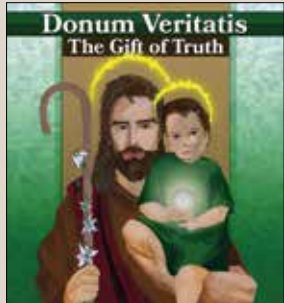


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Mission: Faith is a gift. Our mission is to share it.

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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OFFICIAL

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

Effective Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Administrator: The Reverend Richard J. Kosisko, JCL, as Administrator of Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Freeport, with residence at Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish Rectory, while

retaining all other Diocesan appointments.

Effective Friday, March 1, 2024

Leave of Absence: The Reverend Matthew J. Morelli has been granted an additional three-month leave of absence for health reasons.

Effective Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Parochial Vicar: The Reverend Alien Z. Rocamora to Parochial Vicar of Saint Joseph Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Saint Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish and Saint Mary (Nativity) Parish, Uniontown, SS.

Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance and Saint Hubert Parish, Point Marion with residence in Saint Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish Rectory, Uniontown.

OBITUARIES

Father Peter L. Peretti

GREENSBURG — Father Peter L. Peretti, who served as a priest in the Diocese of Greensburg for 51 years, died Jan. 30, 2024. He was 76.

A son of the late Pete and Mary Peretti, he was born in Chestnut Ridge May 3, 1947. He attended primary school at Taylor and New Salem schools, Searight, and secondary school at Uniontown Area High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Francis University, Loretto, and attended St. Francis Seminary.

He was ordained to the priesthood



May 5, 1973, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.

He served as Parochial Vicar at Mount St. Peter Parish, New Kensington (1973-75), Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg (1975-81), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Huntingdon (1981), Holy Family Parish, Latrobe (1981-82), and St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish, Uniontown (1982-84). He served as Pastor of the former St. Gertrude Parish, McIntyre, and its mission at St. Anthony, Aultman (1984-86), the former Assumption

Parish, Ernest (1986-87), the former St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Leisenring, and its former mission, St. Polycarp, West Leisenring (1987-2003), St. Ambrose Parish, Avonmore (and administrator of St. Matthew Parish, Saltsburg (2003-07), the former St. Procopius Parish, New Salem (and administrator of the former St. Thomas Parish, Footedale (2007-13), and St. Mary (Nativity) Parish, Uniontown (2013-18).

Father Peretti retired from active ministry in 2018, with residence at Neumann House, Greensburg.

A funeral Mass was held Feb. 7 at St. Mary (Nativity) Parish, with burial in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Smock.

Father Nathan (James) Munsch, OSB

LATROBE — Benedictine Father Nathan (James) Munsch, a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey, died March 20, 2024.

Father Nathan was born Aug. 19, 1951, in Pittsburgh, Pa., to the late Thomas J. Munsch and Margaret A. (McKeon) Munsch. He attended All Saints Elementary School in Etna, St. Bonaventure Elementary School in Glenshaw and North Catholic High School, Pittsburgh.

He was affiliated with the Marianist lay community, a sodality, for many years.

He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Notre Dame in 1973 and a master's degree in classical languages from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, in 1976.



He entered Mount Saviour Benedictine Monastery, Elmira, N.Y., in 1980. He made simple profession of vows Feb. 2, 1982, and solemn profession Aug. 9, 1986. He served the monastery as sacristan, librarian, translator, dairy and sheep farmer, wood cutter, cook, sub-prior and novice master.

He earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1991 at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

In June 1990 he was ordained to the diaconate at Mount Saviour by Bishop William G. Connare of the Diocese of Greensburg. On June 29, 1991, he was ordained to the priesthood at Mount Saviour.

In 1993 Father Nathan came to

Saint Vincent Archabbey and in 1996 transferred monastic stability to Saint Vincent. There he served as a hospital chaplain, religious studies instructor at Saint Vincent College and Latin teacher in Saint Vincent Seminary. He gave retreats in the Saint Vincent summer retreat program.

He also served as Director of Pastoral Formation at Saint Vincent College.

In 2002 Father Nathan completed a doctorate in systematic theology at Boston College.

Father Nathan served in parishes in the dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown and Greensburg, including Pastor of St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite. A funeral Mass was held March 23 in the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica, followed by burial in Mary Mother of Mercy Mausoleum Chapel at Saint Vincent Cemetery.



Sister Mary Thomas Rodgers, SC

GREENSBURG — Sister of Charity Mary Thomas Rodgers, 99, died March 31, 2024, at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

She was in her 80th year of religious life.

Sister Mary Thomas entered the Sisters

of Charity congregation on Sept. 8, 1944.

She served as an elementary school teacher in the dioceses of Greensburg, Altoona-Johnstown, Pittsburgh and Tucson.

A funeral Mass was held April 4, followed by burial in the sisters' cemetery

By car and bus, pilgrims join Bishop Kulick in St. Joseph Day Pilgrimage

By Cliff Gorski Executive Editor

GREENSBURG — Thousands of pilgrims from around the Diocese of Greensburg joined Bishop Larry J. Kulick March 18 and 19 to visit the four St. Joseph parishes and Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Bishop Kulick dedicated the Diocese to the patronage of St. Joseph for the Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission in 2024, the Jubilee Year of 2025 and the 75th anniversary of the Diocese in 2026.

At each stop, a reflection was presented on the various aspects of St. Joseph's life and as Patron of the Universal Church.

The pilgrimage began at St. Joseph Parish in New Kensington, where more than 200 gathered to hear noted author Mike Aquilina offer a reflection on St. Joseph, the worker. St. Joseph Day bread and medals, blessed by Bishop Kulick, were handed out to those who attended. At a reception afterward, pilgrims were asked to visit St. Joseph's Workshop, where keychains imprinted with the Diocesan crest were made for each person.

The next day, pilgrims traveling by bus or on their own offered morning prayer with Bishop Kulick and Father Salvatore R. Lamendola, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Derry. Following morning prayer, a reflection on St. Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death, was presented.

A panel on Catholic funerals and burials included Jason Brinker, funeral director and owner of Lopatch-Brinker Funeral Home, Latrobe; Matthew Merlin, funeral director and owner of Matthew X. Merlin Funeral Home, Derry; John McCabe, funeral director and owner of McCabe Funeral Home, Derry and Ligonier; Father Christopher J. Pujol, Parochial Vicar of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, and Episcopal Master of Ceremonies; and Paul Puleo, Managing Director of Development and The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Greensburg.

At Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Bishop Kulick celebrated Mass and promulgated his pastoral letter, "Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Life." During Mass, the Bishop welcomed 2,600 Catholic school students from around the Diocese watching a livestream of the Mass from

their classrooms. The Mass focused on St. Joseph, Patron of Families and Fathers.

Following Mass, the pilgrims traveled to St. Joseph Parish in Everson for afternoon prayer. Beneath the bus carrying the pilgrims were hundreds of non-perishable food items collected in schools and parishes around the Diocese. The donations were carried into the church by volunteers and students from Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High, Connellsville, and St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School, Belle Vernon, to build a St. Joseph Altar. The St. Joseph Altar is a custom in which pilgrims offer the sacrificial fruits of their labors in honor and thanksgiving for the intercessions of St. Joseph.

During afternoon prayer, Bishop Kulick reflected on St. Joseph, Patron of Immigrants. He called to mind how many immigrants built our churches and our communities. St. Joseph Parish in Everson is the oldest Polish parish in the Diocese of Greensburg. In his reflection, Bishop Kulick included a video of how immigrants are the foundation of the Church, forming our communities and our churches and supplying labor for our factories, coal mines and glass plants across the Diocese.

The Bishop blessed the items brought to the St. Joseph Altar, as well as fava beans to be passed out as part of tradition that serves as a reminder of God's provision through the intercession of St. Joseph. After the prayer service and reflection, the faithful carried the items from the altar to be separated in the church and packaged for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg to distribute to the needy across the Diocese.

The pilgrimage ended at St. Joseph Parish in Uniontown, with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The evening, attended by more than 400 people, was dedicated to St. Joseph, Patron of Vocations and Protector of the Eucharist.

A reception followed, where pilgrims were invited to learn more about vocations and gather materials to build a home altar so they could create a space where they and their families can gather for prayer, helping to keep God as the center of their daily lives.



Pilgrims join Bishop Kulick for a prayer service March 19 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, and then board buses to begin their St. Joseph pilgrimage throughout the Diocese.

PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

At each stop on the pilgrimage, pilgrims recited the Diocesan Prayer to Saint Joseph:

Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family, Protector of the Church, Fosterer of Vocations, Adorer of the Eucharistic Lord, and silent model of God's mercy and justice, show us the paths that lead us closer to Christ.

Guide the Church of Greensburg with your protection, so that we may live in God's truth. Inspire our families to be committed to love of one another and our homes places in which the Gospel is shared.

O Terror of Demons, protect us through your powerful intercession from all evil and sin in the world, and from the temptation and influence of Satan.

Through your mediation, may we find joy and fulfillment in our work, the strength to uphold the dignity of human life, a welcoming spirit to the migrant and those in need, and the peace of a happy death.

Help us to become faithful disciples of your son and our Lord, so that we may experience His presence in our lives as you did at Nazareth.

Amen

ST. JOSEPH PARISH VISITS: Bishop Larry J. Kulick led a pilgrimage to the four St. Joseph Parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg — in Derry, Everson, New Kensington and Uniontown — March 18 and 19. The pilgrimage included presentations, morning prayer, afternoon prayer and Holy Hour at the various parishes. At Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, the Bishop celebrated Mass and promulgated his Pastoral Letter dedicating the Diocese to the protection of St. Joseph. **Photos by Mary Seamans and Cliff Gorski.**



St. Joseph Parish, Everson:

Parishioners organize donations on the St. Joseph Altar; Bishop Kulick prays at the altar. Afternoon prayer was also held at the parish. Items donated were to be distributed to families in need throughout the Diocese. The afternoon focused on St. Joseph, Patron of Immigrants.



St. Joseph Parish, Derry: Pilgrims gather for a presentation on estate and funeral planning; take samples of St. Joseph Day bread. At right is a relic of St. Joseph. The morning focused on St. Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death.



St. Joseph Parish, New Kensington:

Bishop Kulick, assisted by Father Christopher J. Pujol, Episcopal Master of Ceremonies, blesses St. Joseph Day bread; parishioners enjoy a St. Joseph table featuring various cookies and breads; noted author Mike Aquilina gives a presentation. Evening prayer was also held at the parish, plus a presentation on St. Joseph, Patron of Workers.



St. Joseph Parish, Uniontown: Knights of Columbus carry an icon of St. Joseph during a procession into the church; Bishop Kulick prepares the monstrance for Eucharistic adoration and greets children afterward. The evening included Holy Hour and a presentation on St. Joseph, Protector of the Eucharistic Lord, Patron of Families and Fosterer of Vocations.

‘Bishop, we want to know how to pray’

GREENSBURG — During his homily at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on the Feast of St. Joseph, Bishop Larry J. Kulick spoke directly to the 2,600 students in Catholic schools of the Diocese of Greensburg, watching through a livestream in their classrooms.

Bishop Kulick wanted to answer the request that he heard most often from young people during his synodal listening sessions: instruction on prayer.

“What a beautiful request,” Bishop Kulick said.

In formulating his answer, he thought back to his own childhood, through his young adult life and into the priesthood and now as Bishop, how he would answer the question for his younger self.

Bishop Kulick said we need to look toward St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, as a model because of his quiet and humble way of conforming to God’s will through prayer and through a deep relationship with Christ. The bishop has entrusted the Diocese to the protection and guardianship of St. Joseph for the next three years.

Bishop Kulick offered the young Church three recommendations to achieve a vibrant prayer life. “Pray regularly so that you make a habit of prayer,” he advised, saying that prayer should become something considered ordinary like breathing or eating.

“Prayer is communication, talking with and listening to God. We become better in communicating with God that same way we get better at sports or at dance or playing a musical instrument. We get better with practice.”

