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IN BRIEF

Rockford diocesan priest named to head U.S. bishops' doctrine secretariat

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Father Michael J.K. Fuller, a priest of the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois, has been appointed to be the next executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs. Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, named Father Fuller to succeed Jesuit Father Peter Ryan, who has concluded a three-year term in the post. Father Fuller's appointment begins Aug. 8. Ordained to the priesthood in 1997, Father Fuller has been associate professor and chair of the Department of Spiritual Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois since 2011. 2000.

Lebanese leaders hope pope-imam meeting leads to new relationships

BEIRUT (CNS)–Lebanese leaders in Muslim-Christian dialogue said they hoped Pope Francis' meeting with Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar University, would lead to new relationships. Maronite Father Fadi Daou, chairman of Adyan, a foundation for interfaith studies and spiritual solidarity based in Lebanon, told Catholic News Service that he hopes the meeting will be the forerunner to a "new dimension of interreligious relations." Mohammad Sammak, secretary-general of Lebanon's Christian-Muslim Committee for Dialogue, said the meeting likely would "open a new page of cooperation For sure this is a very important meeting."



Father Walter J. Riley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, blesses stones memorializing priests and aborted babies in Our Lady's Garden beside the church. Helping him is Deacon Kevin Deignan.

PHOTOS BY TANYA CONNOR

GARDEN OF MEMORIES

Parishioners find peace in Our Lady's Garden

By Tanya Connor



Rita Stukowski shows off the bench made at the Worcester Alternative School in memory of Msgr. Thomas Needham, a former pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish.

WORCESTER – There are many reasons to go to church. And Immaculate Conception Parish on Grove Street has given people another one.

The draw is Our Lady's Garden, where pastor and parishioners blessed stones honoring the deceased Sunday.

Getting to that point involved an alternative school, 800 pounds of topsoil and a BYOB day.

"It came out of a parish council meeting," when parishioner Stephen Sycks raised the idea of a memorial garden, said the pastor, Father Walter J. Riley. "I kind of handed it on to Michelle Deignan. ... She was more than happy to do it."

Mrs. Deignan, who joined this parish after her husband, Deacon Kevin Deignan was assigned here, said there was a garden with perennials that hadn't been touched in years.

Last August, she and a few other parishioners began changing that. They brought topsoil, and plants from their own gardens. Parishioners were invited to BYOB (Bring Your Own Bulb), and more than 100 bulbs were planted.

Parishioner Rita Stukowski, who teaches at the Worcester Alternative School, said she solicited help there. She said James Graham, who teaches industrial arts at the school and goes to St.

Turn to OUR LADY'S, Page 7

Advocates decry plans for stepped-up raids

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles said in a May 25 statement that a planned increase in federal immigration raids is "yet another depressing sign of the failed state of American immigration policy." The raids were announced in mid-May.

Archbishop Gomez' comment was echoed by Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. The archbishop is chairman-elect of the committee.

"These operations spark panic among our parishes," Bishop Elizondo said in a May 25 statement. "No person, migrant or otherwise, should have to fear leaving their home to attend church or school. No person should have to fear being torn away from their family and returned to danger."

While saying he recognized the federal government's role in upholding immigration laws, he said the deportations would not be "an effective deterrent" to migration because these "vulnerable populations" are facing a

Turn to ADVOCATES, Page 7

Diocese to talk about unsafe church's future

By William T. Clew

Bishop McManus, Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel-St. Ann Parish, and Father Richard F. Reidy, diocesan vicar general, are scheduled to meet at 3 p.m. today with members of a Mount Carmel Preservation Society to talk about the future of the church building.

The church building is listed on the state Resource Information System as a historical building and, unless a waiver is granted by the city's Historical Commission, its demolition can be delayed by 12 months. The parish last week filed for the waiver.

Members of the Worcester City Council last Tuesday questioned whether the diocese could legally seek a waiver against the destruction delay, according to news reports. Councilor-at-Large Konstantina Lukes reportedly said a reversionary clause in the deed for the property says that the land must revert to the state if it ceases being used for religious purposes.

Msgr. Pedone said Wednesday that a title search shows the reversionary clause is no longer enforceable. The title search was done by Nelson and O'Connell Title Co. of 1 Exchange Place.

He said the land where the Mount Carmel parish center and ball field stands once belonged to the state. It was an asparagus farm for the Worcester

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By the numbers

Raised
\$4,302,651
Percent of
\$5 million goal
86.1%
Gifts
received
14,874

Catholic Charities: Helping each other thrive

By Christina Galeone
CFP Correspondent

WORCESTER – In John 13:34-35, Jesus told his disciples: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Despite the uncertainty the world faces every day, Jesus' commandment endures. It's

unshakable, revitalizing and lifesaving.

It's also something that Catholic Charities Worcester County, a non-profit human services agency in the Diocese of Worcester, is rooted in. The agency is committed to "strengthening families and to serving individuals in need." And while most of the people whom Catholic Charities serves face uncertainty, it has become a way of life for some of them. Among those people are the ref-

ugees who find homes and hope through the agency's Refugee Resettlement program.

In addition to refugee families, Catholic Charities serves people throughout Central Massachusetts. It does so through what it calls "a network of care" that provides food, shelter, clothing, school supplies, education, budgeting skills, employment assistance for people age 55 and older, addiction

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Venerini Sister Theresa Khen Doan, administrator of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program, right, welcomes a refugee family at airport.



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS
Pope Francis exchanges gifts with Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Egypt's al-Azhar mosque and university, during a private meeting at the Vatican May 23.

Pope embraces Muslim leader, breaking five-year silence

By Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After five years of tension and top-level silence, Pope Francis and the grand imam of one of the most important Sunni Muslim universities in the world embraced at the Vatican May 23.

“The meeting is the message,” the pope told Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar University, as the religious scholar approached him just inside the door of the papal library.

El-Tayeb's spring visit was the first meeting between a pontiff and a grand imam since the Muslim university in Cairo suspended talks in 2011.

Established in 1998, the formal dialogue between al-Azhar and the Vatican started to fray in 2006, after now-retired Pope Benedict XVI gave a speech in Regensburg, Germany. Al-Azhar officials and millions of Muslims around the world said the speech linked Islam to violence.

Al-Azhar halted the talks altogether in 2011 after the former pope had said

Christians in the Middle East were facing persecution. Al-Azhar claimed that Pope Benedict had offended Islam and Muslims once more by focusing only on the suffering of Christians when many Muslims were suffering as well.

In February, Bishop Miguel Ayuso Guixot, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, delivered a letter to el-Tayeb from Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, council president, inviting him to the Vatican to meet the pope.

Cardinal Tauran and Bishop Ayuso welcomed the imam to the Vatican May 23 and accompanied him to the papal meeting.

Pope Francis sat to the side of his desk facing the grand imam rather than behind his desk as he customarily does when meeting with a visiting head of state.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the pope spoke privately with el-Tayeb for 25 minutes and the conversation included a discussion about “the great significance of this new encoun-

ter within the scope of dialogue between the Catholic Church and Islam.”

“They then dwelled upon the common commitment of the authorities and the faithful of the great religions for world peace, the rejection of violence and terrorism (and) the situation of Christians in the context of conflicts and tensions in the Middle East as well as their protection,” Father Lombardi said in a statement.

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis presented the grand imam with two gifts: a copy of his encyclical “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home” and peace medallion depicting an olive tree holding together two pieces of a fractured rock.

After meeting the pope, the grand imam was scheduled to travel to Paris to open the second international conference on “East and West: Dialogue of Civilizations” May 24 sponsored by al-Azhar University and the Catholic Sant'Egidio Community.

Havana's archbishop: post brings fear and trust

HAVANA (CNS) — God's ways can be mysterious and sometimes frightening, but faith means trusting God, said the new archbishop of Havana.

After receiving a pastoral staff from retired Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana, the city's new archbishop told a huge congregation — including officials of the communist government — “You will understand that I'm scared. I do not understand the mystery of why I'm here or why the Holy Spirit chose me.”

Archbishop Juan Garcia Rodriguez, who was installed as archbishop May 22, the feast of the Trinity, told the congregation, “Maybe God took very seriously the motto of my priestly ordination,” which was an adapta-

tion of a line from the prophet Jeremiah: “To whomever you send me, I shall go; whatever you command me, I shall speak.”

Still, the new archbishop said, “The Lord chose me and will not let me down, I trust.”

He said he also trusted in the support and prayers of his brother bishops in Cuba as well as those who traveled to Cuba for his installation, including Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami. He said he trusts in the priests and deacons — “all of them passionate, zealous for the kingdom” — and in the women religious, “who are moms, teachers, women who pray, counselors.”

The Trinity, Archbishop Garcia said in his homily, is a mystery “we cannot understand with our limited human intelligence, but life is full of mysteries” that “cannot be understood with the mind but with the heart.”



Archbishop Rodriguez

World Capsules

Slovak nun killed in Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)—Missionaries and other Catholics gathered in Nairobi May 23 for a requiem Mass for a Slovak nun killed in Yei, South Sudan.

Holy Spirit Missionary Sister Veronika Theresia Rackova, 58, director of St. Bakhita Medical Center in Yei, was shot the night of May 16 while driving an ambulance after taking an expectant mother to the hospital. When the ambulance was attacked by soldiers, Sister Rackova was wounded in the hip and abdomen.

After two surgeries in Yei, she was evacuated to Nairobi, where she died May 20.

Sister Maria Jerly, regional superior for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, told Catholic News Service that Sister

Rackova was shot as people marked John Garang Day. She added that a motive for the shooting was not known.

Three soldiers were arrested in connection with the incident, and Sister Jerly added, “One of them is said to have admitted having shot at Sister Rackova.”

Six of the order's nuns are serving in South Sudan, mainly in the Yei Diocese. Sister Jerly told CNS the congregation did not plan to leave the area.

“On the contrary, we would like to continue giving services to the needy people of this great country of South Sudan,” she said, adding, “Some of our sisters are right now tormented over the incident, but we plan to continue to carry our badly needed services by the needy people of this country.”

Sister Jerly said Sister Rackova would be buried in Kenya.



Aid groups welcome global fund for refugees

ISTANBUL (CNS) — Aid groups, including Catholic organizations, welcomed the establishment of the first global fund for education for refugee children, announced at the World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey's financial capital.

