FROM PRIESTLY MINISTRY:

At his own request, **The Reverend
Robert T. Lubic** has resigned from
priestly ministry in the Diocese of
Greensburg.

Effective May 17, 2021

SPECIAL:

**The Reverend Monsignor James
T. Gaston, VF**, to Director of Clergy
Formation while remaining Pastor
of Mother of Sorrows Parish,
Murrysville, and Vicar Forane (Dean)
of Deanery III and all other diocesan
appointments.

**The Reverend Alan N. Polczynski,
VF**, resigns as Pastor of Christ, Prince
of Peace Parish, Ford City, Saint
Lawrence Parish, Cadogan, and
Vicar Forane (Dean) of Deanery II
for Studies in Canon Law at Catholic
University, Washington, D.C. and
to Episcopal Master of Ceremonies
with residence at Blessed Sacrament
Cathedral Rectory, Greensburg.

VICAR FORANE:

The Reverend James B. Morley to
Vicar Forane (Dean) of Deanery II,
while remaining Pastor of Church of
the Resurrection Parish, Northern
Indiana County.

Effective June 24, 2021

RETIREMENT:

**The Reverend Monsignor James
T. Gaston, VF**, resigns as Pastor of
Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville,
and Vicar Forane (Dean) of Deanery
III with residence at Neumann House,
Greensburg, while remaining Director
of Clergy Formation.

RESIGNATION:

The Reverend Michael P. Sikon has
resigned as Pastor of Ascension and
Sacred Heart Parishes, Jeannette,
while remaining as Pastor of Saint
Barbara Parish, Harrison City, Director
of the Office of Worship of the Diocese
of Greensburg and all other Diocesan
appointments.

PASTORS:

**The Reverend Monsignor Michael
J. Begolly** from Pastor of Mount
Saint Peter, Saint Joseph and Saint
Mary of Czestochowa Parishes, New
Kensington, to Pastor of Mother of
Sorrows Parish, Murrysville.

**The Very Reverend Kenneth G.
Zaccagnini, VF**, to Pastor of Mount
Saint Peter, Saint Joseph and Saint
Mary of Czestochowa Parishes, New
Kensington, while remaining Pastor
of Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Lower
Burrell, and Vicar Forane (Dean) of

Deanery I and all other Diocesan
appointments.

The Reverend Thomas A. Federline
resigns as Pastor of Saint Raymond of
the Mountains Parish, Donegal, while
remaining as Pastor of Saint Pius X
and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin
Mary Parishes, Mount Pleasant.

The Reverend Tyler J. Bandura
from Administrator of Saint James
Parish, New Alexandria, Chaplain and
Instructor of Religion at Greensburg
Central Catholic Junior-Senior
High School and Episcopal Master
of Ceremonies to Pastor of Saint
James Parish, New Alexandria, while
remaining Director of the Office for
Priestly Vocations.

The Reverend Eric J. Dinga from
Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist and
Saint Rose Parishes, Latrobe, to Pastor
of Christ, Prince of Peace Parish,
Ford City, and Saint Lawrence Parish,
Cadogan, while remaining Spiritual
Advisor of the Diocesan Council of the
National Council of Catholic Women.

The Reverend Anthony Onoko from
Parochial Vicar of Saint Raymond
of the Mountains Parish, Donegal,
to Pastor of Saint Raymond of the
Mountains Parish, Donegal, and
Chaplain at Greensburg Central
Catholic Junior-Senior High School,
Greensburg, while remaining
Chaplain of Excelsa Health Frick
Hospital and Harmon House, Mount
Pleasant.

The Reverend William G. Berkey
from Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi
Parish, Masontown (Western Fayette
County), to Pastor of Saint Rose and
Saint John the Evangelist Parishes,
Latrobe, with residence at Saint John
the Evangelist Parish Rectory.

The Reverend Marlon L. Pates from
Parochial Vicar of Saint Peter Parish,
Brownsville, Saint Cecelia Parish,
Grindstone, and Saint Francis of Assisi
Parish, Masontown (Western Fayette
County), to Pastor of Saint Francis of
Assisi Parish.

The Reverend Vincent A. Yee
Concepcion from Parochial Vicar of
Saint Joseph, Saint John the Evangelist,
Saint Therese, Little Flower of Jesus,
and Saint Mary (Nativity) Parishes,
Uniontown, to Pastor of Saint Edward
Parish, Herminie, and Seven Dolors
Parish, Yukon, with residence at Saint
Edward Parish Rectory.

VICAR FORANE:

The Reverend Lawrence L. Manch
to Vicar Forane (Dean) of Deanery III
while remaining Pastor of Saint Bruno
and Saint Paul Parishes, Greensburg,
and all other Diocesan appointments.

PAROCHIAL VICAR:

The Reverend Segundino R. Laude
to Parochial Vicar of Mount Saint
Peter, Saint Joseph and Saint Mary
of Czestochowa Parishes, New
Kensington, and Saint Margaret Mary
Parish, Lower Burrell.

The Reverend Rodel D. Molina to

Parochial Vicar of Saint Margaret
Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, while
remaining Parochial Vicar of Mount
Saint Peter, Saint Joseph and Saint
Mary of Czestochowa Parishes, New
Kensington.

The Reverend Alvin B. Aberion from
Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart and
Ascension Parishes, Jeannette, to
Parochial Vicar of Saint Joseph, Saint
John the Evangelist, Saint Therese,
Little Flower of Jesus, and Saint Mary
(Nativity) Parishes, Uniontown, with
residence in Saint Joseph Parish
Rectory, Uniontown.

ADMINISTRATOR:

Deacon William M. Newhouse
to Administrator at Ascension and
Sacred Heart Parishes, Jeannette,
while remaining as Assistant
Episcopal Master of Ceremonies,
Assistant Director of the Office for the
Permanent Diaconate and all other
Diocesan appointments.

SPECIAL:

**The Reverend Richard J. Kosisko,
JCL**, to Judge in the Diocese of
Greensburg Matrimonial Tribunal
Office while remaining as Pastor of
Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, and all
other Diocesan appointments.

The Reverend Daniel J. Ulishney as
Defender of the Bond in the Diocese
of Greensburg Matrimonial Tribunal
Office while remaining as Pastor of
Saint John Baptist de La Salle Parish,
Delmont, and Saint Mary, Our Lady of
Lourdes Parish, Export, and all other
Diocesan appointments.

The Reverend Daniel E. Carr
to Director of Pro-Life Activities,
Marriage Preparation and Adult
Education and Formation in the Office
of Faith, Family and Discipleship
while remaining Parochial Vicar
at the Parishes of Saint John the
Evangelist, Saint Rita and Immaculate
Conception, Connellsville, Saint
Aloysius Parish, Dunbar, and Chaplain
to Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High
School, Connellsville, and all other
Diocesan appointments.

The Reverend Joel S. Boco has been
recalled to his home Diocese of Tagum
in the Philippines at the request of
his Bishop, The Most Reverend Medil
Aseo.

CHAPLAIN:

The Reverend Alvin B. Aberion, to
Co-Chaplain to Uniontown Hospital
while remaining Parochial Vicar of
Saint Joseph, Saint John the Evangelist,
Saint Therese, Little Flower of Jesus,
and Saint Mary (Nativity) Parishes,
Uniontown.