Bishop Kulick also encouraged young people to pray with family and friends, because praying together connects us with the people we love.

“I know that is not always easy,” he said, “especially in our culture today, where we intend to be independent and private. When we pray with others, we are able to learn from each other and hold each other accountable to

“Prayer is communication, talking with and listening to God. We become better in communicating with God that same way we get better at sports or at dance or playing a musical instrument. We get better with practice.”

— BISHOP KULICK

pray. It’s just like having a coach when you’re playing sports or a teacher when you’re learning to play the piano.”

Bishop Kulick reminded the faithful that St. Joseph taught Jesus to pray in their home in Nazareth.

“When we pray together as a family, we become more like a holy family,” he said.

The bishop told young people to pray with the Church by attending Mass, recognizing that the Mass is the most perfect prayer that we have.

“When we pray with the Church, we are reminded that we are larger than ourselves. We are united to the living body of Christ,” Bishop Kulick said. “We not only strengthen our prayer life when we participate in Mass, but we also learn how to pray when we pay attention at Mass because we engage in the prayer of the Church. The Church is teaching us how to pray.”

He reminded those at the Mass and watching online that St. Joseph brought Jesus to the temple regularly. His family would have participated in the life of the synagogue just as we participate in the life of our parishes.

Bishop Kulick reminded the students that he prays for them daily and asked them to do the same for him.

“If we continue to pray, we will continue to grow, not only as faith-filled people, but as people with a generous and kind heart, and we will grow in a beautiful relationship with our Lord.”

— The Catholic Accent



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

SPEAKING TO STUDENTS: Aquinas Academy, Greensburg, students listen to Bishop Larry J. Kulick as he dedicated the Diocese under the protection of St. Joseph and promulgated his pastoral letter “Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Truth” at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

ST. JOSEPH DAY COLLECTIONS:

Above, students from Geibel Junior Senior Catholic High School came to Saint Joseph Parish in Everson to help unload the bus that transported all of the items collected from around the Diocese for the needy. St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School, Uniontown, students collected items and more than \$1,200 in cash and gift cards. Above from left are Kiley Morris, Payton Upton, Addison Guerke and Alexa Budner.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

STUDENTS AT QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL: conducted a collection drive for Saint Joseph’s Day. The students collected items to be distributed to the needy across the Diocese, exceeding their goal and collecting 1345 items.

Two to be honored with Salt and Light Awards



PHILANTHROPY: JOSEPH VALERO

When you sit down for a conversation with Joseph Valero, you are immediately drawn to his humility. He will tell you that he enjoys working behind the scenes instead of receiving recognition for his generosity.

Valero's involvement with St. Sylvester Parish in Slickville dates back five generations. His parents and grandparents imparted on him a lifelong lesson of helping others. It's a lesson that he and his wife, Bernadette, have imparted through example on their four children, Maria, Anna, Andrew and Ashley. He believes their service to the parish is his legacy.

Valero said he was taken by surprise when Bishop Larry J. Kulick called him to tell him he was being honored with the 2024 Communities of Salt and Light Award for Philanthropy.

"I try to do my thing underneath the radar screen, and I guess I got caught," Valero said. "I am very honored. I hope I can live up to it. It means that maybe I am helping with whatever I do."

Valero does quite a bit, including serving as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. He helps with upkeep of the church, but that's only part of it. He quietly involves himself in projects that he believes will create a welcoming and worshipful atmosphere. He's quick to point out that he is not alone in his projects. He's delighted that others in the parish are willing to lend a hand in fixing issues before they become problems.

"You need everything and everybody rowing in the same direction," Valero said. "Taking care of the older people that fall ill and taking

the Eucharist to them — tending everything that needs to be done enhances everything. That's where I found it very rewarding for everybody."

Valero's help doesn't stop at the grounds of St. Sylvester Parish. When Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg needed metal cut for a project, parish leaders called Valero. When a Greek Orthodox church in Johnstown needed candle holders, Valero had them made at his business and sent without charge.

For 75 years, the Valero family has operated Valero Services in Delmont. The company began as an auto repair facility and has grown to 45 employees who repair, service and provide special customization for vehicles. They have created everything from electric-powered bookmobiles and customized vehicles for colleges and universities to specialized work for the U.S. government. Developing the customized solutions for his customers provides Valero with the skills needed to customize solutions for his parish and others.

Valero said he and Bernadette have been abundantly blessed in their lives and the lives of their children. He believes he is helping others who are facing their own struggles.

"In my lifetime, I've learned that if you give freely with no qualms about it, God blesses you in a lot of ways," Valero said. "It's never what you want but what you need, and that is what faith is about — you giving your problems to Christ and Christ giving back."

— Cliff Gorski



HUMANITARIANISM: EDWARD L. ANTONACCI

Being named the 2024 Communities of Salt and Light Award for Humanitarianism left Edward L. Antonacci overwhelmed.

"I am just an average guy living out the Catholic faith in the City of Jeannette," Antonacci said.

He hopes that his service to Ascension Parish and his dedication to the pro-life movement encourages others to follow the path of Jesus.

For Antonacci, that path began more than 40 years ago. He and his wife, Charlene, had three children in three years. The family had just moved back to the area from Baltimore after Antonacci accepted an engineering job with Dravo Corporation.

His uncle, Ermo "Babe" Antonacci, who was involved in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., asked if the young family would agree to be photographed for a promotional poster, created by People Concerned for the Unborn Child, for the March for Life.

His family continued to travel to the event for many years, but Antonacci was unable to attend due to his job. In the 1990s he started to make the trip annually.

"We were a very pro-life family," said Antonacci, the father of six daughters. "We had a lot of priests who would travel with us, and for years I was either a bus captain or co-captain."

He continued in that role until the recent overturning of Roe v.

Wade. Now, he helps with the buses parishes send to Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania March for Life.

Antonacci is president of the Holy Name Society at Ascension Parish and is proud of the fact that it is one of the original groups participating in the 40 Days for Life movement.

"In 2010, when I became president of Holy Name Society, that was one of my first initiatives," he said. "We've been doing that for 14 years, twice a year, for a total of 28 vigils."

The self-employed engineer says the pro-life movement is a big part of his life. "I can't separate it. It's who I am," he said.

He can't separate his involvement in Ascension Parish from his life, either. Antonacci's father was baptized in the parish in 1922 by Father Francis Mersinger. Thirty years later, Father Mersinger, who was still pastor, baptized Antonacci. Antonacci celebrated his first Eucharist in the Italian parish and made his confirmation there, too.

After his brief time away from the area, Antonacci returned in 1979 and now volunteers his time in parish activities through the Holy Name Society, including Trunk or Treat and the Palm Sunday brunch.

Above all, Antonacci puts Jesus at the center of his life.

"There are a lot of good men who do similar things that I am doing," he said. "I hope, in some way, I can encourage others to follow this path of Jesus."

— Cliff Gorski

The 24th annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner

was held at Stratigos Banquet Centre, North Huntingdon

Since 1998, the event has netted more than \$1 million to help nearly 9,000 individuals and families in the four counties served by the Diocese of Greensburg — Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland.

For information, call Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840 or visit CCharitiesGreensburg.org.

Bishop promulgates pastoral letter, 'Gift of Truth'

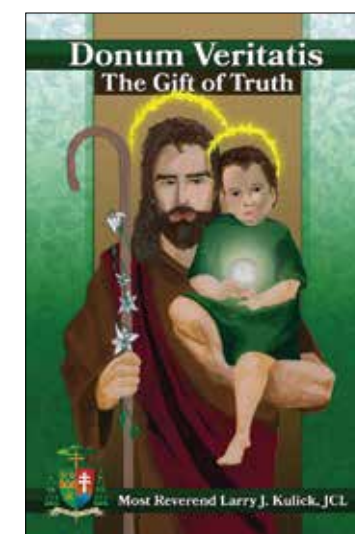
By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor

GREENSBURG — On March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, Bishop Larry J. Kulick promulgated his pastoral letter "Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Truth."

Bishop Kulick announced the document during the celebration of Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral as part of a Diocesanwide St. Joseph Day Pilgrimage in which he dedicated the Diocese of Greensburg to the protection and guardianship of St. Joseph for the next three years.

In promulgating the pastoral letter, Bishop Kulick reflected on his visits to parishes, schools, celebrations and listening sessions across the Diocese that he says brought him closer to the faithful. During those interactions, many people shared their concerns about the Diocese, their parishes, their families and the world, he said.

"I have listened to parents and grandparents who have shared with me their worries about the continuation of our faith in their families. Teenagers tell me their desire



to lead a more prayerful and faith-filled life despite the alternative choices today's culture offers and ask me to provide them with instruction on how to pray," Bishop Kulick wrote.

"I have spoken with young adults who feel the pressure of our fast-paced world and the many cultural obstacles to the sanctity of marriage or single life and raising their families in the faith. In all these discussions with you, the message is consistent. People today are finding it difficult to set aside time for prayer, to

participate in the Eucharist, to engage in parish life, and to live our faith in an increasingly secular, and sometimes adversarial, culture."

In his pastoral letter, Bishop Kulick writes that the Gift of Truth was given to us by God, who through the Holy Spirit sent us His Son, Jesus Christ. He writes that just as Mary accepted the will of God in her life, St. Joseph served as the custodian and guardian of God's most precious treasure, His only Son.

"As a husband, father, worker, builder and dreamer, St. Joseph also had an important role as protector of the Holy Family. That is why he is the protector and guardian of the Universal Church," Bishop Kulick wrote. "As your Bishop, one of my most important responsibilities is to serve as protector and guardian of the local Church."

The pastoral letter allows Bishop Kulick, who is entering the fourth year of his episcopacy, to share his vision for the Diocese of Greensburg. In it, he outlines a regional approach to faith formation and calls for:

- building a culture of all vocations, including the

establishment of a marriage catechumenate

- partnering with parents to strengthen the domestic Church in our Diocese
- forming a renewed understanding of Christian anthropology, including care for the body after death
- strengthening our commitment to the legal immigration of Ukrainian refugees and others

- promoting our region for economic prosperity through new and sustainable industries through partnerships with government and businesses
- developing a Eucharistic culture through increased opportunities for adoration, reconciliation, and discipleship formation

Bishop Kulick knows the plan is ambitious.

"This will be a new way of building up the Church and a new idea of being parish," he wrote.

"Keeping our parishes active and vibrant requires all of us embrace a new way of building up the Body of Christ through parish partnerships and removing the silos that isolate one parish from another. We must work together to keep all 78 of our

parishes strong and vibrant."

In dedicating the Diocese to St. Joseph as guardian and protector, multiple opportunities will be available for the faithful to celebrate the missionary year of the Eucharistic Revival in 2024, the Jubilee Year of the Universal Church in 2025 and the 75th anniversary of the formation of our Diocese in 2026 under the intercession of St. Joseph.

The three years of dedication to St. Joseph will conclude on March 19, 2027.

Bishop Kulick called on the faithful to remember that we are not alone in carrying out this vision.

"St. Joseph repeatedly embraced the voice of the Holy Spirit that said, "Do not be afraid." He trusted in the Truth and allowed it to shape his mind, heart and life," Bishop Kulick wrote. "Like St. Joseph, let us also respond to God's call to "Do not be afraid" as we

move forward into the future of the Church of the Diocese of Greensburg."

To read Bishop Kulick's Pastoral Letter, "Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Truth," visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/StJoseph.

Diocese submits Interim Synod Synthesis to USCCB

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg responded to the call of the USCCB to continuously model a Synodal Church by listening to the faithful and discussing major issues together with a goal of hearing where the Holy Spirit is calling the Church. To read the Interim Synodal Synthesis submitted by the Diocese of Greensburg, visit TheAccentOnline.org.