“Thirty million children have lost their homes — they must not lose their education,” Kevin Watkins, executive director of the London-based Overseas Development Institute, said earlier. The United Nations estimates that one in four of the world's school-age children now live in countries affected by a crisis.

The “Education Cannot Wait” initiative initially seeks to raise \$3.85 billion to help 20,000 refugee youth over the next five years. Ultimately, it aims to address

\$11.6 billion needed to support 75 million children worldwide, the institute said.

Until now, education has taken the back seat to other humanitarian assistance, receiving only 2 percent of funding from international donors.

“I am excited by the ‘Education Cannot Wait’ fund because it really focuses on education,” said Jesuit Father Tom Smolich, international director of Jesuit Refugee Service. “JRS feels education is always part of any emergency situation and that has not always been part of the status quo.”

“There is also a real commitment among many funders who see we need to be doing more in this specific area,” Father Smolich told Catholic News Service.

Vietnamese priest freed before Obama visit

HUE, Vietnam (CNS) — Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, a human rights campaigner jailed by Vietnamese authorities, was released from prison three days ahead of the May 22 arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama.

In photos released by the Archdiocese of Hue, the 80-year-old priest can be seen kneeling — with assistance — before the archbishop upon his return to his parish, reported ucanews.com. The archdiocese reported that the priest was in good health.

Ordained in 1974, Father Ly had spent more than two decades cumulatively in prison and 15 years under house arrest on a range of charges related to his activism. The latest arrest dated back to 2007, when he was sentenced to eight years in prison

and five years house arrest on anti-government activities. He was released in 2010 to get treatment for a brain tumor, only to be reimprisoned the following year.

Father Ly had been an outspoken rights activist, campaigning for democracy and freedom of speech and speaking out against the government confiscation of church property.

While his release was welcomed by the U.S. government, his sentence was about to end regardless. Arrested Feb. 19, 2007, Father Ly was handed an eight-year sentence that was suspended between March 15, 2010, and July 25, 2011, meaning he was released barely one month short of serving a full eight years.

Protection of religious minorities is priority

ROME (CNS) — Efforts to protect men, women and children suffering religious persecution and to promote respect for religious freedom globally is “a top priority for the United States,” said a State Department official. Knox Thames, special adviser for religious minorities in the Near East and South and Central Asia, told journalists in Rome May 23 that the protection of religious minorities, especially in areas of conflict, has and continues to be a key concern. Thames met

earlier in the day with Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, head of the Vatican Congregation for Eastern Churches, and Msgr. Antoine Camilleri, undersecretary for relations with states in the Vatican Secretariat of State, to “discuss the situation of Eastern churches and to find ways to protect their member's rights. The Vatican's perspective is uniquely placed,” he said, adding that he met with Cardinal Sandri to “hear his views regarding his flock” and “to find ways to help religious minorities.”

Pope Benedict denies rumors about Fatima

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sixteen years after the Vatican released the text of the so-called Third Secret of Fatima, rumors cyclically arise claiming that the Vatican still is keeping part of Mary's message to three children in Fatima, Portugal, secret.

The Vatican press office May 21 took the unusual step of publishing a communique with reaction from retired Pope Benedict XVI, who — as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — oversaw the secret's publication in 2000 and personally wrote a commentary on it. He insisted at the time that the complete text had been published.

In mid-May, a blog published a story claiming a German priest, Father Ingo Dollinger, said that then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had told him soon after the publication in 2000 that part of the message was still secret.

The Vatican communique said: “In this regard, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI declares ‘never to have spoken with Professor Dollinger about Fatima,’ clearly affirming that the remarks attributed to Professor Dollinger on the matter ‘are pure inventions, absolutely untrue,’ and he confirms decisively that ‘the publication of the Third Secret of Fatima is complete.’”

Vatican approves election of ‘custos’

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Holy See has approved the election of Franciscan Father Francesco Patton as the new “custos” of the Holy Land, replacing Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who held the position for 12 years.

The “custos” is the provincial minister of the Franciscans in almost all of the Middle East, with jurisdiction over territory extending through Israel, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Cyprus and Rhodes, and at their monastery in Cairo. In these countries he serves as a liaison among the patriarchs, bishops and apostolic nuncios. In addition, he is authorized to sign statements with the Middle East patriarchs and must navigate the current delicate political landscape of the region.

The “custos” also cares for the needs of

the local Catholic Community, “the living stones” of the region, and is responsible on behalf of the Catholic Church to care for and guard some 50 shrines, where the Franciscans welcome and coordinate the reception of pilgrims and tourists.

A date for Father Patton's installation, which is marked by three traditional ceremonies in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, West Bank, has not yet been announced.

Father Patton received written statements of congratulations from Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem and the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land. Patriarch Twal assured Father Patton of “the full cooperation of the Latin Patriarchate.” Father Patton, 52, lives in Italy and belongs to the Franciscan Province of St. Anthony.

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Senior SCENE

BOB CRONIN



From the time that we were youngsters, we have had that notion preached to us, that it was far more productive to do something than it was to sit around talking about it, and, like most of our adages, there is a good bit of truth in it. I had it brought home to me in a most interesting manner recently.

As I have mentioned in the past, one of the ways I stay out of mischief is by teaching immigrants to become citizens by the proper filing of their documents and teaching the history and government material they must know in order to qualify for naturalization. Among that information is the knowledge of officials of the state, the job they hold and what their responsibilities are. Also in our syllabus is a study of the Constitution and its Bill of Rights.

Among the rights the First Amendment grants us is the right to petition the government for change. That is always a hard point to get across because as recently arrived people they have a difficult time envisioning themselves confronting an official with a suggestion or even in conversation. Many are still aware of their native accents and some come from homelands where it was best to stay away from officials of any kind. Making a suggestion about how things should be run is simply beyond their comprehension.

The officials they should know by name include the governor, our senators and congressman. To make recognition a bit easier I usually give them a sheet with the title, the person's name and a small picture for identification. These offices are covered thoroughly to assist them in decisions they will make in voting booths once they obtain citizenship.

Another part of their journey to citizenship is a trip to Boston for their isometrics, the latter-day term for fingerprints. Each applicant must be printed before they have their interview with an examiner of the United States Customs and Immigration Service in Lawrence. Each is given an appointment for this step and they are asked not to arrive too early lest the waiting room become overcrowded.

I had an applicant go for her fingerprints recently, and when she arrived in Boston she found that she had given herself too much time and fearful of arriving too early as she had been warned against she decided to have a quick lunch. She chose a spot near her destination and settled in. A few minutes later a tall gentleman took a seat next to her and she wondered where she had seen him before.

During her lunch she sat wracking her brain as to who he might be when suddenly it clicked. He looked like one of the people on that sheet she got in class. She recalled what I had said about talking to these folks and how they welcomed feedback from "ordinary folks" like us, even though they were not yet citizens.

Building up her courage, she leaned over, pardoned herself and asked if he were not Governor Charley Baker. Indeed, it was the governor and she could not believe her good fortune having a seat beside one of the persons we had spoken about and that he was as friendly as she had been told he would be.

He asked where she lived and what she was doing in Boston that morning. She explained that she was studying to become a citizen and that she was in Boston to have her fingerprints taken. He congratulated her on her desire to become an American citizen and the will to follow through with it. Summoning her last bit of daring she asked if she could take a "self" picture of them at lunch. He told her he would be most happy to do so.

Several nights later she came to class proudly with the picture taken at lunch with the governor. She excitedly told classmates that the teacher was right, you could approach and talk to public officials and that she would never be shy about exercising her First Amendment rights to petition the government for change.

Thank you Governor Baker for so dramatically proving my point to one of our students who happily came back and re-enforced that fact to others.

USCCB abuse audit warns of complacency, cites 'room for improvement'

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The annual report on the implementation of the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" warns against complacency in dioceses, and the firm contracted to conduct audits of dioceses and parishes said there was "plenty of room for improvement" in implementing two of the charter's articles.

In remarks prefacing the report, Francesco C. Cesareo, chairman of the National Review Board, the all-lay group that tracks for the bishops how dioceses address clergy sexual abuse, said this year's audit results "continue to demonstrate the progress that has been made in ensuring safe environments for children in the church."

"The bishops need to be acknowledged for keeping the protection of children and young people in the forefront of their leadership by continually enhancing their efforts to comply with the charter," Cesareo said.

However, he also warned that the U.S. church's progress can "foster a false sense of security" that can "lead to complacency."

"Such complacency can lead to a minimalist approach to the charter, which can be seen simply as a series of requirements that need to be checked off, as opposed to an implementation that renders the charter fully operative," he said.

One example Cesareo gave was that "while every diocese has a diocesan review board, thereby complying with the charter's requirement, in some cases the diocesan review board rarely meets or had not met in several years."

In this year's report, the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, was again found to be not in compliance with the charter, as were the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle in El Cajon, California; the Eparchy of Our Lady of

Deliverance in Newark, New Jersey, for Syrians; the Armenian Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg based in Glendale, California; the Ukrainian Eparchy of Stamford, Connecticut; and the Houston-based Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter for former Anglican groups and clergy in North America joining the Catholic Church.

The report said the Lincoln Diocese would take part in the next audit, and that four of the other five ecclesial jurisdictions would as well, although which ones were not specifically named.

between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, 26 allegations of clerical sexual abuse were made by minors, and seven had been substantiated. All allegations were reported to civil authorities. The previous year, 37 allegations had been made, and 43 allegations had been made the year before that.

"While the number of allegations continues to decline, one instance of abuse is one too many," said Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection, in the report.

Also in the same time period, 838 survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy came forward in 123 dioceses with 903 specific allegations, according to the report. The number of allegations is similar to 2013's numbers; the 2014 numbers had been below 2015. The report attributed the increase to "six dioceses experiencing an influx of allegations during the 2015 audit year," most commonly reported from bankruptcy proceedings.

Deacon Nojadera said all 838 had been offered outreach, and that 386 had accepted the offer.

Of the 903 allegations — some of which date back to the 1940s — the investigation is ongoing in 398 of them. In 213 of them, an investigation has been unable to provide proof, often because the accused priest has died. Another 123 were substantiated, while 53 were unsubstantiated and the status of 116 of them is unknown, although some were referred to the provincial of the priest's religious order.

• Editor's Note: The full report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/hp7a36v>.