The Reverend Dick Antony Cortado,
to Co-Chaplain to Uniontown
Hospital while remaining Parochial
Vicar of Saint Joseph, Saint John the
Evangelist, Saint Therese, Little Flower
of Jesus, and Saint Mary (Nativity)
Parishes, Uniontown.

Seminarian Christopher J. Pujol ordained a deacon for Diocese

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — Christopher J. Pujol realized as he lay prostrate on the altar at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral during his Diaconate Ordination Mass that he was truly laying down his life to rise again in front of the congregation as a servant to God's people.

He was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Larry J. Kulick June 5. It was the first official Diocesan event since pandemic protocols have been revised to allow each of the pews to be filled and an easing of face mask requirements.

"It was very overwhelming. I actually became emotional," Deacon Pujol said of his time lying prostrate. "I just thought about all the centuries of this ritual, which is both historical and sacramental. Being ordained puts you in the line through the Bishop, leading to the apostles and connected right to Christ himself. I think I was filled with that whole historical aspect of that moment of the liturgy."

A Diaconate Ordination is one of three levels in which a man is incorporated into the Holy Orders — diaconate, priesthood and episcopacy.

As a deacon, he will be able to baptize, assist at weddings, preside over funeral services, lead prayer services, proclaim the Gospel and deliver homilies.

Deacon Pujol has been assigned by Bishop Kulick to the Uniontown parishes of St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist and St. Mary (Nativity) for the summer. He will work with Father Anthony J. Klimko, Pastor of the Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown.

Deacon Pujol will return to the Philadelphia area in August for his final year of studies and formation at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary with the anticipation of being ordained to the priesthood next summer. While there, he will assist at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Warrington.

Bishop Kulick recalled his days as a pastor at St. Joseph Parish in New Kensington when Deacon Pujol was an altar server at school Masses for Mary Queen of Apostles School.

"Who would ever imagine that we would be here today and you would be continuing your service as an ordained minister and I would have the privilege of being your ordaining Bishop," Bishop Kulick said.



During his homily, the bishop reminded Deacon Pujol of the role he will play as a deacon, and eventually in the priesthood.

"Particularly as a deacon, not only proclaiming the Word and serving at the altar, but in your pastoral life and in your ministry, you will be called to continually serve, to give yourself in sacrifice to the Father," he said. "And in doing that, by preaching the word and assisting at the altar, you will help the people of God to know God more, to love God more and to serve Him devoutly after your example."

Bishop Kulick also explained how receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders creates a bond for that person with the church.

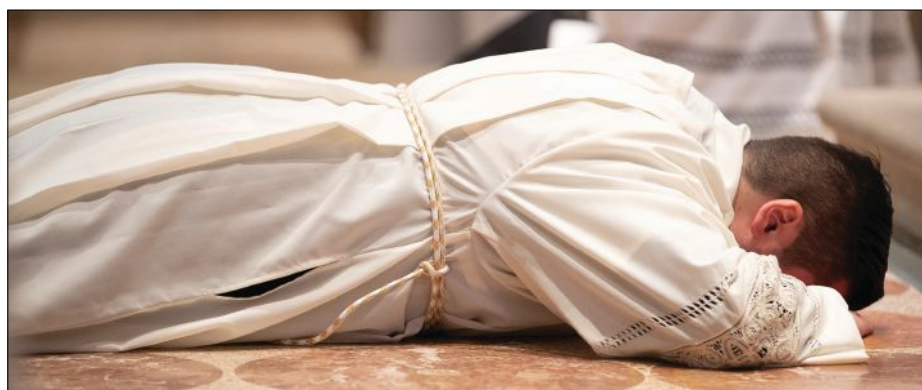
"We know very well that the sacrament of Holy Orders is one of the great sacraments of service and Communion, along with matrimony," he said. "These two sacraments of the church are directly oriented toward the salvation of others. The recipients of these sacraments grow in holiness by means of their service to others."

Deacon Pujol chose Msgr. Lawrence Dominik to vest him. Msgr. Dominik spent his entire career working for the Vatican before returning home to New Kensington, which is also Pujol's hometown, when he retired.

"He's been a big influence on me to show me that we're always useful, even in retirement," he said. "His willingness to serve really models that aspect of service that the deacon is called to do. He's out on the weekends, every weekend, saying Masses at different places. He really exemplifies service and a humble charity."

Deacon Pujol said he has been touched deeply by many people each step along the way.

"I'm very moved and very humbled by the outpouring of love and support," he said. "I'm just filled with gratitude."



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

From top: Bishop Larry J. Kulick receives the Promise of Obedience from Deacon Christopher J. Pujol during his Ordination Mass June 5; Deacon Pujol lies prostrate on the altar; Deacon Pujol is vested by Msgr. Lawrence Dominik and Father Alan J. Polczynski. Below, he gathers with his family and the Bishop after the Mass.



Support needed to continue missions after difficult year

By Father Anthony J. Carbone
Diocesan Mission Director

I remember one Sunday asking my mother a question as she was preparing our family's offertory envelopes. I asked her if the money we contributed went to support of the missions. She looked at me and said, "No, we have to help pay the bills of our own parish. There are other collections for the missions."

No doubt that our weekly contributions to our parishes are of the utmost importance — if we hope to have a parish, we must support it materially. That is the way it is in this world. Yet we are also called to share our material gifts with others. Most of us receive, with great frequency, appeals for material help for so many causes. The Church, established by Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world, needs the means by which she can fulfill the divine mandate to "Go out to all the world and tell the good news."

We have so many generous parishioners in the Diocese of Greensburg. So many persons respond readily to the cry of the poor and the cry of missionaries, who not only proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, but also offer significant material aid to the hungry, homeless

and needy persons of the world.

However, as the reality of a pandemic came crashing down around us this past year, many resources became limited, and people were forced to curtail or to minimize offerings for the missionary activity of the Church. The diocesan arm of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, popularly known as the "Mission Office" in the Diocese, usually enjoys great success with the various collections for the Missions throughout the year, e.g., World Mission Sunday, the



Church in Eastern and Central Europe, the Home Missions of America, and the Missionary Cooperation Plan.

Because of the pandemic and the rightful focus on the financial stability of our own parishes and the need to address local needs, our special collections suffered and fell far short of our goals.

Because of this, we are facing somewhat of a deficit and consequently are unable to assist missionaries who seek our help as readily as we have been in the past. Despite the pandemic, we are still called to "cooperate" with the

READ ABOUT DIOCESAN MISSION WORK ON PAGES 4-7

THE MISSIONS OF FAITH APPEAL

missionary activity of the Church. That has always been one of the purposes of the Missionary Cooperation Plan. I thank the many pastors and parishes who assisted us in our "virtual" MCP this past year; be assured that your contributions have been distributed (or will soon be) to the groups whose pleas you read about in your bulletin and other social media. We will, more

than likely, be conducting the MCP virtually once again this year.