A Synodal workgroup planned and executed the process with three distinct audiences in early 2024, employing hybrid tactics for information gathering including various in-person listening sessions and an online survey. The workgroup determined the major theme of the Interim Synodal process for the Diocese of Greensburg would focus on faith formation and the following call to action: Rather than accepting the declining participation in the Church, we need to seek new ways of forming disciples that will respond to the needs of our people.

According to Bishop Larry J. Kulick's pastoral letter, "Donum Veritatis," by working together on innovative and experiential methods of formation and evangelization, we can better meet the needs of our people and change the narrative of shrinking numbers of participants in the life of the Church. Bishop Kulick has proposed a vision



for the Diocese of Greensburg over the next three years, which includes the creation of Regional Directors for Faith Formation to assist parishes reach the next level in sharing the faith in our communities, building a culture of all vocations including the establishment of a marriage catechumenate,

partnering with parents to strengthen the Domestic Church in our Diocese, forming a renewed understanding of Christian anthropology including care for the body after death, our commitment to the legal immigration of Ukrainian refugees and others, the promotion of our region for economic prosperity through new and sustainable industries through partnerships with government and businesses, and the development of a Eucharistic culture through increased opportunities for Adoration, Reconciliation and discipleship formation.

The Bishop stated, "I know this vision is ambitious, but I am confident that in working together as the clergy, Diocesan and parish staff, and you, the faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg, we will

build a more engaging and welcoming Church in each community. This will be a new way of building up the Church and a new idea of being parish.

"Keeping our parishes active and vibrant requires all of us to embrace a new way of building up the Body of Christ through parish partnerships and removing the silos that isolate one parish from another. We must work together to keep all 78 of our parishes strong and vibrant. We must make strategic use of all our facilities to meet the needs of all our people and provide programs that proclaim our faith clearly and proudly.

"In building partnerships where all parishes share staff and resources, my vision of keeping all of our parishes open as beacons of hope and the truth to reach future generations can be realized. I am often amazed at the unique identity and charism of each parish community, and I am confident that every parish will work in the spirit of cooperation so that every parish remains a vital part of the one Body of Christ. We are stronger together."

There were three distinct audiences for the interim stage of the Synodal Process. The first was a group of faith formation leaders who came to meet with Bishop Kulick about his newest initiative. The second and third groups were attendees at both men's and women's discipleship events.

Based on the feedback gathered at

the aforementioned gatherings, Bishop Kulick recognizes that the structure of the Church must develop and change to meet the needs of the people, particularly our youth. In working to improve the quality of our faith formation and discipleship programs through partnerships and sharing personnel, resources and facilities, we can, as a local Church, change the narrative of a declining Catholic population. However, we must work together beyond parish boundaries to make Regional Directors a reality.

These professionally trained Regional Directors will provide the necessary catechetical and faith formation support to allow our pastors, priests and permanent deacons to focus on sacramental and parochial ministries. Working together with one another, these Regional Directors can create the best resources and practices to reach both our youth and adults in ways that meet the present needs of the Church while preserving the Truth of the Gospel.

Through sharing resources of staffing and materials between parishes, we are able to reach a greater number of families and offer them transformative Catholic experiences. When parishes align their resources, we are able to provide the youth and young adults with a more comprehensive and complete catechetical experience rather than single parishes working alone.

Bishop keynotes Economic Growth luncheon

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

NORTH HUNTINGDON — Bishop Larry J. Kulick in February announced a \$120,000 donation from the Pappafava-Ray Foundation to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg to aid the Ukrainian relocation project.

Bishop Kulick made the announcement during his keynote address at the Economic Growth Connection luncheon Feb. 27 at Stratigos Banquet Centre. He discussed the Catholic mission to resettle refugees to Western Pennsylvania, which he said will also assist local employers with their efforts to find skilled employees.

“This major donation enables us to continue to support Ukrainians who have already come to the Diocese of Greensburg. It will also help us to relocate many more families to our region,” Bishop Kulick said.

Mona Pappafava-Ray, President and CEO of General Carbide and founder of the Pappafava-Ray Foundation, said the idea of so many families being displaced by the war prompted her to get involved.

“These individuals are trying to rebuild their lives in a new country, and they are using their skills to do that,” Pappafava-Ray said. “We must all do what we can to support them.”

Bishop Kulick also announced a \$15,000 donation from Calvary Church in Irwin, led by Pastor Nick Poole, as well as the appointment



JENNIFER MIELE THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Bishop Larry J. Kulick is pictured next to Mona Pappafava-Ray, Father Oleh Seremchuk and Melaney Hegyes at the Economic Growth Connection Luncheon in March. Also pictured are Jim Smith, EGC President and CEO, Chairman Michael Pauly, Westmoreland Chamber CEO Dan DeBone, General Carbide's Randy Roadman, Westmoreland County Commissioners Sean Kertes, Ted Kopas and Doug Chew, former Chamber CEO Chad Amond, and Jason Rigone, Executive Director of Westmoreland County's Industrial Development Corporation.

of Father Oleh Seremchuk as the Ukrainian Relocation Coordinator for Catholic Charities. Father Seremchuk is a native of Ukraine and pastor of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Scottsdale, and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Perryopolis.

“We deeply appreciate the skillset he brings to the project. He is looking to work with more employers who recognize that more diverse channels and a wider reach for recruiting talent is a responsive strategy to the labor shortage,” Bishop Kulick said.

The announcements were the culmination of two years' worth of work that began just a few weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine.

“It occurred to us rather quickly that the existing Ukrainian population in the Diocese of Greensburg could be a gateway to the next wave of Ukrainian migration,” Bishop Kulick said. “In fact, Western Pennsylvania is home to the fourth largest Ukrainian population in the United States.”

Bishop Kulick expressed his sincere thanks to Melaney Hegyes, Managing

Director of Catholic Charities, who, along with Jim Smith, President and CEO of the Economic Growth Connection, the Westmoreland County commissioners, Rep. Eric Nelson and dozens of other business and community leaders, have helped welcome Ukrainians to the Diocese of Greensburg.

“Everyone seems to understand that Catholic Charities is living the Christian mission to support refugees. But they also recognize that this could be a way to help ease the labor shortages in our community.”

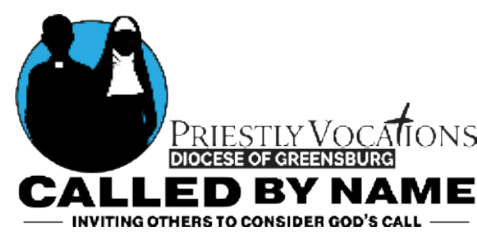
Initiative invites faithful to foster culture of vocations

GREENSBURG — In his pastoral letter, “Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Truth,” Bishop Larry J. Kulick invited the faithful in the Diocese of Greensburg to take up the work of building a culture of vocations across the Diocese. In response to this invitation, Father Tyler J. Bandura, Director of the Office of Priestly Vocations and pastor of St. James Parish, New Alexandria, has announced a new initiative to encourage those vocations, the Called by Name Campaign.

“Several weeks ago, representatives from our parishes and Catholic schools gathered to hear from Rhonda Gruenwald, who is the founder of Vocation Ministry,” Father Bandura said. “Rhonda challenged those attending to consider ways to help all God's people grow in their universal vocation of holiness and explore their particular vocation (holy orders, marriage, single state or consecrated life).”

The campaign is one way the faithful can work together to accept the Bishop's invitation to foster vocations.

“The Called by Name Campaign will allow you to submit names of individuals you feel God has brought to your attention as a candidate for a vocation to the priesthood or religious life,” Father Bandura explained. “We are looking at



candidates who are current eighth-grade students, those in high school, and young adults up to the age of 39.”

Those whose names are submitted will receive a letter from Father Bandura asking for consideration of a priestly or religious vocation and providing opportunities to learn more about discernment. Names can be submitted through May 3 at greensburgpriest.org/called.

“Many young people wonder what to do in life, and they often look to the world and to others for the answer. The Church needs us to be the voice of Christ inviting our young people to consider God's purpose for their life. If we don't plant the seed, someone else will beat us to the “ask,” Father Bandura said. “With this new initiative, it is our hope that together we will create a culture of vocations in which young people joyfully consider God's purpose for their life.”

— The Catholic Accent

Bishop assigns seminarians

GREENSBURG — Bishop Larry J. Kulick has made the following assignments for seminarians:



Matteo Arcara
St. Paul Parish, Greensburg
Arcara is in the Discipleship Stage, College I, at Saint Mark Seminary, Erie, with academic studies at Gannon University, Erie



Thomas Oldenburg
Holy Family Parish, Latrobe
Oldenburg is in the Discipleship Stage, College I, at Saint Mark Seminary with academic studies at Gannon University



Ryan Scavnicky
Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin
Scavnicky is in the Discipleship Stage, College III, at Saint Charles Borromeo

Seminary, Lower Gwynedd.



Tyler Randolph
Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin
Randolph is in the Configuration Stage, Theology I, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lower Gwynedd

Seminary, Lower Gwynedd

In addition, the Bishop has named supervisors for seminarians in summer assignments:

- Father Alan N. Polczynski, supervisor for Mario Porreca, at Christ the King Parish, Leechburg, and St. Gertrude Parish, Vandergrift

- Father Anthony J. Klimko, supervisor for Tyler Randolph, at the Catholic Parishes of Uniontown, St. Hubert Parish, Point Marion, and SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance

- Father Daniel L. Blout, supervisor for Kevin Richardson, at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, and St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite

Earnest in prayer and mighty in their labor of love

By Mary Seamans
Multimedia Journalist

LATROBE — Have you ever wondered how the Benedictine sisters came to serve the students and religious community at Saint Vincent College? That question was answered at a “lunch and learn” event Feb. 20 at the college, featuring a talk by Mother Mary Anne Noll, OSB, prioress of St. Emma Monastery, Greensburg.

“The History of Sisters at Saint Vincent” was borne out of conversations about the history of women at the college between Heather Albright, dean of admissions and chair of the Women's Leadership Team; Dr. Jeff Malory, executive vice president; and archivist Guy Davis. They wanted to recognize the important role the sisters continue to play at the college.

The college currently has three sisters studying and supporting women's ministry on campus. Over the last several years, college leaders have built a relationship with Assumption College in New Jersey, a junior college that prepares sisters to go on to four-year U.S. institutions. Most of the sisters are international, coming from as far as Vietnam, Tanzania and Mozambique.

So how did the sisters come to Saint Vincent? It was need meeting need. In Germany in 1931, inflation was rampant. The Abbey of St. Walburga in Eichstaett was founded in 1035 to house 40 sisters, and now there were 120.

Many of the sisters were sent out to help support the motherhouse, and nearly 40 were sent to Saint Vincent, where there was also serious financial need.

“God used this need to begin a wonderful presence of our sisters at Saint Vincent for 56 years, and the

relationship is still vibrant today,” said Mother Mary Anne.

The sisters spoke no English, and everything was new to them, including fireflies, terrible thunderstorms, the food, homesickness and the culture. The oldest to arrive in 1931 was Mother Leonarda Fritz, 50, affectionately known as Mother Bearcat.

In the early days the sisters cooked for and served the students and seminarians, and several years later, they began serving the monks. They scrubbed the floors, cooked, washed dishes, and even took care of pest control in the basement kitchen — for which they were rewarded with payment of a glass of beer.

Later, the sisters designed and sewed vestments and purificator sets, aprons, and stuffed animals, made shoes, and crocheted cinctures.

Right before World War II broke out, the sisters received a letter telling them to “look out for yourselves.” In 1943, they purchased the John Robertshaw House and 10 acres near Greensburg, and the following year they purchased the adjacent 90-acre Robertshaw farm.

When Mother Leonarda was 70, she built Fatima Chapel with a dining room underneath, and at 74, she built the 50 private-room retreat house at St. Emma Monastery. At 80, she built the novitiate building with 30 cells and the Sacred Heart Chapel. She died in 1965 and was the first to be buried in the cemetery she had laid out months earlier.

The sisters built the retreat house and dedicated it in 1954. The Knights of Columbus held the first retreat in 1955, and since then, more than 200,000 people have attended retreats there.