"While the number of allegations continues to decline, one instance of abuse is one too many."
Bernie Nojadera
Deacon

The Diocese of Santa Rosa, California, was judged to be not in compliance with two articles of the charter having to do with the education of children and those who minister to children about ways to create and maintain a safe environment for children and young people, and with evaluating background of clergy, candidates for ordination, educators, employees and volunteers who minister to children.

"Although the diocese may be providing training for the required categories of individuals, auditors could not accurately gauge participation by their parishes," said the report, compiled by StoneBridge Business Partners. "Even though all others were deemed compliant with this article, there is still plenty of room for improvement."

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Vicar General
Outdoors at the Clergy Section of
St. John's Cemetery
260 Cambridge St., Worcester, MA
at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, May 30, 2016
The Clergy Section is located on the left as you cross over the bridge to drive to the newer section in the cemetery. Parking for this Mass will be on the roads to the left of this section. You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be offered in the Mausoleum Chapel located at the entrance to the cemetery.

Annual Memorial Day Mass
Notre Dame Cemetery
Monday, May 30, at 10:00am
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus,
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Choir under the direction of
Lucia Clemente Falco
Mass is celebrated in the
Notre Dame Mausoleum Chapel
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A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MCMANUS

May 26, 2016

"Love, by its very nature, is communication; it leads to openness and sharing."

- Pope Francis

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This statement, taken from the Holy Father's Message for the 50th World Communications Day, gets to the heart of why the Catholic Church has relied on all forms of communication since St. Paul wrote his first epistle to the Christian community at Thessalonica. Consider, also, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity which we just celebrated. It is a mystery we can only understand as God the Lover, Jesus the Beloved, and the Spirit who is Love. Communications is the means by which we are bound together with one another, when, at its best, we are sharing of ourselves with others, trusting them and listening in turn to their inner thoughts and concerns.

Our Holy Father goes on to point out that within a community, "Communication has the power to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion, and thus to enrich society." He notes that it is possible "both in the material world and in the digital world." He ties the noble purpose of true communication to the mission of this Year of Mercy: "to help wounded relationships and to restore peace and harmony."

On next Sunday we conduct our annual Catholic Communications Campaign, as part of the universal church's commemoration of the 50th World Communications Day. I ask you to pause and reflect on the fact that the Church must use all available means at her disposal – from traditional media to social media, from an email to one person to mass media – in order to evangelize. "The digital world is a public square, a meeting-place where we can either encourage or demean one another, engage in a meaningful discussion or unfair attacks," writes Pope Francis. We must "go to the periphery" in person and in our messages, extending the invitation to come and share God's love and mercy to all who seek hope in face of loneliness and despair.

I invite you to be generous in your response to this second collection at all Masses on the weekend of June 4 & 5. Help us extend the mercy of God through our communications on radio, television, and through effective media relations. We need to establish a stronger presence on the internet, while we help our parishes with their websites as well as email and social media outreach. As we finalize a diocesan-wide communications strategy this year to empower our parishes and diocese to convey effectively the joy of the Gospel, let us keep in mind these final thoughts of Pope Francis as our beacon: "In a broken, fragmented and polarized world, to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness between the children of God and all of our brothers and sisters in the one human family."

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, STD
Bishop of Worcester

Poverty and Mercy (cf Lk 16:19-31)

Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

I should like to pause with you today on the parable of the rich man and the poor Lazarus. The lives of these two people seem to run on parallel tracks: their life status is opposite and not at all connected. The gate of the rich man's house is always closed to the poor man, who lies outside it, seeking to eat the leftovers from the rich man's table. The rich man is dressed in fine clothes, while Lazarus is covered with sores; the rich man feasts sumptuously every day, while Lazarus starves. Only the dogs take care of him, and they come to lick his wounds. This scene recalls the harsh reprimand of the Son of Man at the Last Judgement: "I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was ... naked and you did not clothe me" (Mt 25:42-43). Lazarus is a good example of the silent cry of the poor throughout the ages and the contradictions of a world in which immense wealth and resources are in the hands of the few.

Jesus says that one day that rich man died: the poor and the rich die, they have the same destiny, like all of us, there are no exceptions to this. Thus, that man turned to Abraham, imploring him in the name of "father" (vv. 24, 27). Thereby claiming to be his son, belonging to the People of God. Yet in life he showed no consideration toward God. Instead he made himself the centre of all things, closed inside his world of luxury and wastefulness. In excluding Lazarus, he did not take into consideration the Lord nor his law. To ignore a poor man is to scorn God! We must learn this well: to ignore the poor is to scorn God. There is a detail in the parable that is worth noting: the rich man has no name, but only an adjective: "the rich man;" while the name of the poor man is repeated five times, and "Lazarus" means "God helps." Lazarus, who is lying at the gate, is a living reminder to the rich man to remember God, but the rich man does not receive that reminder. Hence, he will be condemned not because of his wealth, but for being incapable of feeling compassion for Lazarus and for not coming to his aid.

In the second part of the parable, we again meet Lazarus and the rich man after their death. In the hereafter the situation is reversed: the poor Lazarus is carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom in heaven, while the rich man is thrown into torment. Thus the rich man "lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom." He seems to see Lazarus for the first time, but his words betray him: "Father Abraham," he calls, "have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame." Now

the rich man recognizes Lazarus and asks for his help, while in life he pretended not to see him. How often do many people pretend not to see the poor! To them the poor do not exist. Before he denied him even the leftovers from his table, and now he would like him to bring him a



**How often do many
people pretend not
to see the poor!**

Pope Francis



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ
A pedestrian gives money to a homeless man sitting outside St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City in 2009.

drink! He still believes he can assert rights through his previous social status. Declaring it impossible to grant his request, Abraham personally offers the key to the whole story: he explains that good things and evil things have been distributed so as to compensate for earthly injustices, and the door that in life separated the rich from the poor is transformed into "a great chasm." As long as Lazarus was outside his house, the rich man had the opportunity for salvation, to thrust open the door, to help Lazarus, but now that they are both dead, the situation has become irreparable. God is never called upon directly, but the parable clearly warns: God's mercy toward us is linked to our mercy toward our neighbor; when this is lacking, also that of not finding room in our closed heart, He cannot enter. If I do not thrust open the door of my heart to the poor, that door remains closed. Even to God. This is terrible.

At this point, the rich man thinks about his brothers, who risk suffering the same fate, and he asks that Lazarus return to the world in order to warn them. But Abraham replies: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."

In order to convert, we must not wait for prodigious events, but open our heart to the Word of God, which calls us to love God and neighbor. The Word of God may revive a withered heart and cure it of its blindness. The rich man knew the Word of God, but did not let it enter his heart, he did not listen to it, and thus was incapable of opening his eyes and of having compassion for the poor man. No messenger and no message can take the place of the poor whom we meet on the journey, because in them Jesus himself comes to meet us: "as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40), Jesus says. Thus hidden in the reversal of fate that the parable describes lies the mystery of our salvation, in which Christ links poverty with mercy....

- Translation from Vatican.va



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL
DISTINGUISHED SENIOR FELLOW
ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

Intolerance and evangelization

Cardinal Robert Sarah is one of the adornments of the Catholic Church, although it's very unlikely that this man of faith, humor, intelligence, and profound humility would appreciate my putting it that way. His 2015 book, "God or Nothing," is selling all over the world, currently available in 12 languages with more to come. The book tells his story, that of a contemporary confessor of the faith who accepted episcopal ordination knowing that he might well be killed for his witness to Christ by the madcap Marxist dictator who then ran his West African country, Guinea. But the point of "God or Nothing" is not to advertise the virtues of Robert Sarah: the book is an invitation to faith, addressed to everyone, but with special urgency to those parts of the world dying from a suffocating indifference to the things of the spirit.

The cardinal, who was appointed by Pope Francis as Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments with the mandate to continue the reform of the liturgical reform accelerated by Benedict XVI, was in Washington recently to address the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. Cardinal Sarah is not a showman, but he made a deep impression on the 1,300 in attendance by the depth of his faith and the lucidity of his presentation. He spoke movingly of the solidarity of which human beings are capable because we're made in the likeness of the original communion of solidarity – the Holy Trinity. And in that context he defended the weakest and most vulnerable among us, in all stages of life, calling his American audience to live the truths on which the nascent nation staked its independence.

He then warned, quite rightly, that the "death of God" too often results, not in God's burial, but in the "burial of good, beauty, love, and truth" through their inversion: "Good becomes evil, beauty is ugly, love becomes the satisfaction of sexual primal instincts, and truths are all relative."

This accurate description of one root of today's culture wars earned Cardinal Sarah the usual rebukes in the left-leaning Catholic blogosphere, where that shopworn parade of horrors – Manichaeism, culture-warrior, not-

with-the-Pope Francis-program, etc. – was dusted off and trotted out yet again. Ironically, however, Cardinal Sarah's address and his portside critics' predictable response more-or-less coincided with a striking blog post by a Harvard Law School professor, Mark Tushnet, who seems not to have gotten the memo from the Catholic left that we should all just get along. Thus Professor Tushnet, writing in a post titled "Abandoning Defensive Crouch Liberal Constitutionalism:"

"The culture wars are over; they lost, we won...For liberals, the question now is how to deal with the losers in the culture wars. That's mostly a question of tactics. My own judgment is that taking a hard line ('You lost, live with it') is better than trying to accommodate the losers who – remember – defended, and are defending, positions that liberals regard as having no normative pull at all. Trying to be nice to the losers didn't work well after the Civil War...And taking a hard line seemed to work reasonably well in Germany and Japan after 1945..."

There is intolerant, aggressive, God-burying secularism in a nutshell: those of us who believe in marriage as it's been understood for millennia, the right to life of the unborn and the elderly, men using men's bathrooms, and religious freedom in full are the equivalents of post-Civil War lynch mobs, Nazis, and kamikaze-inducing Japanese militarists. Instead of berating Cardinal Sarah for speaking truth to dominant cultural and political power, might it not behoove his carping critics in the progressive Catholic blogosphere to challenge those in their political camp, like Mark Tushnet, who commit such calumnies – as some of us on the other side of the aisle, so to speak, have challenged the calumnies of Donald Trump? Is there no courage to be different left on the Catholic left?