The Church teaches us that all of the baptized are responsible for the missionary work of the Church. Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who for many years was the Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, often said that while many are called to go to the missions physically, others are called to go in spirit and prayer and material support. I am grateful to Bishop Larry J. Kulick

for providing this opportunity for increasing diocesan and parishioner support of the "work of the missions."

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith (the Mission Office) in the Diocese of Greensburg stands ready to help you fulfill this baptismal duty. We also are ready to assist you in coordinating Mass intentions, which also help many of our retired priests.

We are eager to be part of your missionary story. If you are contemplating participation in the missionary activity of the Church, let us know. Perhaps we can facilitate this in some way. Take a look at the many mission stories in *The Catholic Accent* this month and realize that your contributions have made them successful.

Please consider offering a donation this month in order that there can be more stories of Catholics being faithful to their baptismal call to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world.

World Mission Rosary available through Mission Office



ADULT ROSARY

CHILD ROSARY

GREENSBURG — Praying the World Mission Rosary has always been an important practice of the World Mission Appeal. Now you can get a World Mission Rosary through the Diocesan Mission Office.

World Mission Day is Oct. 24, a day for Catholics to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. Catholics are asked to pray the World Mission Rosary at all times, especially in October.

The World Mission Rosary was designed by Bishop Fulton Sheen in 1951 while serving as the National Director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Bishop Sheen said that praying the Rosary would "aid the Holy Father and his Society for the Propagation of the Faith by supplying him with the practical support, as well as prayers, for the poor mission territories of the world."

Each decade of the World Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission:

- Africa
- Pacific islands
- Europe
- The Americas
- Asia

The Diocesan Mission Office is offering World Mission Rosaries blessed by Bishop Larry J. Kulick.

Those who donate \$50 or more receive a rosary blessed by Bishop Kulick, as well as a donor listing in *The Catholic Accent*.

A gift of \$100 or more includes two rosaries blessed by Bishop Kulick and donor listing in *The Catholic Accent*. Child and adult rosaries are available.

Visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/Missions to make a donation or purchase a World Mission Rosary. Anyone who makes a \$15 donation to the Mission Office receives a World Mission Rosary blessed by the bishop.

Information about praying the rosary is also available at the Mission Office.



To order a World Mission Rosary blessed by Bishop Larry J. Kulick, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/Missions

Ligonier parishioners continue Rich in Mercy mission

By Mary Pickels
Contributing Writer

LIGONIER — Inspired by a book urging visits to the “unholy land,” in particular the slums of Haiti, Dr. Richard Gosser and his then-wife-to-be, Daneen, made the first of many visits to the impoverished Caribbean nation in 1987.

They soon established the Rich in Mercy Institute “to promote a global culture of solidarity with a view to achieving a more just and sustainable world.”

Gosser, 71, is a retired Saint Vincent College mathematics professor, and his wife, 76, is a retired psychiatric nurse. They are parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish in Ligonier and are Lay Spiritans, lay members of the Missionary Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

“Daneen and I read ‘The Fire of God’ by John Michael Talbot (a musician who became a Franciscan monk) at the same time. He wrote that he wished more people would experience Jesus today in the ‘unholy land.’ Daneen said, ‘I need to see for myself,’” Gosser recalled.

“In hindsight, we were absolutely out of our minds. It had to be providential. We knew no one. We had no contacts. We wanted to go to the worst slum in the poorest part of the hemisphere.”

They walked toward the Catholic Church nearest to their “no-star hotel.”

“Within 50 paces, a young man approached and offered to be our friend,” Gosser said.

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Yvan Telemaque refused compensation for serving as their guide. He also predicted, Gosser said, that if he did not leave Haiti he would “die here a young man.”

Sadly, his prophecy came true, as he later succumbed to tuberculosis, a complication of AIDS.

Gosser helped him financially and later vowed to God that he would try to help others in the future.

Decades of assistance

The COVID pandemic and political unrest have brought their travels to Haiti to a halt for now. But the Gossers continue to work on their program goals of resource networking and educational outreach.

“Most of what we do is pretty well established now,” Gosser said.

Their accomplishments include providing academic scholarships for students, food distribution and infrastructure projects in Haiti.

In 1992, Rich in Mercy began making “reverse mission pilgrimages,” taking others to Haiti to see its conditions and learn how they can help to make a difference.

One example of a reverse mission pilgrimage is the institute’s “Skip a Lunch, Save a Child” fund. Supporters can contribute at least \$5 a month to help provide needy preschoolers a daily meal, structured play and formative educational activities.



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD AND DANEEN GOSSER

Richard Gosser hugs “Mm. Janine” at the house Rich in Mercy built after hers was destroyed in a hurricane.

The institute’s efforts are supported through the Diocese of Greensburg’s Mission Office, contributions from Holy Trinity Parish’s faith formation program, St. Margaret Mary Parish in Lower Burrell and Mount St. Peter Parish in New Kensington, along with private donations.

“The purpose of the office is to promote missionary activity of the Church and to support those who are involved in that activity,” said Father Anthony J. Carbone, Diocesan Mission Director, who is pastor of Holy Trinity Parish. “They provide a very good example for us. Really, very few persons are

able to go to the mission. But if one finds oneself in a situation that allows you to share your faith like that, it’s quite admirable.”

Sustainable away, at home

The Gossers live on less than half an acre in Ligonier and practice bio-intensive gardening — coaxing maximum yield from minimum land.

One of the projects they support in Haiti is the Operation Hummingbird Learning Center, which works to increase food production through bio-intensive gardening, rainwater harvesting and composting.

Haitian farmers must grapple with drought and global warming, conditions that make growing certain crops difficult.

Despite their great poverty, his experience with Haitians is that “90% thank God for the way in which he has blessed them and taken care of them.”

“There is a deep faith, a deep trust in providence,” Gosser said.

He is missing the country and people he loves and hopes to return. “It pains me greatly that I can’t be there,” he said.

For more information on the Rich in Mercy Institute, go to www.rimin.org.

Mission Office Masses honor loved ones, help retired priests

By Paul Paterra
Editor

GREENSBURG — Many Diocese parishioners may not know that retired priests or those in non-parish assignments require supplemental income to help with living expenses.

Parishioners can help these faithful men while also sharing a sacred gift with their loved ones by creating a Mass after Death Fund, or through Masses for deceased loved ones or in honor of loved ones for health or special occasions.

The Mass after Death Fund, which is coordinated through the Diocesan Mission Office, allows people to create accounts to be used for Masses after their own death or for



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Retired priest Father Peter L. Peretti celebrates Mass in the chapel at Neumann House, the Diocese’s residence for retired priests.

a loved one; money can be added at any time. The stipend per Mass is \$10.

These Masses are celebrated by retired priests and can

provide them with up to \$300 per month of income.

Father Anthony J. Carbone, Diocesan Mission Director, explains that these funds help

priests while also bestowing a gift upon the faithful.

“This is a way of ensuring that your soul will be prayed for after death,” he said.

“Every Sunday, we profess our faith in the Communion of Saints — the saints in heaven, the faithful struggling and living out our faith here on earth, and the souls suffering and being purified in purgatory. The Church teaches that the souls in purgatory cannot help themselves, but that we can be of great assistance to them. There is no greater prayer than the Mass.”