“I am so privileged to be here and to be in the line of the sisters who served



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Benedictines serving at St. Emma Monastery include, from left: Sister Maria Johanna, Sister Margoretta, Mother Mary Anne and Sister Mary Paul.

at Saint Vincent,” Mother Mary Anne said. “The sisters came here in 1931, and had just started a novitiate program in 1961 when I entered Saint Emma's in 1962. They had only been here for 31 years, and I had no idea that they were practically newbies!”

“I have been a sister now for 62 years, so I have experienced two-thirds of their history. I am grateful for the wonderful relationship that I have had with the monks all these years, and I have known all the sisters who have ever served here, with the exception of the first five, who died before I entered, and remain buried in the cemetery of Saint Vincent.”

She said when she entered, there were three tables in the dining room: a professed table, a novice table and a table for four Felician sisters and

two Vincentian sisters teaching at Greensburg Central Catholic High School.

“In 1987 I made my first vows while the youngest sisters celebrated their 25th jubilees. At that time, there were 40 sisters serving at Saint Vincent. The sisters often came to St. Emma's when they had health problems, and eventually the number of sisters decreased there and increased at St. Emma's.

“In 1987, Father Donald Raila described the Sisters of St. Benedict as ‘Earnest in prayer and mighty in their labor of love.’ I thought this was a beautiful summation because this is how the sisters understood their vocation; it was to live each day out of love for God in their Benedictine life and to love those whom they served.”

Diocese, Saint Vincent Seminary's IMF partner for formation program

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg has partnered with the Institute for Ministry Formation (IMF) at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, to offer a robust catechetical formation program for adults interested in growing in their faith, deepening their knowledge of the faith and developing skills for ministry in faith formation.

The partnership will offer high quality education through courses taught by experienced, acclaimed professors in a two-year program of in-person and online offerings.

“Through online education the IMF has been able to offer formation for men and women across the United States and even throughout the world, but it has always been my heart's desire to offer our services to our own home Diocese,” said Benedictine Father Boniface Hicks, IMF Director. “Grounded in a liturgical, contemplative, scriptural and kerygmatic

key, the IMF's approach is also fundamentally accompaniment-based. The Gospel spreads through closeness as the fire of the Holy Spirit moves from one heart to another. Our goal is to ignite hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit, form minds in truth and foster the skills of transformational conversation and kerygmatic proclamation so that that divine fire can spread.”

Bishop Larry J. Kulick noted, “I am grateful for the past support of the Lay Ecclesial Ministry program at Seton Hill University and for their education of so many over the past years. However, this new partnership with Saint Vincent Seminary more closely aligns with the holistic education our seminarians are already receiving and with the pastoral and educational elements of the catechetical formation which the laity who are participating in the program will receive.”

Vincent Reilly, Managing Director of the Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship for the Diocese of Greensburg, said the partnership allows students to gain a certificate in catechesis, with additional advantages. Students who have a bachelor's degree may apply the completion of the program towards a master's degree through the IMF. Those who do not have a bachelor's degree will be able to gain advanced certification from the Diocese.

Most aspirants for the permanent diaconate can complete their studies in the same institution, allowing for more practical application of their formation. All of the students in the program will work as a cohort and will experience practical applications of their studies through seminars with the Office of Faith, Family and Formation. The program is designed for both those who have college experience and

Accompaniment workshop June 19-21

The Diocese and the IMF will host a workshop, “The Art of Accompaniment,” June 19-21 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Participants will learn principles of accompaniment, including intentional listening to foster transformative conversations and cultivate relationships centered around Christ, and deepening understanding of the interior life and dynamics of growth in spiritual life. Cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch. Registration: DioceseofGreensburg.org/events.

those who have been away from school.

“Along with formation workshops and mutual support among the cohort of our local participants, Diocesan staff will support the program to help integrate what they are learning into the pastoral priorities and the mission for catechesis set forth by Bishop Kulick,” Reilly said. “There will also be many opportunities for retreats and spiritual direction and, importantly, financial support.”

Reilly said successful completion of the program

yields a certificate of completion in addition to the IMF's catechetics certificate. Graduates will be well positioned for official and unofficial participation in the evangelization and catechetical ministry of the Diocese of Greensburg and other dioceses.

For details, visit imf.saintvincentsseminary.edu/Greensburg or contact Reilly or Elizabeth Haberstroh at 724-837-0901, vreilly@DioceseofGreensburg.org or ehaberstroh@DioceseofGreensburg.org.

— The Catholic Accent

Planned giving made easy through The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg



By Paul Puleo
Managing Director of Development and Director of The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg



GREENSBURG — One of the many ways you can help your parish or one of the numerous Diocesan missions is by including the Church in your estate planning.

Many people wish they could make a charitable gift through their estate but are concerned about preserving their retirement assets while providing financial stability for their families. The good news is that you can support your parish and our mission without impacting yourself or your family through several types of charitable gifts.

The Diocese has more than 200 different endowments, and every parish has one either for the parish or the parish cemeteries.

Below are some of the affordable ways that you can support the mission of our Church in the Diocese of Greensburg by working with The Catholic Foundation.

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation established by the Diocese in 1986. The foundation exists to support the pastoral, educational and social service ministries of the Diocese. This includes, but is not exclusive to, parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, Catholic cemeteries and other diocesan ministries. These assets provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for a myriad of needs within the Diocese. Endowment funds are essential to the financial stability of our Diocese and parishes. The Catholic Foundation Board of Trustees, which is composed of laity from the Diocese, carefully manages all investments.

Our mission: The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of



Greensburg, through its philanthropic initiatives that are rooted in Gospel values and in the teaching of the Catholic Church, raises funds, awards grants and stewards assets in order to advance the mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg to proclaim in word and action the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

Gifts from a Will or Trust

Designating your parish endowment within the Foundation as a beneficiary of your will or trust supports the future needs of your parish and will not affect your cash flow during your lifetime. In addition, you may revoke this type of gift if your situation or goals change. You can bequeath a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate when remembering the Church.

Beneficiary Designations

Naming either your parish or The Catholic Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, financial account or annuity is another way to help further our mission. You can

continue to benefit from these assets during your lifetime. A beneficiary designation may also be changed at any time.

Life Insurance

You can name the Foundation or your parish as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy. Also, you can make a gift from current assets in support of perpetual funds that your parish has created to support its operations, cemetery or particular needs or 200 other funds that support ministries across the Diocese.

Below are a few examples of assets, other than cash, that you can use to make a gift to the Church.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

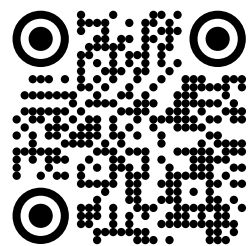
Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) allow individuals aged 70½ and older to donate retirement assets directly to qualified charities without paying taxes on the withdrawals.

Such donations can satisfy all or part of a donor's annual required minimum distribution.

Appreciated Marketable Securities

If you own appreciated marketable securities, you may donate them directly to the Church without impacting your cash flow and possibly avoid paying capital gains tax on these assets.

If you are considering including the Church in your estate plans or would like to make a gift of current assets to support your parish, cemetery, school or other Diocesan ministry, please **contact Paul Puleo at 724-552-2509 or ppuleo@dioceseofgreensburg.org**. Visit The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg online at dg.giftlegacy.com or scan the QR code to learn more about how your gift can shape the future.



Nut Roll 101 a labor of love at Leechburg parish

By Maria Guzzo
Contributing Writer

LEECHBURG — Ruth Sulava teaches Nut Roll 101 at Christ the King Parish, schooling fellow volunteers on the intricacies of fundraising via flour, sugar and butter.

It's not technically a class, but at age 101, Sulava shares her extensive experience, time, talent and treasure to head the nut, apricot and poppyseed roll and Paska bread fundraiser at the parish where most of the volunteers, with one exception, range in age from mid-60s to 80s — mere youngsters to their seasoned leader.

Father Alan N. Polczynski, pastor of Christ the King Parish and St. Gertrude in nearby Vandergrift, said it's Sulava's encouraging demeanor and faithful passion for helping her parish that teaches others about using the talents God gave them to assist others and honor God.

"She provides that beautiful model of good stewardship and carries out what it means," he said. "She's very humble about it. She doesn't want attention. But this is her way of giving back."

Sulava started out as a volunteer decades ago at the former St. Martha Parish

before Christ the King Parish was created. Over the years, she ended up taking the helm, planning the calendar, ordering ingredients, setting up tables, tracking records and inventory, and discerning just the right dough thickness and filling amount.

Her hands are addled by arthritis, and she says she's shorter than she used to be years ago when she could roll the dough and pop trays of loaves in and out of the ovens herself, but fellow volunteers and her pastor say she has a sharp mind and spirited energy.

"I'm grateful my brain is still good," Sulava said during the recent nut roll baking event in the parish hall, where volunteers rolled out 1,300 confections before Easter.

That and a similar pre-Thanksgiving baking marathon are the church's main fundraisers, Father Polczynski said.

"I've cut back on what I do, but the others are getting pretty good at it," Sulava said. "We have the best crew."

Sulava says she doesn't worry about having enough volunteers.

"God always supplies us with enough and answers a lot of prayers," she said.

"I'm just the one who gets it started. All the others make it a success."



PHOTOS BY MARIA GUZZO FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT
Ruth Sulava and volunteers work on nut rolls at Christ the King Parish.

Sulava said staying active keeps her young, noting that a friend once told her, "Just because you're old, you don't need to just sit in a rocking chair." Father Polczynski said she's very encouraging to the other volunteers.

"She has a beautiful disposition about her and is able to instruct people in a loving way, but she gets it done how it's supposed to get done," he said. "And she's passing that on to the next generation." At just 37, parishioner

Sadie Minick is the youngest of the crew. She said she is inspired by Sulava and volunteers on the weekends when she's not at work. "Everyone is busy," Minick said. "You just have to come when you can. This is how I can give back, too."

Meaningful relationships with Christ

GREENSBURG — Kerygma is a word that has been used in the Church for more than 2,000 years, but is probably unfamiliar to most people.

The Greek word kerygma means "proclamation." For Catholics, kerygma is the core proclamation of the Gospel that Jesus loves us, He died for us, and that He is alive and inviting us to have a relationship with Him.

The Diocese of Greensburg Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship is sponsoring the Kerygma Weekend Discipleship Retreat May 17-19 at Christ our Shepherd Center.

The retreat is open to everyone. Vincent Reilly, Managing Director of the Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship, says it is an invitation to form a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ and is designed for people who know Jesus in some way but want to strengthen that relationship.

"We hope those attending the retreat will invite those who may have fallen away from the Church



to return to parish life or invite those who have not heard the Gospel before," Reilly said. Those active in parish life and ministry are also invited as a renewal of their relationship with Christ and to be able to share the message of the retreat with others.

The retreat will begin with the core message of the Gospel and will allow those attending to renew their baptismal promises, their experience with the sacrament of confirmation and their experience of receiving the Eucharist.

"It gives us a chance to look at our lives to see how God is working in our life and what he is calling

us to," Reilly said. "There is a focus on prayer, community, the study of Scripture and the Eucharist to help us live our Catholic faith in our daily life."

Reilly says the retreat is a launching point to have the faithful become more involved in their parishes or communities within their parishes, along with helping them understand the path God has chosen for them through catechesis.

The goal of the retreat is to create intentional disciples of Christ, who will return to their parishes with a desire to help create a more vibrant parish life and help those who may have fallen away to return.

"In order to be a disciple, you have to know the person that you are following. This retreat is a snapshot into the person of Christ and His desire for a relationship with you and what he is calling you to do," Reilly said.

For information about the retreat and how to register, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/Kerygma.