Leon Trotsky, the old Bolshevik eventually liquidated by Stalin, famously said that "you may not be interested in the dialectic, but the dialectic is interested in you." Change "dialectic" to "culture war" and you've got the truth of our situation, as Cardinal Sarah understands. Recognizing that truth is the beginning of any serious effort to follow Pope Francis and heal, evangelize, and convert the culture today.

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SUNDAY'S EPISTLE

FATHER MICHAEL N. LAVALLEE
PASTOR, ST. ANN PARISH, NORTH OXFORD

Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

St. Paul wrote to the Christians of Corinth because he was aware of problems they were having in the life of their church. In 1 Corinthians 11:1-22, St. Paul addresses problems which were occurring at Mass. He states, clearly, that their behavior is “doing more harm than good” and that there were “divisions” among them. He continues to name indifference, drunkenness and disrespect as other issues present in the community. St. Paul goes so far even to say that in these matters “I do not praise you.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 is a continuation of St. Paul’s address to the Corinthians about the problems they were having in their church. After calling them out squarely on what the problems were, Paul engages them in sacramental formation, hoping that such formation leads to stopping abuses at the Supper of The Lord.

When St. Paul founded the Corinthian church, he no doubt instructed the new converts to Christianity on the Mass and sacraments. Such formation was mandated by the Lord himself. We know this because, in Matthew 28:19-20, before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he made it clear that the preaching of the Gospel must be accompanied by sacramental preparation. In this verse, Jesus states “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus goes on to stress that the disciples’ evangelization must involve “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Even though we can presume that Paul had included sacramental preparation in his founding of the churches, the Corinthians seem to have forgotten his instruction. This is evidenced by their disrespect of the Eucharist and the poor way they treated one another. As new converts to Christianity, the Corinthians were still mired in the

ingrained habits and behaviors that had characterized their life in paganism.

In 1 Corinthians 11:23, St. Paul declares that the teaching on the Eucharist that he is now sharing with them he has received “from the Lord.” He goes on to remind the Corinthians that the first Mass took place on “the night he (Jesus) was handed over,” meaning Holy Thursday night. In verses 24-25, St. Paul speaks of the consecration of the Mass during which Jesus changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood. This consecration now takes place at every Mass through the ministry of priests. Jesus established this ministry also on Holy Thursday when he ordained the apostles the first priests, thus establishing the sacrament of Holy Orders.

The passage concludes in verse 26 where St. Paul instructs “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.” The implication is that receiving the Eucharist demands of the receiver a proclamation of faith in the Lord. Specifically, this proclamation is a statement of Eucharistic faith, namely that the Real Presence of Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.

St. Paul’s words to the Christians of Corinth teach us that if we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist that belief must be visibly manifest. This faith must be revealed through our love for God and each other, in a respectful and reverent attitude toward the Eucharist, in our regular attendance at Mass, through our avoidance of sin and through our attempts to build up the Body of Christ.

Some contemporary Catholics, through poor catechesis and bad example, have lost faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist or have never had that faith. On this Sunday’s celebration of Corpus Christi let us recommit ourselves to sharing our Eucharistic faith with the world which needs it so badly.



REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

FATHER CONRAD S. PECEOVICH
PASTOR, ST. ANNE PARISH, SOUTHBOROUGH

The day he fed us with the bread of life

Reflections on Luke 9: 11-17

An Ignatian reflection:

We came out to hear him speak. There were thousands of us. He spoke and taught like no one else before him. He talked about a better world, about a “kingdom of God” wherein all things would be restored to their original intent. It was to be a time of peace for all peoples. We found ourselves hanging on to his every word. This Master alone made sense. He spoke to our very hearts and souls. And everywhere he went, the crowds kept getting larger and larger.

Here we were on a mountainside, standing in the lush green grass. No one gave a thought to anything else but him and his words. It was hot on that mountainside, but the heat seemed to matter little to those gathered around him. His message touched our fears, frustrations and longings. He told us that this new “kingdom” must begin with us, with an interior transformation before God. He didn’t speak of weapons and soldiers and wars. His was a gentle message of love, mercy and justice. The things we thought that were important before really didn’t matter. Prior to hearing the Master speak, we were entrenched in the thinking of the world. Therein, material things were everything.

How often he told us that “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” We had thought that “bread” and what it represented in the material world was all that truly mattered. Jesus, however, spoke to our inner hunger and thirst. Here it was a whole day in his presence, and all that we wanted was to hear more of his powerful message. Each time that he mentioned “bread” to us, it made us aware of our need for some physical nourishment right now. So many images of bread: “I AM the living Bread that has come from heaven;” “Give us this day our daily bread;” “The one who eats this bread will live forever.” The awareness of our hunger only increased as he spoke. And then something strange began to happen.

He took his disciples aside in a sort of huddle and began to instruct them. The word is that he ordered them to feed the crowd. He sensed their hunger pangs and need for material sustenance. The Compassionate Teacher could not dismiss this vast multitude without fulfilling their immediate need: physical food. A plea goes out from the disciples: “Does anyone have any food to share?” We hadn’t planned on being here the whole day. We were out in the middle of nowhere. There was no response.

Suddenly a young boy comes forward with his meager provisions: five loaves and two fish. This could never feed the thousands gathered. Yet, we had the feeling that something was going to happen. Perhaps it might be a miracle. After all, this Teacher was known for his extraordinary abilities. The disciples quietly began to organize the crowds, inviting them to sit down in groups upon the grass. All eyes were on the Master. “Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.”

It happened in an instant. All of a sudden there was enough food for everybody. “They all ate and were satisfied.” What is it with this man? He not only heals the sick; he miraculously multiplies a miniscule amount of loaves and fish to feed the famished multitude.

Conclusion:
The Holy Eucharist satisfies our every need! Each time we experience physical hunger, we’re reminded of our deepest hunger: the need for God. Time and again, Jesus instructed his followers that we should labor for a food that does not perish, but rather the food that leads to everlasting life. He challenged us to make connections between the spiritual and the physical. The physical and material give us but a glimpse into the spiritual. This “bread” that he gives is the bread of peace. The “Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish” assures us that Jesus, God Made Flesh, is equally concerned about the physical hungers of humanity. Physical needs and spiritual needs go hand in hand.

Fundamentals of Catholicism



The Commandments

Sex is sacred

By Father Kenneth Baker, S.J.

There is perhaps no area of modern life, especially in the post-Christian West, where the opposition between Catholic faith and practice on the one hand, and contemporary values and mores on the other, is more evident than it is in the whole area of sex. To put the matter very simply, for the loyal Catholic sex is sacred because it was created by God for the purpose of transmitting human life, for American pagans and secularized Christians, sex is for fun—it is a source of play and self-gratification for the autonomous person who uses it where, when and how he or she wishes with no reference whatsoever to a God-Creator.

For the most part, although not always, the basic position one takes on sex will be an indication of one’s values and practice in such matters as adultery, fornication, masturbation, homosexuality, pornography, artificial contraception, and so forth. The believer will regulate his thinking and life in accordance with the laws of God and the teaching of the Church; the American pagan will think and live on the basis of “personal conscience” and popular cultural standards as set by the media and the peer group.

God said to the Israelites of old, “You shall not commit adultery” (Ex 20:14; Dt 5:18). As it was understood in the Old Testament, adultery was primarily a violation of justice, since by adultery the rights of a third party are usurped. Jesus elevated the relationship between a man and his wife to a higher level than it had been under the old law. He also made it very clear that adultery, and even adulterous thoughts are contrary to the virtue of chastity. For, we read in St. Matthew (5:27-28): “You have heard it said to the ancients, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that anyone who so much as looks with lust at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

It is clear that the Sixth Commandment explicitly forbids adultery, which is an act of sexual intercourse between a married man and a woman not his wife, or between a married woman and a man not her husband. The specific characteristic of the sin of adultery is that at least one of the parties is married; if neither party engaging in sexual intercourse is married the sin is called “fornication”. Adultery adds a sin against justice to the intrinsically grave malice of fornication, which in itself is a misuse of the sexual faculties. It should be obvious that the victim of the injustice is the innocent spouse whose marital rights are violated by the sinning parties.

Implicitly the Sixth Commandment also forbids all impurity and immodesty in words, looks and actions, whether alone or with others. What do we mean by impurity or unchastity? Impurity is any deliberate thought, word, look or deed with oneself or another by which the sexual appetite is aroused outside of marriage, and even in marriage when contrary to the purpose for which God instituted the married state. Some of the chief sins against purity are adultery, fornication, deliberate actions with oneself or others performed to arouse the sexual appetite, such as masturbation or homosexuality. Deliberately indulging in pornography of any kind should also be added here.

Modesty is a virtue which is very closely related to purity or chastity—its purpose is to protect chastity, as it were to build up defenses around it. Modesty is the moral virtue that moderates and controls the impulse for sexual display in men and women. Thus, looked at from the negative point of view, immodesty is any deliberate thought, word or action that tends toward impurity. Sins against modesty include such things as looks, touches, conversation, songs, reading, suggestive clothing, and so forth.

From the positive side, by the Sixth Commandment we are commanded to be pure and modest in our behavior. Purity (or chastity) is a moral virtue which rightly regulates all voluntary expression of sexual pleasure in marriage and excludes it altogether outside the married state. Purity also contributes very much to the preservation and strengthening of the other virtues.

Until very recently all Catholic moral theologians taught that a fully deliberate sin of impurity is a mortal sin. In recent years some Catholic moralists seem to have retreated from this position, or else they have held that what was formerly thought to be sinful (for example, premarital sex or fornication) in all cases is now considered not sinful in some restricted cases. But what some theologians teach is not necessarily what the Catholic Church teaches. For, the Declaration from Rome, issued in December 1975, makes it very clear that fornication, masturbation and homosexuality, knowingly and willingly indulged in, are mortal sins.

GUEST COMMENTARY

KRISTINE CORREIRA
MEMBER OF WITNESS FOR LIFE

Don’t sign your life away with MOLST

You will know a MOLST form when you see it by its bright pink color. (MOLST stands for Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment.) If you are elderly or seriously ill, you are likely to see it soon. But will it really get you the care you want? Rather, choosing a health care proxy is the best way to keep control of your end-of-life medical care.