Father Carbone said friends and family used to give money at funeral homes for Mass to be celebrated in honor of their loved ones, but that is not as common now.

Also, there seem to be fewer children requesting Masses for their deceased parents, he added.

“A lot of people think that everybody goes to heaven automatically,” Father Carbone said. “That’s not the teaching of the Church. We believe in purgatory, that not every soul is ready to be in the presence of God at the moment of death.”

“A Mass celebrated in the intention of that person can certainly help them on their way to heaven to being united with God. If we can do that for someone we love, then we ought to do it.”

For information, call the Mission Office at 724-837-0901, ext. 1334.

Mission dedication lands United parishioner in West Africa

By Mary Pickels
Contributing Writer

UNITED — Karen Hunka's call to missionary work began early in her life, leading her on a path to Ghana, West Africa.

"I can't remember when I first desired to be a missionary. It seems that the desire was always there," said Hunka, 62.

An accountant by trade, Hunka now uses those skills as a Lay Mission-Helper assigned to the Diocese of Damongo, a long way from her home parish of St. Florian in United.

While raising her children, sons Joshua, Jacob and Trevor, and her late daughter, Anna, Hunka volunteered with their school's Parent Teacher Organization, served as a youth soccer league commissioner and chaperoned school trips.

"More than 20 years ago I started telling my friends that I wanted my last job in life to be digging ditches and building huts in Africa. Most laughed, but those who knew me best believed that I would make it happen, and I did," she said. "Actually, the Holy Spirit, coming to me after my mother's (for whom she was a caregiver) passing and telling me it was time to be that missionary that I had for so long desired to be, made it happen," she said.

Lay Mission-Helpers began more than 65 years ago, when Msgr. Anthony Brouwers, from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, traveled to Africa. He found those already evangelizing in need of additional help and launched an effort to send lay Catholics to use their skills



PHOTO COURTESY KAREN HUNKA

Karen Hunka spends time with children in Ghana.

internationally and set an example by living a Christ-like life.

Hunka travels five miles in a pickup truck to her job in the finance office, where she records transactions with a pen and paper.

She lives inside the St. Anne's Girls' Senior High School compound and typically attends 6 a.m. Mass with the girls twice a week.

Her living quarters are sparse. She has learned how to corner, catch, kill and dispose of scorpions, and does her laundry by hand.

"In all honesty, however, my living accommodations are wonderful

given the living quarters of the girls at the school," she said.

Hunka's mission was interrupted last year by the COVID-19 pandemic; having sold her home and most of her belongings, she returned to the U.S. and stayed for a time with her oldest son.

As much as she loved spending time with family, as months went by she longed to return to Ghana.

Now back at her mission site, she relies on technology to keep in touch with loved ones.

"Being a missionary is nothing like it was 30 years ago. I'm not sure I

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would be able to handle being away without a cell phone or internet or any connection whatsoever," she said.

"I try as much as possible to partake in livestreaming, especially anything put out there by my home parish, and most definitely anything I watch streamed by the Greensburg Diocese."

She said a special joy was watching the installation and ordination of Bishop Larry J. Kulick online.

"Karen has basically given up her home and family for a while in order to share her faith in Jesus Christ," said Father Anthony J. Carbone, Diocesan Mission Director.

The Lay Mission-Helpers match a person's talents with a need in the church. Hunka is able to use her accounting abilities to serve, he said.

"She found herself at a crossroads in her life and wanted to serve the church in a specific way," he added.

With her three-year commitment ending this December, she is pondering a request from the bishop in Damongo to extend her stay. She also is mulling mission work in the U.S.

"Plan Z is to retire and collect Social Security, but I'm pretty sure that will not happen. Honestly, I am putting my future in God's hands. The Holy Spirit will guide me," she said.

Tales of Hunka's time in Ghana, and ways to support those efforts, can be found on her blog, [khunkainginghana.blogspot.com](https://www.khunkainginghana.blogspot.com).

Diocese of Greensburg continues support of Diocese of Sicuani

By Mary Seamans
Multimedia Coordinator

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg's relationship with the Diocese of Sicuani, Peru, began decades ago, when then-Bishop William G. Connare visited there.

Since 1963, our Diocese has been supporting the Diocese of Sicuani following the Vatican II "Call to Help for the Church in Southern and Central America." Our Diocese has sent priests to Sicuani for a number of years, but now, the Diocese assists ministry there financially and through prayer.

Located 11,500 feet above sea level in the southern Andes Mountains, the Diocese of Sicuani is composed of four of the poorest provinces of Peru. Its population is scattered throughout mountainous terrain with few paved roads. There is no industry other than farming, and the people live in extreme poverty due to drought, flooding, poor farming techniques and



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Father Alan N. Polczynski blesses a blind man during a Diocesan visit to Sicuani, Peru in 2019.

lack of machinery. Much of the population is illiterate; the educational system is inadequate and doesn't serve large portions of the population. There also is little access to medical care.

Nearly 95% of the people in Peru are baptized Catholics,

but due to isolation, lack of clergy and religious, and great distances between parishes and peasant communities, many people have a mixture of Christianity and ancient Andean religious beliefs and customs. Many communities are so remote that they are

visited by a priest just once a year to celebrate Mass.

Money from the Diocese of Greensburg helps to support a Catholic school, a special needs school and a small clinic in Sicuani, as well as a dormitory for abused and abandoned girls, vans for disabled students, and a residence for the abandoned poor elderly.

The Diocese's efforts in Sicuani also include the work of Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister M. Ancilla Maloney, who has been in Sicuani since 2012, after 50 years as a high school teacher in the United States.

Sister Ancilla runs the school's library program, which includes time and space for children to do homework. There are no other libraries in Sicuani, and children can't take books home because of a lack of responsibility to return what is borrowed.

Sister Ancilla and Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Eileen Egan are the only two English-speaking people in

the Diocese, with the exception of a few priests in mountain parishes where they are very busy.

During the pandemic, Sister Ancilla tutored a fourth-grade boy who did not go to any classes until November, plus twins who are now in second grade but can't read. She also continued working on getting grant money for the residence for the elderly and served as an instructor in English in Seminary.

Diocese schools have been involved in service projects to aid the Diocese of Sicuani. These projects include one that took place during this past school year in which students at The Divine Redeemer School in Ford City raised funds with classroom penny collections and dress-down days.

COVID-19 hit the area hard, and it has been in lockdown since Christmas, making it even more difficult to help those in need. Your donation, no matter how small, can make a big difference to these people.

Mission to send cards, gifts brightens lives during difficult year

By Paul Pattera
Editor

NEW KENSINGTON — The Mission Office of the Diocese of Greensburg led the charge to support thousands of patients hospitalized during the past holiday season.

Patients such as Carl Castille of Greensburg felt isolated as the COVID-19 pandemic prevented him from having visitors.

But Mary Queen of Apostles School kindergartener Ethan Bates changed that. Ethan sent a card that he decorated to Castille as part of the Christmas Care Card project, which involved 800 students from Diocese of Greensburg schools.