—The Catholic Accent

Scout Convocation Mass set April 28 at St. John the Evangelist Parish

LATROBE —The Diocese of Greensburg's Catholic Committee on Scouting invites all members of the Scouting family to attend the Diocesan Scout Convocation Mass, celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick April 28 at 3 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Catholic Scouts who have completed work on their religious emblems in the past year will also be recognized. Units are encouraged to attend as a group and bring their unit flags for display. At a light reception afterward, information on the religious emblems program and the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will be available. This Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation.

Registration is not necessary, but units planning to attend are asked to contact Diocesan Scout Chaplain Father E. George Saletrik at 724-539-9751 or gsaletrik@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Helping men manage anger for 31 years

Editors note: Names in this story have been changed to preserve anonymity.

By Cliff Gorski
Executive Editor

GREENSBURG — It's just before 7 p.m., and Bob Brinker is organizing his presentation and preparing handouts. On a table nearby is a pot of coffee and cookies.

It's a routine Brinker follows weekly as he prepares for the arrival of about a dozen men, some of them regulars, for his Men's Anger Management Support Group meeting.

As the men start to trickle in, Brinker greets them by name with a warm smile. He invites them to get some coffee and cookies and have a seat. Formerly a therapist for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, Brinker, now retired, has been leading these meetings for 31 years.

Catholic Charities' men's anger group began in 1993 when a Diocesan priest said men who were in couples counseling were just too angry for the counseling to be effective. The priest asked Brinker to start an anger management program for men.

Initially, the program was funded through a six-month grant, and men were referred by therapists at Catholic Charities.

"After the six months, some of the guys asked, 'Why do we have to stop?'" Brinker said.

Some of the men have been attending the meetings for more than 25 years. Brinker estimates the program has helped 3,000 men.

The group is focused on dealing with anger and other emotions with the goal of eliminating violence and controlling behavior when interacting with spouses, women, children and other men.

Some of the men attend because they have been referred or are court-ordered to do so as part of a child

custody or criminal case. Those required to attend must be present for at least 16 sessions to get a letter of completion.

During a recent meeting, Leo, who is scheduled to soon receive his letter of completion, shared with other group members what he learned from the sessions. On probation for a domestic incident, he came to the program as part of a treatment program.

He told group members that what he learned in the group meetings enabled him to avoid a workplace altercation.

"We got into a screaming match and he put his hands on me. I almost punched him but I stopped. If I threw a punch, I would be the one getting into trouble," he said.

Leo said he realized that his probation could be revoked and he would go a long time without seeing his four children if he reacted with violence.

"Everybody gets angry, but it's about choices," Brinker told the group. "They say that men get angry between 12 and 15 times a day. It doesn't mean we're going through the ceiling, but how we choose to handle it."

Brinker said anger issues evolve from how men have been socialized. In many cases, it's an issue of control. He educates and counsels men that is rare to be in control all of the time.

"One of the things men can learn is to go with the flow and accept things as they come," Brinker said.

Jared is trying to learn to follow Brinker's counsel and suggestions from others in the group. At this meeting, Jared had some good news to share: He recently learned that his estranged wife is returning home. He said she had seen an improvement in him.

Jared also learned that Children and Youth Services will soon be visiting his home to see if it may be possible for his child to return. His



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT
Brinker leads a meeting of the Men's Anger Management Support Group.

“Everybody gets angry, but it's about choices. They say the men get angry between 12 and 15 times a day. It doesn't mean we're going through the ceiling, but how we choose to handle it.”

— **BOB BRINKER, MEN'S ANGER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP LEADER**

wife's return is a positive step toward the child's return.

"It's all I ever wanted," he said as he choked up.

Jared gets to visit his child in a supervised area for one hour a week. He told the group that he tries to make the most of that one hour.

"It's hard to say goodbye," he said tearfully.

Several other men in the group have been down the same path with CYS as Jared. Together, they offered him support and suggestions about the upcoming visit.

"Above all, be honest and truthful about your situation," one advised.

It is through Brinker that these men come together in an atmosphere of trust and non-judgment. He's the glue

that holds them together, offering wise counsel and information that helps them "take it down a couple of notches" when life's issues escalate anger.

As he wraps up the weekly meeting, some of the men stay behind in the meeting room or gather in the parking lot. It's an additional opportunity to discuss what is happening in their lives and support each other.

"Conflict is life," Brinker said. "The hardest moment to overcome your anger is in the moment. But the real courage in life is to walk away."

If you or someone you know could benefit by attending the Men's Anger Management Support Group, contact Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840.

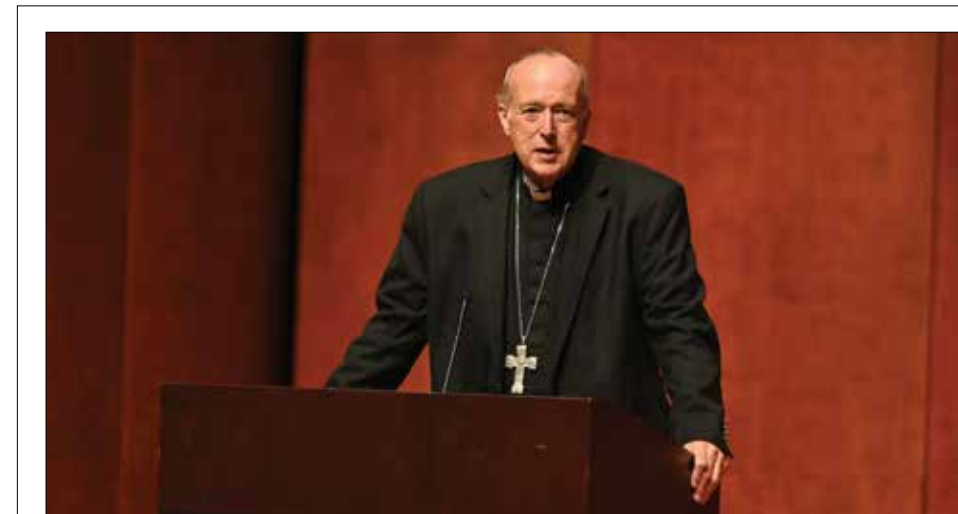


PHOTO SUBMITTED
CARDINAL SPEAKS FOR FOUNDERS' DAY: Seton Hill University, Greensburg, celebrated its inaugural Founders' Day with a public lecture by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, March 19. Cardinal McElroy, who took part in the Vatican Synod on Synodality in October 2023, spoke on the topic, "The Synodal Challenge for the Church in the United States." The day's theme was "Honoring our Founders, Embracing our Future."

Renew & Refresh
For All Christian Initiation Catechists

June 8, 2024
9AM - 3PM
Saint Barbara Catholic Church
Harrison City, PA

Sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg
Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship

Lunch included. Space is limited.
Free for those involved in Christian Initiation in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Register online at: DioceseofGreensburg.org/christian-initiation
For more information, e-mail: ffd@DioceseofGreensburg.org

National pilgrims to visit Diocese in June with special events for all

GREENSBURG — Designed to be a powerful, once-in-a-lifetime witness of how Jesus Christ invites us to encounter Him in the Eucharist, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will process through the Diocese of Greensburg June 11-12.

The pilgrimage is the first of its kind, with pilgrims planning to walk 6,500 miles city to city, coast to coast.

The Diocese of Greensburg is on the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route, one of the pilgrimage's four procession routes. The route is named after the first American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church and honors her work in laying the foundation for the Catholic school system and for her devotion to the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

The pilgrims will begin their journey in May in New Haven, Conn., and travel to Washington, D.C.

The pilgrimage is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a movement to renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The revival, which began in 2022, moved from the Diocesan level into a year of Eucharistic devotion at the parish level in 2023.

Following scheduled events in the Diocese of Greensburg, pilgrims will continue their journey to Indianapolis, Ind., for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, where 80,000 Catholics will gather. It is being held to send intentional disciples of Christ out on mission to share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord as the universal Church

To learn more about the pilgrimage through the Diocese or to register for any of the scheduled events, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org.

— *The Catholic Accent*

moves toward its jubilee year in 2025.

Schedule of events in the Diocese of Greensburg

Tuesday, June 11
Mass and Family, Faith and Fun Night, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Grace Parish, 1011 Mount Pleasant Road, Greensburg
The evening will include food trucks, bounce houses, balloon artists and face painting, plus multimedia displays featuring highlights of Diocesan Eucharistic Revival efforts over the last year.

Wednesday, June 12
Mass, Eucharistic Procession and Italian Lunch, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, 553 Patton Ave., Jeannette
Following Mass, pilgrims will process one mile to Ascension Parish, 615 Division St., Jeannette, for lunch.

Adoration and Youth Choir Sendoff, 3-5 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, 308 Second St., Irwin
Following a serene time of reflection and prayer during adoration, pilgrims will be sent off by a youth choir. An ice cream social will be part of the sendoff.



PHOTOS BY CLIFF GORSKI THE CATHOLIC ACCENT
New Catholic Charities Board of Trustees officers, with Bishop Kulick and Melaney Hegyes, third from right, are, from left: Kristen Hughes-Marhefka, George Butler, Roy Draper and Roland "Bud" Mertz. Below, with the Bishop, are new board members Molly Robb Shimko, left, and Col. Bridget Widdowson, USAR Retired. Missing from the photo are new members Danielle Adamsky and Rachel Morocco.

Catholic Charities board of trustees names new officers

CRABTREE — At Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg Board of Trustees' annual meeting March 21 at Rizzo's Malabar Inn, a new slate of officers was elected, and Bishop Larry J. Kulick made two key recommendations for the new fiscal year.

Bishop Kulick recommended that the board establish a refugee relocation committee consisting of one member of the board and one member from each of the strategic partners assisting with the relocation of Ukrainian immigrants to the Diocese of Greensburg, who are assisted through Catholic Charities.

The bishop also recommended that the board be expanded from 15 to 18 members, in order to add the skills needed to continue "the



good work in our community."

In addition, Melaney Hegyes, Managing Director of Catholic Charities, presented the 2022-23 annual report to the board.

The board approved the nomination of George Butler as president, replacing outgoing president Holly Uccellini, as well as Bud Mertz as vice president and Roy Draper as treasurer. Kristen Hughes-Marhefka will serve another term as secretary. Members also approved the nominations of Molly Robb Shimko, Danielle Adamsky, Bridget Widdowson and Rachel Morocco to the board.



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT
THE NEW CHURCH: On Feb. 18, at the start of Lent, more than 150 people came to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, for the Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates. The catechumens were affirmed, and their names were enrolled in the Book of the Elect for each parish. The candidates were affirmed and welcomed by Bishop Larry J. Kulick. At the Easter Vigil, they received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist and full communion with the Catholic Church.

Will you join 80,000 pilgrims this summer in Indianapolis?

GREENSBURG — Time is running out for you to join fellow pilgrims from the Diocese of Greensburg at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Diocese has a reserved five-day adult tickets to the event and a block of hotel rooms for our delegation (families with children are encouraged to purchase discounted family tickets directly from the National Eucharistic Congress website).

Registration includes one adult five-day ticket, bus transportation to Indianapolis, transportation to the event center each day and a four-night hotel stay.

Cost is \$900 per person for double occupancy, \$1,200 per person for single occupancy. Financial aid is available through the Francis Fund.

For more information and to register, contact the Office of Faith Family and Discipleship at 724-837-0901.

— *The Catholic Accent*

Catholic schools, teachers, students celebrated

NORTH HUNTINGDON — Catholic schools in the Diocese of Greensburg celebrated excellence in teaching at the annual A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast March 14 at Stratigos Banquet Centre.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. Nancy Rottler welcomed students, teachers, parents and guardians, clergy and elected officials at the gathering. She explained why Catholic education makes a difference and highlighted the progress made in the past year.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick also gave remarks at the breakfast.

“Our Catholic schools teach us that sacrifice, hard work, discipline and faith are effective,” the bishop said. “That may be contrary to our culture today. But you know what is right and truthful. You are being taught the truth every day — and that truth is Jesus Christ.”