Medicare now pays doctors \$89.55 to engage patients in end-of-life discussions. These discussions include advance care directives — legal documents that indicate the medical treatment you will, and will not, receive prior to even needing it. A Health Care Proxy form (including the Catholic version) is the only type of advance directives accepted in Massachusetts.

MOLST, on the other hand, is a medical order that takes effect immediately. While end-of-life care is complex for every patient, MOLST tries to reduce it to a few check boxes. It asks about only six areas of care but it can have implications far beyond them.

The first area - cardiopulmonary resuscitation - is the biggest problem. The first choice is Do Not Resuscitate. Most people understand this to mean that if my heart stops beating and I stop breathing, do not make any attempts to revive me. Yet studies have shown that many physicians think that “Do Not Resuscitate” equals “Comfort Care Only” — that you somehow also meant that you did not want any medical treatments other than what will keep you comfortable, not even treatment for conditions that can be cured. While your primary care doctor may know exactly what you mean, he or she most likely will not be the one caring for you in a hospital

or nursing home.

A patient is not obligated to sign a MOLST form.

Some doctors convince us to sign MOLST forms by asking if we want someone pounding on our chests, crushing our ribs, or putting tubes down our throats. Do we sign these forms hoping to avoid such things? Usually what we are trying to avoid is being resuscitated only to have our health so severely impaired that our lives are sustained by a machine. Should we be revived and end up dependent on a machine to live, a health care proxy could withdraw care as we would want.

Before even talking about MOLST, clinicians should first discuss appointing a health care proxy with all their patients 18 years or older, according to the “Clinician Checklist for Using MOLST with Patients.” A proxy can make medical decisions for you if you are unable to at the time of illness.

People usually want to live on once they are in health situations they never thought they could tolerate. Let the doctor’s role be to explain your condition, treatments, expectations, and the impact on your life. You, instead, remain in complete control of your care until you no longer can make decisions. When that happens, your health care proxy — a person who knows you better than your doctor does, who knows your fears, desires, and hopes — will make those decisions.

To refuse a specific treatment with any advance directive before you actually face a medical situation is to literally sign your life away.

• For more information on MOLST see Advance directives; for a proxy form see Resources at www.witnessforlife.com.

Refugees find welcoming at Catholic Charities

Continued from Page One

recovery for men and more. Catherine Loeffler, the executive director of Catholic Charities said, "Catholic Charities serves people of all faiths and provides services throughout Worcester County for elders, families and children and people with developmental disabilities. Catholic Charities also provides outreach to communities and parishes."

But with all the vital services the agency offers neighbors, it serves the global community with the same respect and care. The Refugee Resettlement program helps refugees and asylum seekers - who have been in refugee camps for years - to finally move forward from the turmoil of their native lands. To help these people who have lost so much, Catholic Charities finds them affordable housing, provides them with funds to get them through the initial months, and it assists them with documentation, translation, English language tutoring, city trans-

portation navigation, training and job searches. It welcomes them to Worcester upon their arrival and supports them with its services for six months.

While the Central Massachusetts journey they embark upon to build new lives for their families isn't as treacherous as their escape from their war-torn homelands, it's still an arduous one. It's also one that Sister Theresa Khen Doan, MPV, administrator of the Refugee Resettlement program, knows all too well. A refugee from Vietnam in 1977, she knows how difficult it is to start over.

"I went through it," said Sister Theresa, who added that she's thankful she could speak English before she fled Vietnam. "We try our best to help them get through difficulties from the beginning."

When she sees the families succeed, Sister Theresa said it makes her "feel good" that she and her staff were able to help them. She recalled a recent success story. In 2012, a mother,

father and their two teenage daughters arrived from Syria. Even though only the older teenage daughter could speak English well, the dad was able to get a job six months later, and the elder of the two girls was able to get a scholarship to Clark University. Now, all four members of the family are working. The older daughter is also going to college and hopes to eventually get a master's degree. They were also able to buy a home.

Sister Theresa said, "They are working and studying hard!"

And that's exactly what Sister Theresa and her staff inspire them to do. A Venerini Sister who has run the Refugee Resettlement program since 1978, Sister Theresa happily shares her strong work ethic with her clients. The program helps them to have hope for a brighter future. "We start to encourage them," said Sister Theresa. "I told them it's better to work than to receive welfare."

But without funds from

Partners in Charity, the program couldn't continue to help refugees to build that brighter future.

"Catholic Charities uses its discretionary dollars, which includes our Partners in Charity funds, to supplement many of our services throughout Worcester County," said Ms. Loeffler. "If we did not have funding through Partners in Charity, we face the possibility of having to close offices, lay off employees and end some of our programs, including Refugee Resettlement, Citizenship Education, Immigration and our food pantries." Partners in Charity gives \$350,000 annually to Catholic Charities.

With the support of Partners in Charity, Catholic Charities continues to serve its neighbors. Whether they're local neighbors or soon-to-be local neighbors, it helps them to maintain their dignity. Even in these uncertain times, it helps them to thrive in Christ's love.

Obituaries

Deacon Roger D. Arsenault, 87 dies

GARDNER - Deacon Roger D. Arsenault, 87, of Gardner, died Sunday, May 22 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home surrounded by his family, following a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease.



Born in Gardner on April 6, 1929, he was the son of Donat and Viola (Cormier) Arsenault.

Deacon Roger graduated from Worcester Boys Trade School with the Class of 1947. He later attended Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner.

Deacon Roger was employed by Mass Electric Company of Worcester as a supervisor for 40 years, retiring in 1992.

He was a member of Annunciation Parish/Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church of Gardner. Deacon Roger was the first Deacon ordained in the Diocese of Worcester on June 24, 1978 by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan. He served his ministries at Our Lady Immaculate Parish of Athol, Holy Family of Nazareth Parish of Leominster and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish of Gardner. Deacon Roger retired from

active ministry in July 2001.

Deacon Roger loved all his animals, which included a pet raccoon "Bandit," dog "Zack," and also a ferret and squirrels. He enjoyed wood-working, and created two miniature houses with all the interior furnishings. He also enjoyed watching his favorite shows on television, "Family Feud", "Family" and various court programs.

He leaves his wife of 65 years, Theresa M. (Reinikainen) Arsenault of Gardner; five sons, Neal J. Arsenault of Gardner, Duane R. Arsenault and his wife Sandra of Gardner, Reed J. Arsenault and his friend, Barbara Olendzki of Sterling, Craig R. Arsenault and his wife Priscilla of Gardner and Scott R. Arsenault and his wife Phyllis of Fitchburg; one brother, Raymond Arsenault and his wife Joan of Westminster, Calif.; one sister, Muriel Davies of San Clement, Calif.; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were to be held yesterday from the Boucher Funeral Home, 110 Nichols St., with a Mass in Annunciation Parish/Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. Burial was to be in Notre Dame Cemetery, Gardner. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Mount Carmel Church fate in discussion

Continued from Page One

County jail when the jail was on Summer Street. It was sold in 1947 to the Diocese of Springfield for \$1, with a reservation that, if it ceased to be used for religious, recreational or educational purposes, or not sold to an organization that would use it for one of those purposes, it would revert to the state. When the Worcester Diocese was formed in 1950, the land was transferred to the new diocese.

He said the title search showed that in 1962 there was a change in the law which said that, in order to make the reservational clause apply, the state would

have had to show an interest in the land, and the state did not show any such interest. He said the parish plans to renovate the parish center and continue to use it.

The church, which was opened in 1928, also was on land bought from the state, but it is on a parcel separate from the land on which the center stands and has no restrictive clause on it.

Msgr. Pedone said earlier that architects hired by the parish have determined that the building is unsafe. He said that if the waiver is not granted, the parish will have to continue the work to waterproof the front of the building and reinforce the bell tower with metal straps. He said the parish originally

budgeted \$75,000 for the job but it has gone beyond the budget to \$90,000.

The church was closed earlier this month and Mass schedules at Our Lady of Loreto Parish were expanded to accommodate Mount Carmel parishioners.

Msgr. Pedone said then that Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church had reached a point of disrepair and structural engineers that had been studying the condition of the building, said the building is unsafe and that they could not certify its integrity or safety.

He said that when he informed Bishop McManus that the architects and engineers deemed the building as unsafe, the bishop said the church had to be closed.

Efforts the parish has made since 2007 to raise money to keep the church in repair, or even to meet parish expenses, have been unsuccessful, Msgr. Pedone said.

A "gofundme" account created earlier this month

by parishioner Mauro DePasquale to "Preserve Our Lady of Mount Carmel" has pledges from 12 people totaling \$2,635 as of Wednesday afternoon.

Another website, Save Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Community, has 742 supporters of a petition that reads: "We, the undersigned petition the Bishop McManus, Diocese of Worcester and Monsignor Pedone to address the possibility of leasing a portion of the Mt. Carmel property or the possibility of working off the equity of the land, to rebuild a new Church building further away from the Route 290 Highway or to fix the current Church building. We request that while this work is being accomplished that our Pastor will hold future masses at the recreation center until a new church is build or the current restored for public safety."

According to the petition site on Care2.com, 603 of the supporters are from Massachusetts.

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Our Lady's Garden

Continued from Page One

Columba Parish in Paxton, worked with students to make three trellises and two benches for the garden.

Kathryn O'Neil, another teacher, carved flowers on the benches, which are dedicated to two former pastors of Immaculate Conception: Msgr. Thomas Needham and Father Edward T. Connors.

Parishioner Kathy Freeman took orders for stones for the garden, Father Riley said. People paid \$45 (now \$55) to cover the cost of each stone, which they could have engraved.

"Most people can afford that," Father Riley said. "And if I find out anyone can't, the parish will take care of that." There are more than 100 stones to date, and orders are still being taken.

Partially circling a long-present statue of the Blessed Mother are stones naming priests: "Msgr. Thomas J. Needham, Good and Faithful Servant," "Father Edward T. Connors, Our Beloved Pastor," "Msgr. Edmond T. Tinsley, with Thanksgiving," "Father Peter J. Scanlon, Chaplain of WFD - WPI - Newman," "Rev. Richard T. Carey, pastor - friend." (Parishioners could honor favorite priests, including those who didn't serve there.)