The Christmas Care Card project was one of two holiday outreaches that resulted in gifts for patients at Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital in Greensburg, Indiana Regional Medical Center, Armstrong Center for Medicine and Health in Kittanning, and Uniontown Hospital. As part of the second outreach, Father Anthony J. Carbone, Diocesan Mission Director, asked parishes for assistance, resulting in rosaries, pocket prayer shawls, blankets, prayer cards and scapulars blessed by then Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick being donated to patients.

"It was a sign of the concern people have for others," he said. "At that time of year, you want to be close to people, and it was impossible because of some of the restrictions that had been in place. People were deprived of that contact. Knowing that someone cared about them I'm sure was very beneficial to many people."

Castille was one of those people. He wrote to Ethan in January to let him



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mary Queen of Apostles School student Ethan Bates works on a Christmas card.

know how much the card meant to him.

"You have made an 80-year-old grandfather very happy," Castille wrote. "Because of complications from the coronavirus, I was a patient in the (Excelsa) Westmoreland Hospital on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Safety regulations did not allow visits from family and friends. Your amusing and delightful Christmas card reminded me of the true meaning of Christmas, a time to celebrate with great joy the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Because of your Christmas card, I was able to turn away from my own isolation and focus on the miracle of God becoming man and showing us how to live Christian lives to earn our place with Him in heaven."

"May you continue to grow in God's grace through the remainder of the school year at Mary Queen of Apostles School. I will continue to pray for you and ask that you do the same for me."

The COVID-19 pandemic may be lessening, but a tidal wave of need is coming, even emotionally. Projects such as the Christmas Care Cards aim to meet that need.

Father Carbone said there are currently no projects in the planning stages, but anyone interested in going on a mission or establishing a project can contact the Mission Office at 724-837-0901, ext. 1334.

The Christmas Care Card project involved 800 Catholic school students who have benefitted from the Saint

THE MISSIONS OF FAITH APPEAL

Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership, which was founded by anonymous donors who received Catholic educations and were profoundly influenced by Pope John Paul II.

Ethan and his twin sister Emma, 6, saw the card project as something fun, a chance to draw trees and wreaths and write "Merry Christmas" in cards that were sent out with prayer cards. But the project transformed into much more once Castille's letter was received.

Their mother, Nancy Bates, said Ethan was happy to receive the reply, but probably doesn't quite comprehend the impact his effort had.

"He was excited that someone wrote to him and liked his card," Bates said. "I'm still speechless that someone took the time and sent it back to him and made the effort to ensure this went to Ethan. It touched me and my husband. It made my heart feel good that (Ethan), at such a young age, could have such an impact on someone. I was so proud of both of them for what they did and what they learned from it."

Cards and gifts poured into the diocese, with some students making multiple donations.

"With any little act of kindness given or received, you have no idea of the impact it will have on somebody else," Bates said. "This brought everything that happened in the past year full circle. It made you feel good about everything that has gone on."

Mission Office encourages students to shine in national art contest



THE CATHOLIC ACCENT FILE PHOTO

Mary Queen of Apostles School student Emma Thimons shows off her winning artwork.

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — Diocese of Greensburg students continue to prove they are among the top artists in the annual Missionary Childhood Association National Christmas Artwork Contest, which draws entries from Catholic school students across the country.

Between 2016 and 2021, 10 winners have come from the Diocese.

Luke Nuzzo, an eighth-grader at Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville, was a winner in the 2020-21 contest.

"I think that's probably a tribute to the art teachers in the schools," said Father Anthony J. Carbone, Diocesan Mission Director. "Not all dioceses in the country participate, but many do. Some of the bigger dioceses and some archdioceses participate, so it's always great when we have a winner."

The artwork contest is promoted through the Mission

Office of the Diocese.

Cathy Collett, Principal of Mary Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington, which is home to five winning students, credits former art teacher Lorraine Kuniak and current art teacher Judith Young for guiding those who took home top prizes.

"It's all about using different media to bring an appealing visual element to the picture," Collett said. "They get a lot of training in all of the things that go together to make the artwork stand out, but we do have some talented students."

One of the winners, Aurelia Tomayko, who won in 2017-18 as a seventh-grader at Mary Queen of Apostles School, is Kuniak's granddaughter.

Other winners from Diocesan schools, and their grades at the time, are:

2015-16: Isabella Florian, seventh grade, Mary Queen of Apostles School; Rebecca Testa, sixth grade, Queen of Angels Catholic School,

North Huntingdon

2016-17: Aisha Ford, eighth grade, Mary Queen of Apostles School; Nina Vigilante, seventh grade, Mary Queen of Apostles School

2018-19: Grace Cline, eighth grade, Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville; Veronica Koval, seventh grade, Mary Queen of Apostles School

2019-2020: Emma Thimons, seventh grade, Mary Queen of Apostles School; Eva Delaney, second grade, Mother of Sorrows Catholic School, Murrysville

"The Christmas card contest is a great thing," Father Carbone said. "The contest provides an opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in evangelization. Because Jesus is incarnate, we can use not only words, but also material things, to proclaim the Good News."

"This contest gives those kids with that innate ability for art a chance to shine," Collett added.

Repairs allow Sacred Heart Parish to safely reopen in late June

By Paul Paterra
Editor

JEANNETTE — Sacred Heart Parish's church building, plagued by water damage since 2012 and closed since August 2020, will reopen for weekend Masses, weddings, funerals, baptisms and other liturgies the weekend of June 26-27. The first Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. June 27.

Work has been done over the last eight years to repair the interior, exterior and underground drains of the building. In 2017, a large section of plaster fell from a wall in the transept of the church. Work to repair that section began last year, but the porous stone was relentlessly infiltrated by water.

"The more we repaired, the more damage we found, including asbestos in the plaster walls which we've been mitigating since August of 2020," said Jim Garvin, Director of the Engineering and Facilities Management Office. "I want to assure parishioners that hundreds of hours have been dedicated to the repair of brick, stone and plaster, but much of the plaster has fallen off the walls."

Garvin said despite the appearance of the building's interior, it is safe for people to enter.

In announcing the reopening, Bishop Larry J. Kulick said he is extremely thankful for the leadership that Father Michael J. Sikon, Pastor, has provided to the faith community during this challenging time.

"Compounding the devastation of this water damage was its timing. When the rest of us began to emerge from the isolation of the pandemic to resume in-person worship inside the churches we know and love, parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish had to worship elsewhere," Bishop Kulick said. "My prayers have been with Father Sikon, Father Alvin Aberion, Deacon Bill Newhouse and the staff and parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish. I thank them for their patience, understanding and cooperation. They have remained a parish, even without a church building."

With the reopening of the church, Bishop Kulick has called upon the pastoral and finance councils of both Sacred Heart and Ascension parishes to create a long-term viability plan, working alongside parishioners of

both parishes with the goal of reinvigorating the parish communities and assessing their needs for the future.

Ensuring a strong and lasting Catholic presence in the city of Jeannette is a top priority, he said.

In an effort to provide continuity and stability for the community, Bishop Kulick also made the following announcements:

- Effective June 24, Father Sikon will resign as Pastor of both parishes while remaining Pastor at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City, and Director of Worship for the Diocese.