Through the generosity of the Donahue Family Foundation, three teachers were honored with a Golden Apple Award and a monetary award of \$5,000:

- Tamara Bernot, who teaches music and technology at The Divine Redeemer Catholic School, Ford City, and Mary, Queen of Apostles School, New Kensington
- Kimberly Marsh, preschool director at Christ the Divine Teacher School, Latrobe



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

From left: Bishop Larry J. Kulick, The Divine Redeemer Catholic School Principal Dr. John Giancola Jr., Tamara Bernot, Mary Queen of Apostles School Principal Cathy Collett, Kimberly Marsh, Christ the Divine Teacher School Principal Teresa Tallerico, Heather Peters, GCC Principal Theresa Szmed and Dr. Nancy Rottler.

• Heather Peters, who teaches math at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School
One student from each of the Catholic schools in the Diocese was honored with a Student Spotlight Award, highlighting their efforts in their schools, parishes and communities.
Three Catholic schools in the

Diocese were awarded Capital Sustainability Awards for school improvements.
GCC Principal Theresa Szmed said GCC's award will go toward replacing carpeting in several classroom and office spaces.
Dr. John Giancola Jr., Principal of The Divine Redeemer Catholic School, Ford City, said the school's award will

be used to update the sanitary system, significantly benefiting students' well-being.
Teresa Tallerico, Principal of Christ the Divine Teacher School, Latrobe, said the school's award will be used to upgrade the gymnasium, creating a safe space for students while they are engaged in physical activities.
— *The Catholic Accent*

At Aquinas Academy, teamwork is turning trash into treasure

By Phil Brown
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG — Students at Aquinas Academy learned over the past year that caring for God's creation can be a rewarding endeavor.

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade participated in a plastic bag recycling program that kept more than half a ton of plastic out of local landfills and waterways and added a beautiful bench to the school's playground.

Academic coach Melissa Ruehl, who coordinated the recycling effort, said students enthusiastically embraced the school's participation in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge.

The program encourages schools, civic organizations, churches and university organizations to recycle soft film plastics and packaging. When an organization recycles 1,000 pounds of plastic in a year, Trex Company, which turns recycled plastic into environmentally responsible outdoor

products, rewards the effort with an eco-friendly bench. Students began recycling in May 2023 and by Jan. 31 of this year, they topped the 1,000-pound goal. The Trex bench was delivered to the school in February.

Turning household trash into playground treasure required teamwork from students, family and friends of Aquinas Academy, Ruehl said.

Students collected and delivered plastic bags to Ruehl, who greeted each donation with praise to encourage participation and educate children on the value of taking care of the planet.

Donations were weighed, photographed and delivered to the Hempfield Square Giant Eagle's recycling center.

Even though the school's 219 students have already met the 1,000-pound goal to receive a bench, donations continue to roll in.

To date, students have collected 1,200 pounds of plastic, Ruehl said, noting that extra donations will be added to a new recycling



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Melissa Ruehl stands with some of the plastic bags collected at Aquinas Academy.

challenge that is projected to start in August 2024. Principal Kelly Watkins called the effort “amazing.” “It's hard to imagine how many bags needed to be collected to reach that

weight, and we were able to do it in less than a year,” Watkins said. “We now have a wonderful place to sit on the playground, and students and teachers love it.”

MQA students win at forensics

NEW KENSINGTON — Students at Mary Queen of Apostles School participated in the Finals and All-stars forensics tournament held March 9 at South Fayette High School in McDonald. Results are below.

FINALS:
Poetry — Seventh-graders Aby Farmer and Ava Myers, first
Prose — Seventh-grader Julia Skowronski and eighth-grader Emmalin Domiano, first
Drama — Seventh-grader Hadassah Cardaro and eighth-grader Bria Domiano, first
Declamation — Sixth-graders William Gibbons and Frank Girardi, second
Impromptu — Seventh-grader Joelle Ondrizek, first
Multiple Reading — Fifth-grader Clara Girardi and sixth-graders Zoey Farmer and Martha Palumbo, second

ALL-STARS:
Poetry — Aby Farmer, first; Ava Myers, third
Prose — Julia Skowronski, second; Emmalin Domiano, third
Drama — Bria Domiano, first; Hadassah Cardaro, second
Impromptu — Joelle Ondrizek, first
Multiple Reading — Clara Girardi, Zoey Farmer and Martha Palumbo, third

Geibel Catholic's Bell marks 25 years of musicals

By Melissa Williams Brown
Contributing Writer

CONNELLSVILLE — Nick Bell, a popular, innovative and energetic theater arts teacher at Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, is celebrating 25 years of teaching and will be directing his 25th musical this spring.

The hall leading to Bell's office is lined with oversized framed playbills depicting the past 24 musicals performed by Geibel Catholic students. They spill into his office, where cut-out versions remind him of the hard work, good memories and standing ovations.

The energy in the room is palpable as students scurry to rehearsals at the end of the day. They are rehearsals they don't want to miss.

Bell said the students make his job easy. Junior Ivy Flesik is set to play Ariel in the school's production of “The Little Mermaid” April 27-28. When Bell saw Ivy playing leads in “Frozen” and “Cinderella,” he knew Geibel Catholic's theater arts department would be a perfect transition to high school for her.

Ivy calls Bell an “icon” whose shoes would be difficult to fill.

Geibel Catholic Principal Robert Fetter echoes those sentiments.

“Nick is the consummate professional and does everything with Geibel Catholic in his heart. Every song and dance, every success and failure is felt in his soul. His passion for the school and our students is truly inspiring,” Fetter said.

When selecting the year's musical, Bell considers the students, their



talents and personalities. He has a knack for immediately picturing a student in a certain role.

“You just know,” he said.

Bell, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar, said he tries to select musicals that are “fun and upbeat.”

There are 30 students in the upcoming performance of “The Little Mermaid,” including seventh- and eighth-graders in the ensemble.

Bell, who holds a bachelor's degree in music education from West Virginia University in Morgantown, teaches seventh- and eighth-grade music, ninth-grade introduction to music, theater arts, musical theory, College in the Classroom and film analysis.

He admits he was hesitant to teach at a small Catholic school, but figured

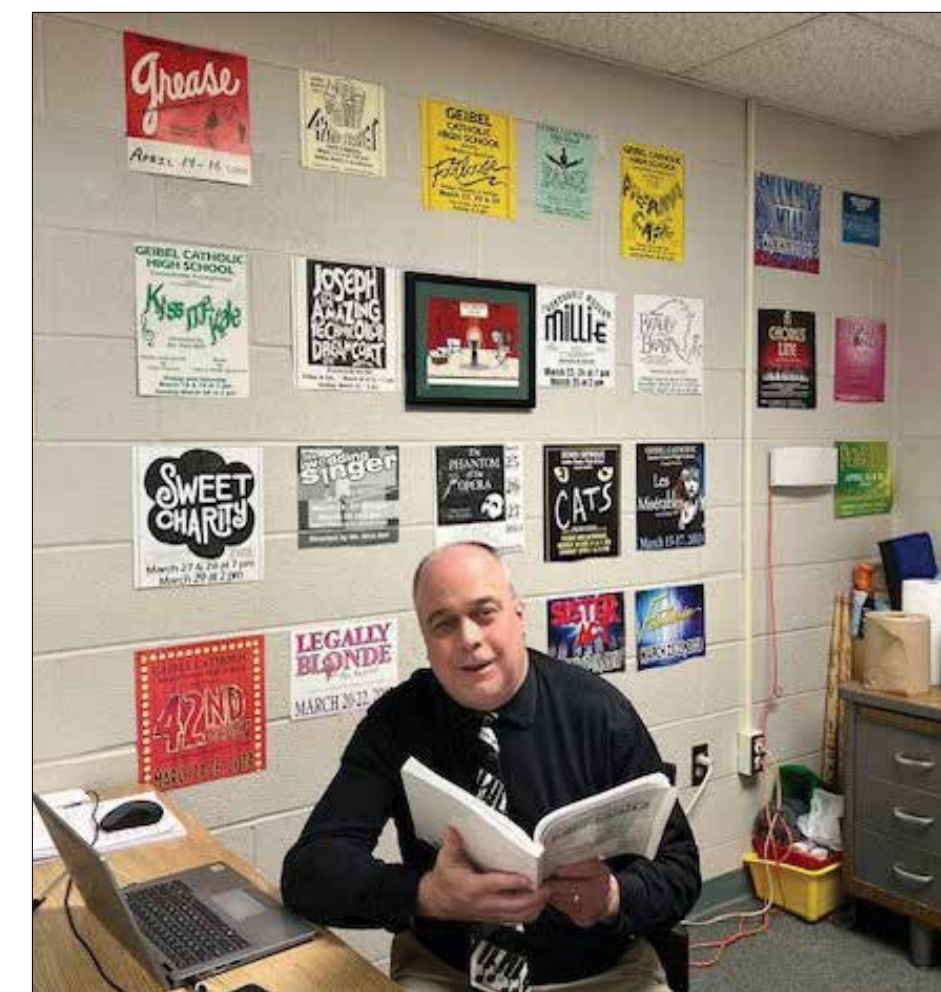


PHOTO SUBMITTED

In his office, Nick Bell is surrounded by posters of musicals he has directed at Geibel Catholic over the past 25 years.

he'd give it a try and stay for a year. “Once I got there and met everyone, I didn't want to leave. The kids, staff and faculty are wonderful. The students are a tight-knit class,” Bell said.

Bell's favorite musicals performed by Geibel Catholic students were “Mamma Mia!” and “The Phantom of the Opera,” though “Cats” generated the largest crowds.

Directing comfort through a Compass of Faith

By Cliff Gorski
Editor

IRWIN — The idea came to Emma Reese in prayer: The 16-year-old felt she was being called to expand a program she created to comfort those in memory care or receiving treatment for cancer.

Last November, Emma started working on the service project “Compass of Faith,” collecting donations and supplies to make care bins.

“Each bin differs and may contain a blanket or neck pillow, an activity book and pen, hard candy, a cozy item like gloves, and ChapStick or a hand sanitizer,” she said.

Emma reached out to the faith formation students in her home parish, Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin, for help. They wrote personal notes in cards for each care bin.

Emma was overwhelmed with the help. She was able to collect enough donations and items to create 100 care



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Emma Reese holds one of the care baskets she creates for cancer and memory care patients.

bins, which were distributed at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and the Sisters of Charity's Elizabeth Seton Memory Care Center.

“We chose UPMC Hillman Cancer Center because we have family members who have battled cancer and that is where our pastor, Father John

“ One of the big things for me is facilitating a connection between today's youth and seniors. I want to make sure (seniors) know there is a family behind them and rooting for them. ”

— EMMA REESE

Moineau, is being treated, and the sisters were suggested to me through an alumnus of Notre Dame University,” Emma explained.

The junior in the gifted program at Norwin High School hopes to attend Notre Dame for strategic management.

Emma would like to collect new donations, both monetary and supplies, to create and distribute another 100 care bins. She has reached out to several parishes, including Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysburg, and St. Agnes and Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes, North Huntingdon, for help. She has also enlisted the help of the Notre Dame Club of

Greensburg/Uniontown. While her effort may benefit the sick and the lonely, Emma hopes her project brings the young Church closer to those in the community.

“One of the big things for me is facilitating a connection between today's youth and seniors,” she explained. “In these care facilities there is a social cutoff. Some of these people may not have family. I want to make sure they know there is a family behind them and rooting for them.”

For more information about Compass of Faith, visit Emma's Facebook page, which also includes a link to her GoFundMe page.

Rabbi fills need with invention of Braille Torah scrolls

By **Mary Seamans**
Multimedia Journalist

ROSTRAVER — Imagine being a Jewish rabbi, expected to read from the Sefer Torah at services, and you lose 80% of your vision in one eye and 20% in the other, with the possibility of becoming blind in the future.

Rabbi Lenny Sarko of Congregation Emanu-El Israel, Greensburg, found himself in this situation in 2015.

Rabbi Sarko shared his situation with parishioners at St. Anne Parish recently as part of a learning session.