A stone in front of pink roses says, "Every Life

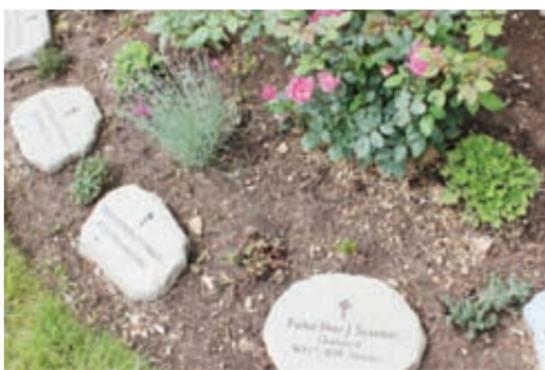


PHOTO BY TANYA CONNOR

Some stones memorialize beloved priests.

is Precious: In Memory of Aborted Babies." Mrs. Freeman said another stone came in this week seeking prayers for the souls in purgatory. There's also a stone expressing gratitude to St. Michael the Archangel. But most stones bear the names of deceased loved ones.

Sunday after Mass parishioners gathered outside by the garden. The pastor offered words of gratitude, blessing prayers and a Gospel reading about Jesus raising a dead man. Then he invited those present to sprinkle with holy water the stones they had ordered.

"I think it's just wonderful what they have done," said Pauline C. Flynn, who has a stone for her parents, Robert and Pauline Cummings. "Every morning I say 'hello' to my folks when I come to church."

"A lot of old people can't get to the cemetery," said Marie Dowd, who blessed the stone for her parents, James and Marie Dunn.

"They're going to be here anyway," her husband, Phil Dowd, said of people coming to church. "They can stop and say a prayer."

Mrs. Deignan said it

would be difficult for a woman in her 90s to get to her husband's grave on the Cape.

"She has a stone for him here, and now she feels close to him," Mrs. Deignan said. She said some stones were placed where they are accessible to people with handicaps.

"People walk there during the day, even non-parishioners," she said. "The garden is the best way you can be next to God."

Father Riley said people come say a prayer and spend some time.

"It's a good thing to see," he said. "It brings some comfort and a little bit of peace to people in the parish.... We're very blessed ... to be able to do this, with the piece of property we have, and putting it to good use."

Father Riley said he thought it would catch on and that any parish that tries this would find the same thing: people want to remember their loved ones. He said he hopes some copy the idea and that they'll need "holy women" like those here who dug up part of the lawn and made it happen.

Travel and Retreat

Friars to make pilgrimage on foot to promote vocations

By Peter Finney Jr.

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) – The idea of making a walking pilgrimage in the United States took root about four years ago when Dominican Fathers Francis Orozco and Thomas Schaeffgen were studying together for the priesthood.

They saw the movie, "The Way," featuring Martin Sheen, who portrayed a father honoring his late son's memory by completing the 450-mile Camino de Santiago, the "Way of St. James," a pilgrimage route across Spain taken for centuries by pilgrims.

"We had both studied abroad in Spain, but we thought, why don't we do something more local, something in this country?" said Father Orozco, chaplain of the Catholic Student Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. "We looked up places, and there really weren't any established pilgrimages in the U.S., so we said, 'Let's make up our own.'"

From that seed sprouted "Friars on Foot," a 478-mile pilgrimage on foot from New Orleans to Memphis, Tennessee, which will begin after the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in New Orleans May 29 and arrive in Memphis June 29.

Folks can follow the two young friars and their travels at the website friarson-foot.wordpress.com.

Father Orozco, 33, and Father Schaeffgen, 32, who is director of the Catholic Student Center at Tulane University, will wear their white Dominican habits and take small backpacks with water and other essentials such as sunscreen, but they will carry no money or cellphones.

"We want to do this very minimally," Father Orozco told the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

"We will not carry any money and we will sort of beg. We hope people will

provide us with apples and granola bars. We don't plan to use any money. We will carry ID cards and medical insurance cards in case that's needed. We've compromised with our superior that we will have somebody update the website every time we reach a destination."

The friars plan to stay overnight at Catholic churches or with Catholic families along the way, celebrating Mass and even giving history and vocation talks about the 800-year-old congregation – the Order of Preachers – whose earliest members were itinerant preachers, walking from town to town.

They will average about 16 miles a day.

The friars are encouraging people to join them on the walk, if only for an hour or two.

"We will have a pilgrim rule, and part of it will be to pray the rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours every day, but that won't take up the entire time," Father Orozco said. "If there are people with us, we can talk about whatever they would like to talk about."

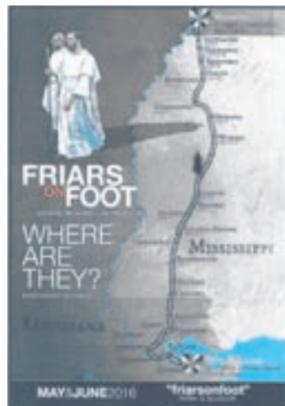
Since walking along interstate highways is prohibited, the Dominicans will take local and state highways. The pilgrimage route will basically track Highway 51 north to Memphis.

The pilgrimage will conclude June 29 at St. Peter Church in Memphis, the National Shrine of St. Martin de Porres.

So what do their families and their fellow friars think?

"As we progressed, the first reaction was the question 'why?'" Father Orozco admitted. "Then it was just a matter of explaining. In many ways, I'm glad it's taken four years to plan it because it gave them time to soften up to the idea. We presented this to the province a couple of years ago, and I think the vague response was, 'These are young guys. Once they're ordained priests they'll forget about it.'"

Surprise.



Advocates decry plan to increase raids

Continued from Page One

humanitarian crisis in their home countries.

On May 24, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel deported a mother and her 14-year-old daughter from the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas.

ICE took the action despite knowing that the family was afraid of being killed in their home country, that their asylum claim had never been heard, and despite knowing that attorneys had requested a stay of removal and were in the midst of filing an appeal, according to Katie Shepherd, managing attorney for the Cara Family Detention Pro Bono Project, which provides legal representation and undertakes advocacy on behalf of mothers and children held in federal family detention centers.

According to Shepherd, ICE also knew that attorneys had requested a stay of removal for the family and

were in the midst of filing an appeal.

"ICE swiftly deported the mother and her child, informing counsel only after the fact. It is outrageous that, knowing that her appeal was in the works and that she had expressed a fear of return, ICE chose to hustle the family out of the detention center in the dark of night and put them on a plane before the courthouse doors opened," Shepherd said in a May 25 statement.

In January, Bishop Elizondo and Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Orange, California, chairman of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson about recent raids that had netted 121 undocumented immigrants in a three-day span, many of them mothers and children.

"Our organizations have firsthand knowledge that these actions have generated fear among immigrants and have made their communities more distrustful of law

enforcement ...," the two bishops told Johnson.

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Travel and Retreat

Martyrs' Shrine could have new ownership; plans for its future underway

By Kate Blain

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) – Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany likes to term the future of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville a “concelebration.”

As when priests celebrate a Mass together and each recites one portion of the prayers, he explained, various entities will be collaborating to ensure the shrine’s future.

However, the bishop cautioned that some of the information circulating in the secular media about plans for the shrine is premature: The planning process is still underway and is likely to continue for some time.

“The process could take the entire summer,” confirmed Carmine Musumeci, former New York state deputy of the Knights of Columbus and a leading member of the Friends of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine Inc., a foundation of concerned Catholics formed by the Albany bishop.

The new not-for-profit



CNS PHOTO/JASON GREENE, REUTERS

In this Oct. 21, 2012, file photo, Deborah Amell touches a statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha after a Mass of thanksgiving at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs.

organization currently has seven board members and several other interested parties participating in conference calls and other communications to discuss the shrine’s future, Musumeci told The Evangelist, Albany’s diocesan newspaper.

Not all of the participants are local; board members include

Father Terry Brennan, a priest who ministers to Native American communities in New Mexico with a devotion to St. Kateri Tekakwitha; and John DeJak, co-editor of a forthcoming book, “With God In America,” featuring the writings of Jesuit Father Walter Ciszek. The priest wrote extensively while he was on retreat

at the Auriesville shrine; his cause for sainthood is being considered.

Bishop Scharfenberger said he’d like to see the organization attain 503(c)(3) nonprofit status. If the planning process for the shrine continues, its ownership could eventually be transferred to the Friends of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine.

However, the Jesuit order would retain its cemetery for priests and brothers on the shrine grounds, the cemetery’s related buildings and the portion of the property known as the “Martyrs’ Ravine,” where St. Isaac Jogues buried the remains of his fellow missionary, St. Rene Goupil, after he was martyred in the 17th century.

The ravine, where pilgrims to the shrine often pray, “is a sacred space important to the Jesuit community,” noted Bishop Scharfenberger.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs covers 400 acres in Auriesville on the site of the 17th-century Mohawk village of Ossernenon, where the “Lily of the Mohawks,” St. Kateri Tekakwitha, was born. Also called the Shrine of the North American Martyrs, the site includes a massive coliseum used for outdoor liturgies, several chapels, Stations of the Cross, a visitors’ center, picnic areas and the Jesuit cemetery.

The Jesuit order, facing a decreasing number of priests and the significant cost of the shrine’s upkeep, decided last year to discontinue staffing the site. The Jesuits have continued to provide for maintenance of the grounds through a company called Parish Property Management Inc.

Musumeci said the current annual operating budget for the shrine

is about \$400,000 to \$450,000 and that the shrine is “self-sufficient,” with cash flow and donations covering expenses.

A fundraising campaign and radio-a-thon last year raised more than \$2 million for necessary repairs and renovations to several of the shrine’s buildings, including the coliseum – money Bishop Scharfenberger called “well spent.”

After Bishop Scharfenberger expressed interest last year in keeping sacramental ministry alive at the shrine, the Jesuit order offered to transfer ownership to the Albany Diocese. But in early May, the bishop reiterated, as he has stated previously, that “I don’t think the shrine can just be managed by one ecclesiastical entity.”

Keeping the shrine open, he said, is not a matter of “just transferring it” to another owner. In fact, Musumeci said he would like to see all eight Catholic dioceses in New York state involved in the shrine; to that, the bishop added religious orders and others nationwide.

A statement in an area newspaper that the Albany Diocese would be sending priests to celebrate Masses at the shrine every day is not only premature, Bishop Scharfenberger said, but does not account for the priests from outside the diocese who have expressed an interest in participating.

• For more information, contact the Friends of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine at friendsofauriesville@gmail.com.