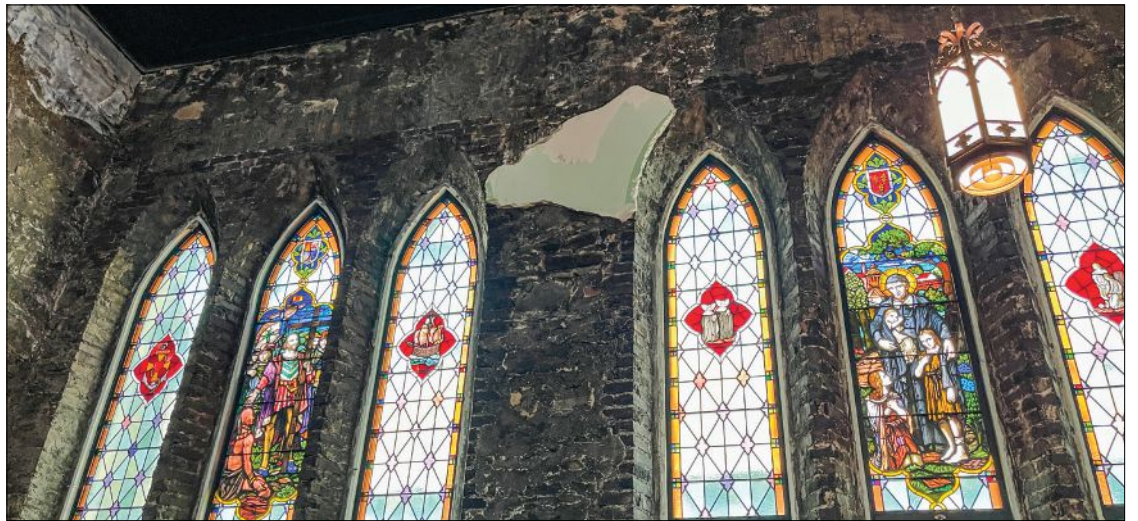
- Father Alvin B. Aberion, currently Parochial Vicar of both parishes, will be reassigned the summer clergy appointments.

- Deacon Newhouse has been appointed Administrator of both parishes, effective with the summer clergy appointments. This is the first time in the history of the Diocese that a deacon has been appointed Administrator. This assignment will give both parishes on-site administrative supervision and guidance as Sacred Heart Parish works to make decisions about its church building and both parishes begin to operate as partner parishes. Bishop Kulick said he is confident that Deacon Newhouse's familiarity and knowledge of the community and his historic interaction with both parishes will serve the parishes well. Deacon Newhouse will continue to serve the needs of both parishes sacramentally and liturgically in his role as Deacon.

- To provide for the liturgical and other sacramental needs of both parishes, especially those reserved for a priest, the Bishop has appointed Benedictine Father Job Foote to serve as the Parochial Vicar of both parishes, effective with the summer clergy appointments.

In addition to the assistance provided by Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, the Diocese will subsidize the position of Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization for the partner parishes of Jeannette for the next two years.

Since being ordained and installed as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg Feb. 11, 2021, Bishop Kulick has employed a model of gathering input by engaging the faithful in conversations in



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



JENNIFER MIELE THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

At top, some of the water damage can be seen in Sacred Heart Church; above from left are Father Alvin B. Aberion, Father Michael J. Sikon, Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Benedictine Father Job Foote, Deacon William Newhouse and Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, Diocesan Vicar General.

order to better understand the unique needs in each parish community.

At a meeting May 23, Bishop Kulick invited input and asked parishioners to take ownership of the future of their faith community.

"I am asking the people of Sacred Heart and Ascension Parishes, their staff, and in particular their pastoral and finance councils, to work together. I hope in this effort they are able to share both staffing and resources.

I ask you today to create a plan going forward that allows both Sacred Heart and Ascension parishes to be pastorally engaged, community centered, evangelically motivated and financially viable," he said.

PROMISE TO PROTECT

PLEDGE TO HEAL

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

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

2021 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Publication Date	Deadline to Submit Material
July 15	July 1
*Aug. 19 (magazine)	July 15
Oct. 21	Oct. 7
*Nov. 18 (Christmas Traditions)	Oct. 14

The Catholic Accent is published monthly on the third Thursday of the month. The publication is magazine style (listed in bold) once a quarter and newspaper style the other eight 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.

OBITUARIES

Steven LoCascio, Diocesan Permanent Deacon, dies at age 67

GREENSBURG — Steven LoCascio, 67, a Permanent Deacon of the Diocese of Greensburg, died May 8, 2021, at Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital.

Born Oct. 27, 1953, in Seaford, N.Y., he was the son of the late Andrew and Mary (Mongeluzzi) LoCascio.

The Unity Township resident was a longtime, active member of St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite. In June 2020 he was ordained to the



Steven LoCascio

Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Greensburg and was assigned to serve St. Benedict as well as Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg.

Prior to his retirement, LoCascio spent 41 years in education with the Greater Latrobe School District as a secondary teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal. He was currently serving as a member of the Greater Latrobe School Board.

Outside of his coaching for the school district, he also spent many years coaching Latrobe-Derry Teener League baseball.

LoCascio earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, where he was a member of the Saint Vincent Fire Department, and a master's degree in math from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, later returning to Saint Vincent College to earn a master's in theology.

He volunteered at the Westmoreland County Food Bank, Delmont, and St. Emma Monastery, Greensburg.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his in-laws, Joseph and Dolores Scarfi; a brother-in-law, Gene Mahoney; and his dear friend, Benedictine Brother Patrick Lacey.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Cheryl A. (Scarfi) LoCascio of Unity Township; two sisters, Andrea Mahoney of New Port Richey, Fla., and Doreen Diaz and her husband Rolando, of Lauderhill, Fla.; sisters- and brothers-in-law Darlene and Tom Japalucci of Latrobe, Sandra and Gregory Sutton of Latrobe, and Joni and Aaron Verneau of New Derry; several nieces, nephews, great-

nieces and great-nephews; his "brother," Roger Roble, and his wife Debby, of Wexford; two special "sons" he lovingly sponsored in Haiti, Jonathan Guerine and Cazeau Wadson; and his beloved dog, Coco.

A funeral Mass was celebrated May 12, followed by interment in Unity Cemetery, Latrobe.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Benedict Parish, 260 Bruno Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 or the Passionist Community of Haiti (send in care of Father Enzo Del Brocco, Passionists, 190 Mt. Tom Road, Pelham, NY 10803).

Sister Brycelyn Eyler, SC



GREENSBURG — Sister of Charity Brycelyn Eyler, 75, died May 23, 2021, at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. She was in her 58th year of religious life.

Born in New Kensington, Sister Brycelyn entered the congregation from Sacred Heart Parish, Shadyside.

She was a teacher and administrator in schools of the

Dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She was principal of Conn-Area Catholic School from 1985-91. In 1995, she was appointed the first principal of Aquinas Academy, Greensburg, a position she held until 2007, when she was elected Vice President/Provincial Councilor for the United States Province.

A funeral Mass was held May 26.