For more than 3,000 years, Jewish communities have been reading from a Torah scroll for congregational services. The blind and visually impaired were not able to participate in this honor, since it is required that the scroll be read and not memorized.

Although Hebrew Braille was invented in the 1940s, no scroll had been created for a variety of reasons. Using his background in education and with incredible dedication, Rabbi Sarko has created the world's first Hebrew Braille Sefer Torah.

Before the invention of the printing press in 1455, books were rare and expensive. Members of a Jewish community would donate



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Rabbi Lenny Sarko shows Tyler Smith the word "God" on his Braille Torah scroll.

money to purchase a Torah Scroll and then gather a few times per week to read the Torah out loud. That way, everyone would be able to hear the laws and learn how to practice Judaism.

A Sefer Torah scroll is a handwritten copy of the Hebrew text of the Torah. One of the requirements is that the scroll must be all organic. The end of the scroll must be made of wood. The paper must be parchment made from the skin of a kosher animal, and the ink must also be organic.

After suffering from

bleeding in his eyes caused by diabetes in 2015, Rabbi Sarko became sight-impaired. Reading for a rabbi is very important, and he made a decision to learn Braille. While learning English Braille, he discovered that there was also Hebrew Braille. Since it is not taught in the United States, he taught himself, and has also put together a Hebrew Braille course that sends out to others.

He found that there were no Hebrew Braille scrolls, so set about making his own. There were many issues to overcome:

- The scroll had to be made of parchment, and he was told Braille dots can't be put on parchment. He obtained sheep, goat and other kosher parchments and was able to put Braille dots on them.

- The scroll is rolled back and forth when it is read, so the dots would be squished, rendering it unusable. So, the rabbi got a nonkosher scroll and put dots on it, rolled and rerolled it for five months, and found the dots were just fine.

- Hebrew Sefer scrolls are traditionally not touched by hands, since oil and dirt from hands could smudge the letters. They use a pointer, called a yad, to follow the words. The yad is moved above the letters. A typical scroll can last for hundreds of years taken care of properly. Rabbi Sarko believes the same is true with a Braille scroll.

Other problems he was able to resolve included the space required for Braille; the fact that Hebrew is read right to left and all Braille, regardless of language, is written left to right; and words in the Torah that are written extra-large or extra-small because they have important meaning;

The toughest issue was that letters must be put on the scroll manually. A sacred Sefer Scroll cannot be done by a machine. In addition, there

cannot be any mistakes. This issue took Rabbi Sarko almost five years to solve.

To write in Braille manually, you can use a slate and stylus. Rabbi Sarko came up with the idea of making a special slate, and then had to take the Torah text and put it into 40 character lines, organized upside down and backwards to read correctly when embossed on the scroll. He needed to make 239 different slate tops for a complete Braille scroll.

The final issue was cost: There are about 400,000 blind or sight-impaired Jews in the United States alone, and they are spread out. The cost to make any Sefer scroll, traditional or Braille, is about the same: \$50,000-\$100,000. Are people going to buy a Braille scroll for two people to read in their synagogue? Not likely. Rabbi Sarko has formed a nonprofit corporation and is applying for grants to make multiple scrolls.

Scrolls can be lent to other congregations. It took the rabbi six years to make the first set of Braille Torah scrolls, but only six months to make the second one. It takes two weeks to send out a scroll and have it returned. So one set can be used 26 times a year. If this scroll can be used worldwide, how many scrolls does he need to make? Lots!

Geibel Catholic, Conn-Area top basketball tournament

GREENSBURG — The CYO boys basketball tournament was held at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School Feb. 17-18.

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Connellsville, won the varsity championship, and Conn-Area Catholic School, Connellsville, won the junior varsity championship. Results are below

JUNIOR VARSITY

Round One
Mother of Sorrows White 29
Aquinas Academy 17
MOS W — Mickey Kelly, 8;
AA — Michael Eziagulu, 10

Queen of Angels Gold 29
Queen of Angels Purple 4
QA G — Zach Titus and Benedict Cheplic, 6 each; QA P — Karl Raszewski and Michael Faulk, 2 each

Quarterfinals
Conn-Area Catholic 27
Mother of Sorrows White 8
CAC — Conel Stevenson, 12;
MOS W — Vincent Tropiano, 13

Mary Queen of Apostles 26
St. John the Evangelist 18
MQA — Judah Davis, 8;
SJE — Nathan Goletz, 14

St. Sebastian 39
Queen of Angels Gold 14
SS — Luke Reeves, 14, Elliot Fouch 13;
QA G — Cameron Calcara, 8

Christ the Divine Teacher 26
Mother of Sorrows Blue 16
CDT — Ryan Thompson, 13;
MOS B — Brayden Brikis, 6

Semifinals
CAC 24
MQA 21
CAC — Conel Stevenson, 14;
MQA — Judah Davis, 9

St. Sebastian 33
Christ the Divine Teacher 30
SS — Elliot Fouch and Enzo Altomari, 12 each; CDT — Ryan Thompson, 14

Championship
CAC 22
SS 12
CAC — Eric Deal and Tristan Brown, 6 each; SS — Elliot Fouch, 7



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Geibel Catholic players celebrate their varsity win.

VARSITY

Round One
St. John the Evangelist 38
Christ the Divine Teacher 24
SJE — Chase Goletz, 24;
CDT — Zach Skoloda, 17

Geibel 47
St. Sebastian 15
G — Eahn Stevenson, 22 points;
SS — Primo Altomari, 6

Mary Queen of Apostles 49
Mother of Sorrows White 24
MQA — Kyle Lecker, 17, Chase Porter, 14; MOS W — Noah Kallen, 19

Semifinals
SJE 27
MOS Blue 13
SJE — Matt Demaske, 9;
MOS Blue — Michael Kiss, 6
Geibel 51
MQA 32

G — Kade Yoders, 20, Eahn Stevenson, 19; MQA — Chase Porter and Kyle Lecker, 9 each

Championship
Geibel 40
SJE 17
G — Kade Yoders, 13, Eahn Stevenson, 12; SJE — Matthew Demaske, 9

YOUNG PEOPLE CONFIRMED: Bishop Larry J. Kulick continues to visit parishes around the Diocese to confirm young people. Below are photos from St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, and Saint Vincent College, Latrobe. Photos were all submitted.



St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon



Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg



St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite



Holy Cross Parish, Youngwood



St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe



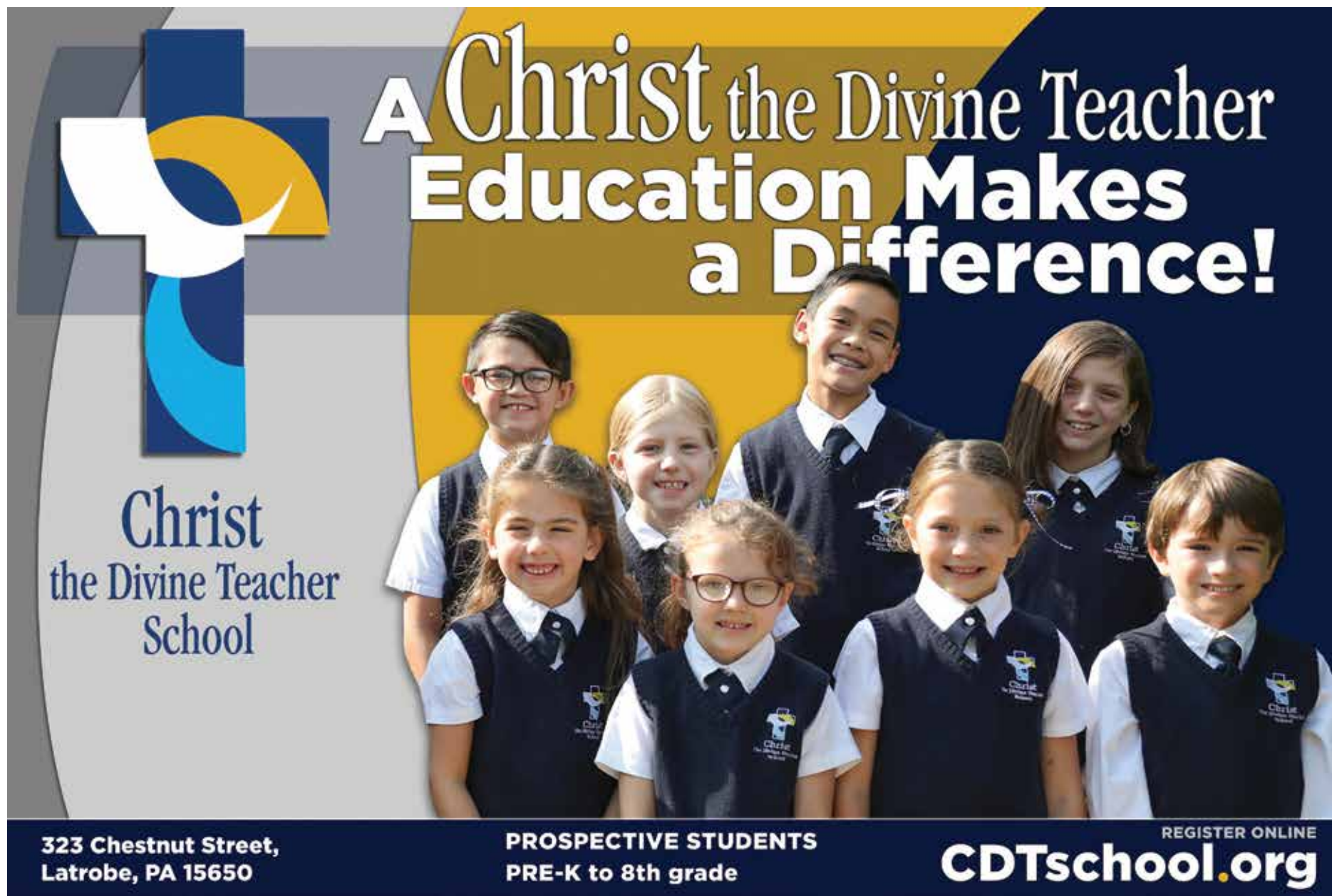
St. Paul Parish, Greensburg



St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell; Christ the King Parish, Leechburg; St. Gertrude Parish, Vandergrift; and Mount St. Peter Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Mary of Czestochowa Parish, New Kensington;