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Travel and Retreat

Pilgrimages planned from the Diocese

Multimedia guide for pilgrims

By Gaby Maniscalco

During this Year of Mercy there are pilgrimages from the Worcester Diocese to holy sites.

DIVINE MERCY SHRINE

Bishop McManus is to direct an Aug. 19 pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, with Mass, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and confessions.

The \$10-per-seat bus leaves Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St., Worcester, at 8:15 a.m. and returns about 6:30 p.m. Pilgrims may also arrange their own transportation and meet the group at the shrine. For more information contact Julie Schroeder at jschroeder@worcesterdiocese.org or call 508-929-4345.

TO ROME/ITALY

The Diocese is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Rome July 11-21. Hosting it are Msgr. Robert K. Johnson, rector of St. Paul Cathedral and director of the diocesan Office for Divine Worship, and Father Robert D. Brusco, pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in Leominster. Father Brusco said no more registrations are being taken.

Pilgrims are to have a papal audience, cross through the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica, and visit the other basilicas. They are also to visit these saints' sites: SS. Francis and Clare in Assisi, Dominic and Catherine in Siena, Anthony in Padua, Maria Goretti in Nettuno and the Basilica of St. Mark in Venice.



Msgr. Anthony S. Czarnecki, pastor of St. Joseph Basilica in Webster,



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA PARISH

During last year's "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" pilgrimage, Father Peter Labuda reads from Acts 17 at the site in Athens where the story took place. Father Labuda, who teaches Bible courses at a seminary in Poland, was with a group organized by his friend Father Ryszard Polek. Father Polek, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Worcester, is leading an "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" pilgrimage to Malta this year.

said there is a waiting list for his pilgrimage to Rome Oct. 20-30. The trip is to celebrate the jubilee year and the 35th anniversary of the St. John Paul II Foundation in Rome, with which Msgr. Czarnecki is involved. Pilgrims are to attend a papal audience, cross through the Holy Door, pray at the tomb of St. Peter and visit Florence, Padua, Venice, Siena, Assisi and Loreto.

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN POLAND

Bishop McManus is to go to World Youth Day in Poland and may meet with pilgrims from the Worcester Diocese there, said Elizabeth Cotrupi, director of the youth ministry office, New Evangelization Worcester For Youth & Young Adults.

She said the diocesan group is made up of 21 pilgrims from St. Patrick Parish in Whitinsville, including their pastor, Father Tomasz J. Borkowski, and Our Lady

Immaculate Parish in Athol.

They are part of a group of more than 350 people from Massachusetts leaving Boston with Cardinal Seán O'Malley July 22, she said. The group returns Aug. 1, but Father Borkowski and his parishioners are staying until Aug. 3 to go to Wroclaw where he grew up. Registrations are no longer being accepted.

WYD events include Pope Francis' visit, Masses, catechesis, Stations of the Cross, and a vigil.

Other highlights of the pilgrimage include visits to the Divine Mercy Shrine and the cathedral in Kracow, the Basilica of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Teresin, the church and tomb of Blessed Father Jerzy Popieluszko in Warsaw, the Shrine of the Black Madonna/Our Lady of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa, and the Auschwitz concentration camp where SS. Maximilian Kolbe, Edith Stein and

others died.



Assumptionist Father Ronald Sibugan, an Assumption College campus minister, said he and two men discerning vocations with his congregation are to join Worcester Diocesan pilgrims at WYD. They leave June 27 to first meet with others in formation in the Assumption Family and go to Rome, Florence, Nimes, Toulouse, Paris and Brussels.



Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Worcester and St. Mary's Schools are sponsoring a WYD pilgrimage July 19-Aug. 5. The pastor, Father Ryszard Polek, from Poland, is leading it. He said 42 people are to go, the trip is closed, but he could accommodate more who make their own flight arrangements. They are to

visit many of the places the diocesan group is visiting, and the seminary in Tarnov where he studied.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL, MALTA

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish is also sponsoring a Year of Mercy pilgrimage to Malta, Nov. 7-18, under Father Polek's direction. Spaces are still available for \$2,850 per person, double occupancy.

"After a successful pilgrimage to Greece (last year) we invite you to continue our journey In the Footsteps of St. Paul," says an advertisement for the trip.

Father Polek said they will visit churches, go through the cathedral's Holy Door and cruise around neighboring islands.

MARTYRS' SHRINE

St. Andrew Bobola Parish in Dudley is planning a June 25 trip to the Shrine of The North American Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y. and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The cost is \$70 per person. Those interested can call Jolanta Bugajski at 508-949-8646.

"During this Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has encouraged us to go on a pilgrimage," said trip information. "Our pilgrimage to the heavenly kingdom is not a solo flight. ... Getting everyone on the same bus to head to the same destination is symbolic of the Holy Catholic Church ... We will learn more about our American, Native American, missionary, and Polish historical roots."

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A Catholic media company has created a guide to help the faithful through their pilgrimage during this year's Jubilee of Mercy.

Misericordia Media, a Catholic Bytes initiative, has released a 10-minute video as part of their guides for "pilgrims journeying through any Mercy Door during the Holy Year of Mercy."

"In instituting this Holy Year, Pope Francis expressed his desire for all people to experience the mercy of God, and this initiative offers pilgrims the opportunity to reflect more deeply upon this time of mercy," said Father George Elliot, director and co-founder of Catholic Bytes, a podcast that delivers talks on various topics about the Catholic faith.

Misericordia Media's video follows an audio guide that was released Dec. 8 to mark the opening of the Year of Mercy. The seven-minute guide offers "a historical background on jubilees and a reflection on mercy," based on Scripture and Pope Francis' document proclaiming the jubilee year, a press release said.

It mainly focuses on the significance of conversion as well as the importance of extending God's mercy to others, whereas the 10-minute video guide was created specifically for pilgrims visiting St. Peter's Basilica.

• Pilgrims can view the guides at <https://misericordia.media>.

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Calendar

The Catholic Free Press welcomes information on events from parish and diocesan groups for inclusion in the Diocesan Calendar. Items should be received no later than Tuesday noon, two weeks prior to publication. Mail to the Diocesan Calendar, The CFP, 51 Elm St., Worcester MA 01609, e-mail calendar@catholicfreepress.org or fax: 508-756-8315

SATURDAY, MAY 28 - FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Saturday 28

Liturgical Services

A **Pro-Life Mass to "save babies through prayer"** at the Problem Pregnancy Chapel will be held at 10 a.m. fourth Saturday of the month in the chapel, 495 Pleasant St.; the celebrant will be Father Kenneth R. Cardinale, pastor of St. Mary Parish, North Grafton.

Devotions

GARDNER – Diocesan Deanery XII will continue to hold **Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration** in Holy Rosary Convent's Blessed Marie Rivier Oratory, 142 Regan St.

SPENCER – Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish will hold **24-hour daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at the Pastoral Office Center, 60 Maple St.

WEBSTER – The parishes of Webster, Dudley and Oxford will continue to hold **Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Emmaus Center, 17 East Main St.

Meetings

St. John Parish will hold a **New Beginnings Spiritual Support Group for Former Prisoners** from 10 a.m.-noon in the lower level of the church, 44 Temple St.; for more information call 508-756-7136.

Sunday 29

CLINTON – **St. John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish Concert Series** will present an organ recital on May 29 from 3-4 p.m. in the church; "renowned" local organist Sean Redrow will perform a program of French organ masterpieces including works by Widor and Durufle; a free-will offering to benefit the performer and the parish will be accepted at the door.

Liturgical Services

The diocesan **Haitian Apostolate Mass** will be celebrated in French (primarily) on Sundays beginning at 12:15 p.m. in Holy Family Parish St. Joseph Church, 35 Hamilton St.; a meal usually will be served in the Parish Center next to the church.

The diocesan African Ministry will hold an **African Mass** Sundays at 11:30 a.m. in St. Andrew the Apostle Mission, 5 Spaulding St.

Meetings

The **Legion of Mary**, Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary Praesidium for Vietnamese, will meet at 12:30 p.m. Sundays in Our Lady of Vilna Church Hall, 151 Sterling St.

Monday 30



MEMORIAL DAY

The annual **Diocesan Memorial Day Masses** will be celebrated at Notre Dame Cemetery at 10 a.m. by Bishop McManus in the Mausoleum Chapel, 162 Webster St. with the choir directed by Lucia Clemente Falco; and at St. John's Cemetery outdoors at 10 a.m. by Father Richard F. Reidy, vicar general, at the Cemetery Clegly Section, 200 Cambridge St.

Bishop Reilly and Father Paul Tougas celebrate Memorial Day Mass at St. John's in 2014.

Devotions

BLACKSTONE – St. Theresa Parish will hold **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays in the chapel, 630 Rathbun St.

CHARLTON – St. Joseph Parish will hold **Eucharistic Adoration** Mondays from noon-7 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays from noon-6 p.m.; following adoration will be recitation of the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy; and a **Prayer Cenacle** will be held at 7 p.m. Mondays, all in the church, 10 H Putnam Road.

Tuesday 31

Devotions

The annual **Our Lady of Mount Carmel-St. Ann Parish and Our Lady of Loreto Parish Miraculous Medal Novena** will conclude in Our Lady of Loreto Church, 37 Massasoit Rd., on May 31 at 7 p.m. with Msgr F. Stephen Pedone, pastor as the speaker.

ATHOL – Our Lady Immaculate Parish will hold **Eucharistic adoration** on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** recited on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m., and Sundays at 10:30 a.m.; and **Rosary-for-Life** recited weekdays before Mass, all in the Church, 244 School St.

BOYLSTON – St. Mary of the Hills Parish will hold **Eucharistic Adoration** from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays in the church, 630 Cross St.

LEOMINSTER – **Eucharistic Adoration** will be held Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in St. Anna Church, 194 Lancaster St.

WEST BROOKFIELD – The **rosary** will be recited at 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on Main Street.

Meetings

SHREWSBURY – The **Legion of Mary** will meet following the 9 a.m. Mass Tuesdays in the St. Anne Parish Marian Room in the Father Smith Center, 130 Boston Tpke.