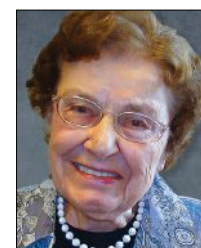
Sister Mary (Robert) Morgan, CSJ



BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Mary (Robert) Morgan, 92, died May 19, 2021. She was in her 73rd year of religious life. She entered the congregation from St. John Parish, Uniontown. She was a teacher at numerous high schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and served as CCD director at St. John Parish, Uniontown.

A memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date.

Sister Christine Makowski, OSB



PITTSBURGH — Benedictine Sister Christine Makowski, 99, aunt of Father Michael J. Begolly, died May 23, 2020. She was in her 71st year of religious life.

Sister Christine served as a teacher, vice principal and counselor at schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

A funeral Mass was held May 28.

In memoriam

- Joseph Palkowski, 93, May 16, 2021; father of Capuchin Father Matthew Palkowski, OFM Cap., who provides sacramental ministry at Church of the Resurrection Parish, Northern Indiana County
- Geraldine Stevens, 97, May 25, 2021; mother of John Stevens Jr., Interim Director of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Greensburg



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

SISTERS OF CHARITY LEADERSHIP:

Bishop Larry J. Kulick was presider and homilist at the Installation Mass for the 2021-26 Provincial Leadership Team of the United States Province of the Sisters of Charity May 23 at Caritas Christi, the congregation's motherhouse in Greensburg. Pictured at left with the Bishop are the Provincial Council members, from left: Sisters of Charity Rachel Blais, Mary Norbert Long, who was elected to a five-year term as Provincial Superior; Mary Jo Mutschler and Donna Marie Leiden.



GRADUATION 2021: GEIBEL CATHOLIC

Geibel Catholic Class of 2021

Zachary Allamon
Jonathan Buckel
Ava Fetsko
Nathan Gerbi

Caroline Konieczny
Johnathon Lally
Anwar Nelson-Jones
Andrew Partridge

Taylor Ramsey
Anthony Shinkle
Kennedi Stockey
Matti Trimbath

Geibel Catholic's top students



Valedictorian/Alumni Award: Matti Trimbath

Matti Trimbath is this year's valedictorian. A parishioner of St. Aloysius Parish in Dunbar, she is the daughter of R. Patrick and Natalie Trimbath of Dunbar. Trimbath served as student council president, participated in musical programs and was a cantor during school Masses. Her awards include the Excellence in Music Award, Fayette County Achievement in the Arts for Theater award, Arlene Severin Memorial English Award, Geibel Social Studies Award, Geibel Science Department Physics Award, Geibel Community Service Award, Geibel Alumni Award, Geibel Spirit Award, Presidential Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, Hermann Merit Award, Presidential Scholarship, Blessed Pier Giorgio

Frassati Award and Seton Hill Women in Science Award for mathematics. She will attend Mercyhurst University, Erie.



Salutatorian: Caroline Konieczny

Caroline S. Konieczny is this year's salutatorian. A parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Everson, she is the daughter of Brian and Colleen Konieczny of Mount Pleasant. Konieczny has served Geibel and the community as an altar server, volunteer at a local surgery center and president of the French National Honor Society. She was a class representative on student council and participated in the chamber ensemble, musicals and the dance committee. She was on the cheerleading, track, volleyball and golf teams, four years as captain; a member of the National Honor Society and the Penn State 4.0 Club; and a recipient of the President's Award of Academic Excellence. Her scholarships and awards include the Laurel Highlands Barbara Morrison

Memorial Scholarship, Survey of French Literature Award, Connellsville Hospital Club Scholarship, and the Geibel Science Department Anatomy and Physiology Award. She plans to pursue a career as a physician's assistant, attending Waynesburg University.



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Larry J. Kulick gives the homily during the Geibel Catholic High School Baccalaureate Mass May 24 at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Connellsville.

THE PLACES THEY'LL GO

Graduates of Geibel Catholic and Greensburg Central Catholic high schools plan to attend the following institutions or enlist in the armed forces:

Amherst College
Barry College
California University of Pennsylvania
Chatham University
College of Charleston
Douglas Education Center
Duquesne University
East Tennessee State University
Edinboro University

Fairmont State University
Gannon University
Geneva College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Mercyhurst University
Penn State
Penn State Behrend
Penn State Fayette
Pepperdine University

University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
Robert Morris University
Rosedale Technical College
St. Francis University
Saint Vincent College
Texas Christian University
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
United States Naval Academy

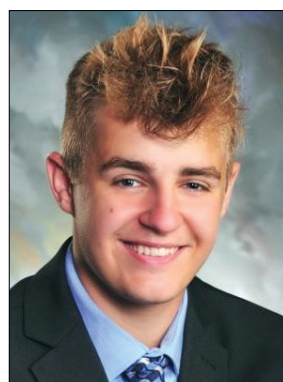
Vernon College
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Washington & Jefferson College
Waynesburg University
West Virginia University
Westmoreland County Community
College
Xavier University



GRADUATION 2021: GREENSBURG CENTRAL CATHOLIC

Greensburg Central Catholic Class of '21

David Altimore	Alexa Gill	Hannah Nelson
Giavanna Altmeyer	Taylor Guzik	Jessica Nemeth
Ava Bailey	Hannah Hoffman	Joseph Panahandeh
Michelle Binder	Mason Ira	Christian Petroy
Gianna Bonesio	Nicolette Jackowski	Yahor Ramanau
Alissa Boote	Alexander Johnston	Benjamin Ritenour
Egor Busygin	Makenzie Kallock	Alexander Rodriguez
Kayla Cararini	Talia Kilkeary	Peter Rullo
Nolan Casey	Sebastian Kline	Dylan Sebek
Giona Ciacco	Rachel Lewandowski	Logan Sefchik
Ricco Ciccarella	Abigail Lint	Dane Sheffler
Jaden Cox	Elena Losey	Seth Skowronek
Jack Cryblskey	Trent Luttner	Rheagan Smith
Shannon Dalton	Christian McGowan	Laurin Sukay
Cianna Denis	Rosa McKee-DiMarco	Kathryn Szekely
Isabella DeRubeis	Daniel McMaster	Stephen Takacs
Angelika Dewicki	David Merenda	Alexander Turko
Zachary Dlugos	Matthew Metrosky	Dominic Watkins
Olivia Dugos	Alex Miller	Dominic Weber
Vy Duong	Aiden Minniti	Brandon Zaccaria
Jordan Faulk	Mark Mizerak Jr	James Zakrzwski
Samantha Felder	Daniel Morgan	
Aisha Ford	Madysen Myers	



Soli Deo Gloria Award: Zachary Dlugos

Zachary Dlugos received Greensburg Central Catholic High School's Soli Deo Gloria Award, which goes to a graduating senior dedicated to the development of personality, talents, social skills, service to the school, being a good example to the student body, and distinct and genuine Catholic attitude and spirit over four years at GCC. Dlugos, the son of Robert and Julia Dlugos of Irwin and a parishioner of St. Regis Parish in Trafford, was a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society and a four-year member of the football and track and field teams. He was

a grade school basketball coach and a volunteer for the Christmas toy drive. He will attend Amherst (Mass.) College in the fall.