Saint Vincent College, Latrobe



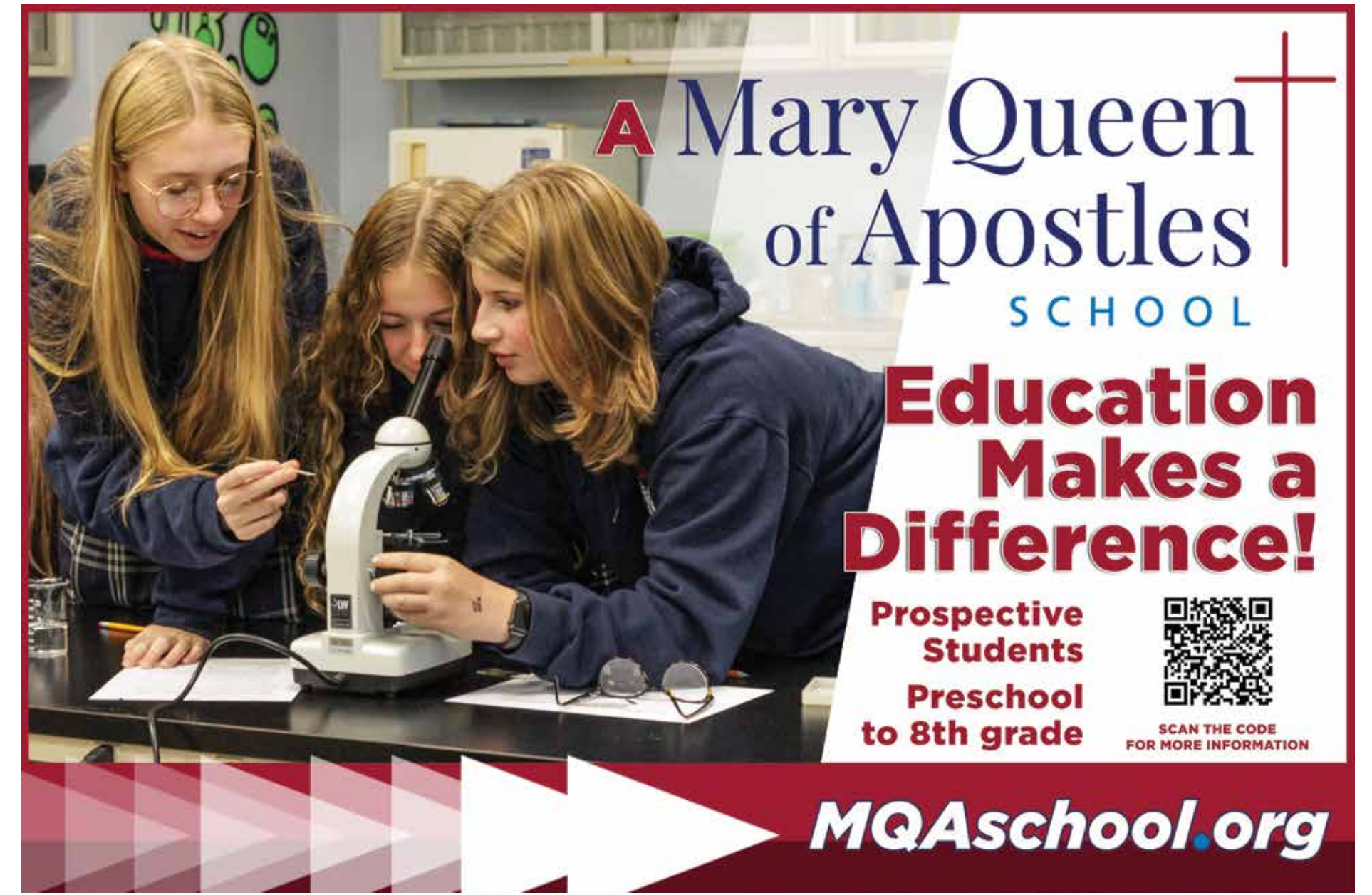
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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BINGOS

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, will hold bingo in the social hall April 21, May 5 and 19, and June 2. Doors open at 1 p.m. and bingo begins at 2. Information: 724-478-4958.

Freeport — St. Mary, Mother of God Parish holds a monthly bingo in the Family Community Center the first Sunday of the month. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m.

Harrison City — St. Barbara Parish hosts bingo the first Wednesday of every month. Upcoming dates are May 1, June 5, July 3 and Aug. 7. Doors open at 5 p.m., with games at 6:45 p.m. The kitchen will be open, and free coffee will be provided. The facility is handicap accessible. Information: 724-744-7474 or 724-744-4594.

Jeannette — Sacred Heart Parish, Jeannette, will hold a Super Bingo April 20 in the Sacred Heart cafeteria. Doors open at 11 a.m. and games begin at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and include lunch, 20 regular games, four special games and a \$1,000 jackpot game. There will also be a 50/50 drawing, basket raffles and more. Tickets: 724-875-2437 or 724-396-9737.

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish will hold bingo May 5 in the parish hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with bingo at 2 p.m. Refreshments are available. Information: 724-423-3777.

BREAKFASTS

Mount Pleasant — The Holy Name Society of St. Pius X Parish will sponsor an all-you-can-eat omelet breakfast April 21 from 8 a.m.-noon in the parish hall. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$3 for children 3-12 (free under 3). There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Takeout will be available.

New Alexandria — St. James Parish will host a spring breakfast and bake sale April 21 from 8 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-12 (free under 6). There will also be a basket raffle. The breakfast is sponsored by the Holy Name and Rosary Altar societies. Information: 724-668-2829.

BURGER BASHES

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish will hold a Burger Bash May 18 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Upcoming dates are June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12. Information: 724-423-3777.

CAR CRUISES/SHOWS

Delmont — The seventh annual Knights of Columbus Memorial Day car cruise and community event is set for May 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish. The day will include food, vendors, a basket auction, a disc jockey and a 1 p.m. tribute to veterans. Entry fee is \$10 per vehicle. All proceeds will benefit the veterans' causes and Clelian Heights School, Greensburg. Information: Dennis Majewski, 724-325-4235 or DTMajewski@aol.com, or Don Granata, 412-215-3473 or granms@outlook.com.

North Huntingdon — A car, truck and motorcycle show is set for June 23 from 1-4 p.m. at St. Agnes Parish. Dash plaques will be awarded to the first 100 entries, with awards in 13 classes. Door prizes, a DJ, food, and basket and 50/50 raffles are planned. Entry fee is \$10. Information/registration: 724-863-2626.

CARD PARTIES

Apollo — St. James Parish will host a card party in the parish activities center April 17. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with food items available for purchase. Card games of players' choice will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Information: 724-882-8776.

Freeport — St. Mary, Mother of God Parish will hold a card party/board game social April 29 from 6-9:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Cost is \$10 per person and includes a salad buffet, refreshments, prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Reservations/information: 724-316-1204.

CHESS CLUB

Freeport — A chess club will meet April 23 and May 7 from 5-7 p.m. in the St. Mary, Mother of God Parish Family Community Center. It is open to all ages and skill levels, no registration is required. Information: 213-999-4953.

CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW

Latrobe — St. John the Evangelist Parish will hold a craft and vendor show May 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Food will be available for purchase. Various raffles are planned.

FAITH AND REASON STUDENT PROGRAM

Latrobe — Saint Vincent College will offer "Faith and Reason," a summer program for high school students and first-year college students, July 7-13. "Faith and Reason" offers students an opportunity to explore a richer, deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. Information/registration: stvincent.edu/faithandreason.

GOLF OUTING

Indiana — The eighth annual golf outing to benefit St. Bernard Regional Catholic School is set for May 18 at Chestnut Ridge Resort, Blairsville. Registration is at 8 a.m., with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Beer, cigars, prizes and food are planned. Cost is \$400 per foursome. Sponsorships are available. Information: David Mattini, 724-388-6695, or John Kopczyk, 724-465-7139.

HEALING MASS

Whitney — St. Cecilia Parish will hold a healing Mass April 29 at 6 p.m.

JEWELRY DONATIONS

Greensburg — St. Paul Parish is collecting donations of used/vintage jewelry for its upcoming sale. Items can be dropped off at the parish.

MAGNIFICAT

Crabtree — The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat — A Ministry to Catholic Women will hold a breakfast April 27 from 9 a.m.-noon at Rizzo's Banquet Hall. Speaker Evelina Sluga will discuss her spiritual journey back to God and the Catholic Church after losing her faith in middle school and

beginning a self-destructive spiral. Cost is \$25 (\$20 for students). Online registration ends April 20. Information: Brenda Concannon, 724-836-2094, or MagnificatGreensburg.com. Upcoming quarterly breakfast dates are July 27 and Oct. 26, with information available on the website.

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT 2024 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The Catholic Accent newspaper is published on the third Thursday of January, July, April and October. The Catholic Accent magazine is published in March, June, September and December. Deadlines for submitting advertising and editorial material are below. Around the Diocese announcements are NOT included in the magazine; however, they are placed in the newspaper and online at theaccentonline.org. Please plan accordingly to have events submitted in time to be included in newspaper issues and online. Information: news@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-834-4010.

PUBLICATION/BROADCAST	SUBMISSION DATE	PUBLICATION DATE
Magazine (Summer Events Guide)	May 3, 2024	June 10, 2024
Newspaper (Jubilarian Edition)	July 3, 2024	July 18, 2024
Magazine	Aug. 9, 2024	Sept. 9, 2024
Newspaper	Oct. 3, 2024	Oct. 24, 2024
Magazine (Christmas edition)	TBD	TBD

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVENA

Jeannette — The Thirteen Tuesdays in Honor of St. Anthony will be prayed at Ascension Parish Tuesdays at 7 p.m. through June 11. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will also take place.

OLDIES DANCE

Mount Pleasant — The Holy Name Society of St. Pius X Parish will sponsor a BYOB oldies dance April 26 from 6-10 p.m. in the social hall. Cost is \$5. Snacks, beer and wine will be included. There will also be a 50/50 drawing.

PLAY GROUP

Perryopolis — St. John the Baptist Parish offers its Luceccitas (Little Lights) play group in its bilingual classroom Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Newborns through age 6 are welcome.

PURSE BASH

East Vandergrift — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish will hold a designer purse bash (21 and over) April 28 from 1-4 p.m. in the social hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35; wine, soft drinks, snacks, and desserts are included (BYOB permitted). Auction baskets, strip tickets and a 50/50 raffle are planned. Tickets: after Sunday Mass, at the parish office in Apollo, or at 724-980-2087.

RACE

Ford City — The Ford City 5K & Kids 1/2

Mile benefiting The Divine Redeemer Catholic School, Ford City, is set for July 6 beginning at 9 a.m. at Ford City Park. For the 5K, cost is \$25 if registered by June 1 (T-shirt guaranteed), \$30 after. The kids' race fee is \$15 (shirts guaranteed if registered by June 1). Registration: getmeregistered.com/fordcity5k.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet April 21 from 3-4:15 in Brownfield Room 202 at Saint Vincent Archabbey. Benedictine Father Killian Loch will speak on "Work in Benedictine Spirituality." Attendees may also attend vespers at 5 p.m. in the archabbey basilica and supper at 5:35 p.m. in the Eichstätt Dining Room (for supper, call Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. The next meetings are May 19, with Benedictine Brother Hugh Lester speaking on "Forgiveness in Benedictine Spirituality"; June 23, with Benedictine Father Edward Mazich speaking on "Stability in Benedictine Spirituality"; and July 21, with Benedictine Father Alfred Patterson speaking on "The Well and the Infirm in the Rule of St. Benedict."

Latrobe — The Secular Carmelite Community is open to potential candidates. Meetings, held the second Sunday of each month at the community in Latrobe, are open to anyone who feels they may be called to live a life of Carmelite spirituality. Information: ocdspa07@gmail.com.



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUMMAGE SALE

East Vandergrift — A rummage sale will be held at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish May 3 and 4 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and May 5 from noon-1 p.m. Information: 724-478-4958.

SPANISH MASS

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

STUDY GROUP

Irwin — The Immaculate Conception Parish Creation Care Team meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Children's Liturgy Room. The team's focus is to study the encyclical "Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home" and to turn the Pope's vision into effective actions. Information: 412-916-8030 or chris@syncross.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Harrison City — The St. Peregrine cancer support group meets monthly (usually the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.) at St. Barbara Parish. All cancer survivors and caregivers are welcome.

Perryopolis — St. John the Baptist Parish offers a bereavement support group that meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lodge Room. Those who have experienced loss of any kind are invited to join. Information: 724-366-0917.

Whitney/Youngstown — Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, an outreach of St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney, Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown, and Trinity Lutheran

Church, Latrobe, offers monthly meetings. Information: 724-423-3777 or 724-537-7358.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kittanning — A regional Vacation Bible School with the theme "Camp Firelight" will be held July 22-26 from 9 a.m.-noon at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. It is open to pre-K (age 4 by Aug. 31) through sixth grade and is sponsored by St. Mary Parish; Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City; St. Lawrence Parish, Cadogan; and St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro. Volunteers are needed. Information: 724-212-6740 or 724-548-7629.

North Huntingdon — St. Agnes Parish will hold its Bible Drama Camp June 17-20 from 9 a.m.-noon. Campers will perform the musical "Holy Moses!" June 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Cost is \$20 and online registration (at stagnesparishpa.com) is due May 13. Information: Mary Blythe, mblythe@DioceseofGreensburg.org or 724-864-5393.

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

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