2021 GCC Principal Awardees

The following GCC students earned a minimum 4.2 GPA:

Ava Bailey	Zachary Dlugos	Dylan Sebek
Michelle Banner	Olivia Dugos	Dane Sheffler
Cianna Dennis	Makenzie Kallock	Seth Skowronek
Angelika Dewicki	Hannah Nelson	Kathryn Szekely



PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, applauds the Greensburg Central Catholic High School graduates at a combined Baccalaureate/commencement Mass May 27 at the high school.

GEIBEL CATHOLIC, GCC CLASS OF 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2021 graduates of Greensburg Central and Geibel Catholic high schools were offered a combined total of \$10.8 million in higher education scholarships and grants and earned a combined total of 479 college credits from the College in High School program.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal tops \$5 million

A message from Bishop Larry J. Kulick:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Earlier this year, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our Diocese. The Diocesan Church, here in Greensburg, has been able to continue its mission of education, catechesis and outreach to those in need because of the extreme generosity of the faithful. Each year, Catholics from across our Diocese provide a powerful witness to their dedication and commitment to their parishes and to the Diocese by responding generously to the annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal, which provides support for many parochial and Diocesan initiatives.

The theme of the 2021 Diocesan Lenten Appeal is "Be the Light," and as we entered the Lenten season still in a worldwide pandemic, each of us was called to reflect on the events of the past year and how the Church has been a shining light during a time filled with darkness. The pandemic called people to action, and our Diocese and parishes worked together to meet the needs of Catholics and non-Catholics through new ministries and outreach. Also, during the past year, we spread the Good News and brought Christ to people in their homes through new uses of the internet through social media and varying multimedia platforms. As the light of Christ, we were called to share that light through our participation in this year's appeal.

Today, I am pleased to report that your response to the 2021 Diocesan Lenten Appeal is historic, because the pledge total for this year's appeal recently exceeded

the \$5 million level. This is only the second time in our history that the annual appeal total has reached \$5 million. The last time was in 2018. In that year, over 19,500 gifts were made. This year, your generosity allowed us to reach that level with just under 16,100 gifts. As pledges are redeemed, over \$1.5 million will be returned to the parishes for local needs.

I am truly humbled and sincerely grateful for the tremendous response and generous support that you have provided in response to my request and the requests of your pastors. Also, I sincerely appreciate the dedication and efforts of our clergy, staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this year's appeal successful.

As we emerge from the pandemic and see our parishioners returning to be with each other, in-person, what a wonderful reminder of our Lord's call to love and serve one another. Thank you for demonstrating such a deep faith and willingness to sacrifice for others during such trying times.

After the Last Supper, when Christ washed the apostles' feet and prepared to undergo His passion, death and resurrection, He instructed His disciples with these words: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Thank you for the love you have shared through your sacrifices with one another as Disciples of Christ.

Be the Light



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

NINETEENTH ANNUAL PAUL R. SMIY

MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Friday, AUGUST 6, 2021
Ligonier Country Club
LIGONIER, PA

\$900 PRESALE PACKAGE ALL INCLUSIVE | **\$150 PER GOLFER**

Deadline for reservation forms is **AUGUST 2**.
No refunds made after **JULY 27**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Heather Rady - 724.837.1840 - hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org
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SATURDAY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Saturday, June 26
Saturday, July 10
Saturday, July 24
Saturday, Aug. 7
Saturday, Aug. 21

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADDITION SUPPORT

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

- Family reinforcement/recovery, Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.
- GRASP grief group, second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., Irwin headquarters.
- Coffee Break for Women, first Friday of every month, 4-6 p.m., Irwin headquarters (on hold; check website for updates).
- Veteran "X," Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
- Recovery Life Group, Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Gamblers Anonymous, Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Changed Forever prayer gathering, second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m.
- Dual Recovery Anonymous, Mondays, 2 p.m.
- All Recovery, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.
- SMART Recovery, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Assiduous Rumination and Renewal Round Table, first and last Saturday morning of every month.
- Recovery Chess Club, first and third Friday of every month, 5 p.m.

Information: sagesarmy.com or 724-863-5433.

ART CAMP

Greensburg — The Sisters of Charity's Seton Arts Service Corps will offer a fine arts camp for children in grades 2-8 July 26-30 from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Seton Hill Arts Center. Breakfast and

a snack will be provided. Cost is \$10. Registration: www.scsch.org or 724-836-0406, ext. 6610, or visit DePaul Center. Deadline is July 13.

BIBLE STUDY

Dunbar — St. Aloysius Parish is hosting a virtual Bible study Fridays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. To register, contact facilitator Molli Vassar at 724-366-9552 or molli.vassar@gmail.com.

BURGER BASH

Irwin — A burger bash is planned July 10 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

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

EXHIBIT

Uniontown — The Vatican international "Eucharistic Miracles of the World" exhibition will continue June 18 and 19 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and June 20 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in St. Joseph Parish hall.

FLEA MARKET/RUMMAGE SALES

Farmington — St. Joan of Arc Parish will hold a flea market July 10 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on the parish grounds. Information: 724-329-4522.



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

East Vandergrift — A rummage sale will be held July 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and July 11 from noon-1 p.m. in the basement of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Church.

Greensburg — An indoor/outdoor garage sale inside will be held June 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Emma Retreat House. Homemade pizza and cookies will be available. Information: www.stemma.org.

Greensburg — St. Paul Parish will hold a trash and treasure sale July 14 from 4-8 p.m. (early bird admission is \$5), July 15 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., July 16 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (half-price sale at 1 p.m.) and July 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (\$5 bag sale). Information: pbcatholic.org.

GOLF OUTING

Ligonier — The 19th annual Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing is set for Aug. 6 at Ligonier Country Club, with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Registration: ccharitiesgreensburg.org or 724-837-1840, ext. 1504.

LGBTQ MINISTRY

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

MAGNIFICAT

Greensburg — The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat: A Ministry to Catholic Women will host a Magnificat gathering July 31 at 9 a.m. at St. Paul Parish. Information: Brenda Concannon, mandbc14@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet July 18 from 3-4:15 p.m. in the Archabbey Basilica Crypt. Benedictine Father Thomas Hart will speak on "Fruit of the Spirit." Masks are required. Reservations: Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Supper at 5:35 p.m. and additional sessions at 6:30 p.m., both in the Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College, may be added; call Father Donald at least two weeks in advance to register for evening events.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Greensburg — The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill are offering speaker programs to parishes and organizations. Topics

include prayer, human trafficking, the pandemic and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. For topics or to schedule a speaker, contact Sister of Charity Colette Hanlon, 724-836-0406, ext. 6616, or chanlon@scsh.org.

STREET FAIR

Connellsville — St. Rita Parish will host a street fair July 15-17 from 5:30-10 p.m. The fair will feature Italian food, fried dough, pizza and more, plus games, a Chinese auction, a 50/50 raffle, entertainment and fireworks Saturday.

SUMMERFEST

Monongahela — St. Andrew the Apostle Parish will host a "Summerfest" July 17 from noon-10 p.m. in St. Andrew Parish Park. Entertainment, children's activities and 4 p.m. Mass are planned.

VENDOR FAIR

Apollo — Vendors are needed for a vendor fair July 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in St. James Parish Center. Information: 724-882-877.

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