Wednesday 1

LEOMINSTER – Our Lady of the Lake Parish will begin "**Financial Peace University (FPU)**," a new 9 week ministry to gain financial peace based on money expert Dave Ramsey's FPU strategy on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall, 1400 Main

UPCOMING events

Fortnight for Freedom

Bishop McManus will open the fourth diocesan annual Fortnight for Freedom, a 14-day period of prayer, education and action for the protection of our fundamental right to religious liberty, with a celebration of Mass on June 21 at 7 p.m. in St. Paul Cathedral, 15 Chatham St. Following Mass light refreshments will be served downstairs in the church cenecl at a reception that includes a presentation by Marie Hilliard, PhD, a Canon lawyer, nurse, and director of Bioethics and Public Policy for the National Catholics Bioethics Center. For more information on the Fortnight for Freedom, visit www.fortnight4freedom.org or www.worcesterdiocese.org/respectlife.

NEWorchester Volleyball

NEW Evangelization Worcester for Youth and Young Adults will begin recreational and competitive volleyball on Mondays with a start date of June 20 at St. Ann Parish in North Oxford and St. Christopher Parish in Worcester. For more information or registration before June 1 contact www.NEWorchester.org.

Pancake Breakfast

The annual Sacred Heart-St. Catherine of Sweden Parish Pancake Breakfast will be held June 5 following the 10 a.m. Mass in the church, 600 Cambridge St. Sister Ellen Guerin will be the guest speaker. For tickets at \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 years of age that will include pancakes, sausage and fruit. For more information call the rectory at 508-752-1608.

First Responder's Blue Mass

HARDWICK/GILBERTVILLE – St. Aloysius Parish will hold a "Blue" Mass for First Responders and their families on June 5 at 2 p.m. in the church, 64 Church St., on Route 32. First Responders in uniform are requested to meet at the church for 1:30 p.m. reporting to Lieutenant Landine. For more information or to RSVP contact Lieutenant Landine by June 1 at klandine@townofhardwick.com or 413-477-6708.

Strawberry Festival

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 25th annual St. Joseph Parish Strawberry Festival will be held June 18 with one sitting at 5 p.m. in the church hall, 296 North Main St. Menu items will include ham, homemade baked beans, rolls, potato salad, cole slaw, strawberry shortcake, coffee and iced tea. Tickets at \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 5-10 years of age available for purchase at weekend Masses or at rectory by calling at 508-867-6811.

St. Roch Parish Festival

OXFORD – The annual St. Roch Parish Festival will be held June 11 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on the parish grounds, 332 Main St. Activities will include an outdoor vendor sale, a garage sale, a "giant" basket raffle and money raffles; tables of crafts, homemade baked goods, used books and plants will be featured. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and the "famous" chicken barbecue dinner at 5:30 p.m. with reserved tickets only. For more information about vendor tables at \$25 per space or dinner tickets contact Teri at 508-987-8987.

Spencer International Bazaar

SPENCER – The 20th annual Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish International Bazaar will be held June 10 from 5-11 p.m. and June 11 from noon to 10 p.m. on the parish grounds, 60 Maple St. Entertainment will include games, raffles, a flea market, booths of a "wide variety" of international foods, live music, as well as blow-up rides and special activities for kids and young people.

St.; for more information contact Tracy Shorter at 978-381-3989 or tracy@tracyshorter.com; a fee of \$93 for the classes includes materials, FPU online resources and a lifetime membership.

Spiritual Studies

CHARLTON – **St. Joseph Parish Adult Faith Formation program**

On Television

Sunday Masses

Charter Communications, Channel 193 at 6 p.m.; WWLP-TV, Channel 22 at 10 a.m.; CatholicTV, CW 56/WLVI at 7 a.m.; Worcester, WCCA Cable, Channel 13 at 6 p.m. Mondays (re-broadcast); **Spanish Language** Charter Communications, Channel 101; Comcast, Channel 268; Boston, Channel 296; at 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Daily Masses

Monday – Friday: Charter Communications, Channel 193 at 9 a.m.; Clinton AT&T Cable, Channel 8 at 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Boston CatholicTV, WBXP, Channel 68 at 9:30 a.m.; Shrewsbury Public Access, SPAC, Channel 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Celebrants

Monday, May 30 Msgr. Peter R. Beaulieu
Tuesday, May 31 Father John Savard, SJ
Wednesday, June 1 Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan
Thursday, June 2 Father John Savard, SJ
Friday, June 3 Father Richard A. Fortin

Family Rosary

Sunday: Charter Communications, Channel 193, 8:30 a.m.; Clinton AT&T Cable, Channel 8 at 8 a.m.; Shrewsbury Public Access at SPAC 28, 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Monday:

Shrewsbury Public Access at SPAC 28, 7 a.m.

Saturday:

Shrewsbury Public Access at SPAC 28, at 4:30 p.m.

Diocesan Specials

Sunday: Charter Communications, Channel 193 at 6 a.m.; Clinton A&T Cable, Channel 8 at 8:30 a.m.; Leominster LATV at 9 a.m.; Grafton Cable Access at 10:30 a.m.; Shrewsbury Public Access, SPAC 28 at 7:30 a.m., and 5 p.m.; Westboro, Charter 11 and FIOS 24 at 7 a.m.

will be held Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Cornerstone Hall of the lower church, 10 H Putnam Road.

NORTH OXFORD – St. Ann Parish will continue **Scripture Study** on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish hall, 654 Main St.; Father Michael Lavallee, pastor, will conduct the sessions which will focus on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.

Devotions

NORTH GRAFTON – St. Mary Parish will hold **Eucharistic Devotions** from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesdays from Sept.-May in the church, 17 Waterville St.



Father Dinh Vo Tran Gia, St. Anne Shrine director, gives a blessing in the Hall of Saints.

STURBRIDGE – **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will be held Wednesdays and Fridays from 3-8 p.m. with recitation of the rosary at 6 p.m. Wednesdays and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 p.m. Fridays in the Hall of Saints, Saint Anne Shrine, 16 Church St.

Thursday 2

Devotions

St. George Parish will hold a **Family Prayer Hour** Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church, 38 Brattle St.; services will include recitation of the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

HARVARD – St. Benedict's Abbey will hold **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** to help stop abortion through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe the first Thursday of the month from 6-9:30 p.m. in the abbey, on Still River Road.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – St. Joseph's Parish will hold **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** from 4-5 p.m. Thursdays in the church, 296 Main St.; the service will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and a rosary devotion.

Friday 3

First Friday

First Friday Services

ASHBURNHAM – St. Denis Parish will hold **First Friday Adoration** from 7-8 p.m. in the church, 85 Main St.

AUBURN – St. Joseph Parish will continue a **Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration** on the First Friday of the month from 6-7 p.m. with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers, recitation of the Rosary.

STERLING – **7-9 p.m. St. Richard of Chichester Parish First Friday "Knight Vigil"** will be held in the church, 4 Bridge St.

WEBSTER – **First Friday Adoration** will be held from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in St. Joseph Basilica, 47 Whitcomb St.

WORCESTER: **9 a.m.** Mass followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in **St. Christopher Church**, 950 West Boylston St.; **12:10 p.m.** Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to 3 p.m. in **St. Paul Cathedral**, 15 Chatham St.; **11 a.m.** Mass in **St. Peter Church**, 931 Main St.; **8 a.m.** Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration concluding with Benediction at noon in **Our Lady of Loreto Church**, 33 Massasoit Road; **8 a.m.** Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding at 5:15 p.m. with novena prayer to the Sacred Heart and Benediction in **Sacred Heart-St. Catherine of Sweden Parish Church**, 600 Cambridge St.; **8 p.m. Mass to "save babies through prayer"** will be celebrated followed by Eucharistic Adoration through the night concluding with a Mass celebrated by Father Michael J. Roy, pastor of St. Roch Parish, Oxford, on Saturday at **8 a.m.**, both in **Problem Pregnancy Chapel**, 495 Pleasant St.

Our Lady of Vilna Parish will hold **Eucharistic Adoration** Fridays for one-half hour following the 6:30 p.m. Mass in the church, 151 Sterling St.

Meetings

A **Diocesan Cursillo Ultreya**, a meeting of persons who have completed the "short course in Christian community living," will be held at 7 p.m. on the first Friday of the month in St. Joseph Church, 10 H Putnam Road, Ext., Charlton.



Come Follow Me

Sunday: Charter Communications, Channel 193 at 3 p.m.

The Daily Mass is on Charter Channel 193 on cable TV.

Since Charter TV3 has moved to Channel 193 so did our Daily Mass, Family Rosary, Sunday Mass from St. Paul Cathedral and all Weekly Specials. Look for us on 193.

Book

Beyond rhetoric, there is useful material on ending capital punishment

By Agostino Bono

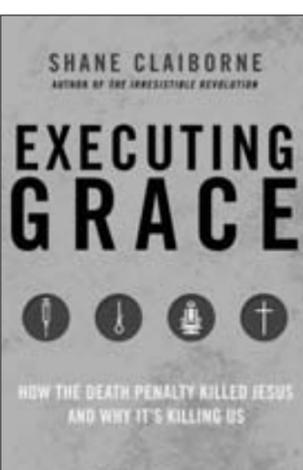
Someone interested in understanding the fervent opposition by many Christians to capital punishment will find a starting point in this book. Author Shane Claiborne combines facts, storytelling and evangelical preaching to explain this push to abolish capital punishment.

He also provides abundant information about capital punishment in the United States and its dwindling use since the Supreme Court reinstated it in 1976.

In the process, he makes a strong case, using Christian and secular reasoning, for ending the death penalty.

Claiborne's basic Christian theme is that the crucified and resurrected Christ showed that love, forgiveness, grace and mercy overcome death, hatred and revenge. Consequently, he concludes, as crucifixion was the capital punishment of its day, it too was defeated and needs to be erased as a form of human justice.

People already versed in the controversies surrounding the death penalty and its Christian history will find nothing new or original beyond the author's ardor. Claiborne is a self-described born-again Christian radical activist who lives and works in a faith community in inner-city Philadelphia and has traveled the world trying to unite similar communities.



“Executing Grace: How the Death Penalty Killed Jesus and Why It’s Killing Us” by Shane Claiborne. HarperOne (New York, 2016). 312 pp. \$17.99.

Spoiler alert: While the book contains many useful facts and historical data, much of it is buried in overwriting, redundancies and Sunday sermonizing.

A key aim is to personalize capital punishment by telling the stories of people receiving the sentence and their later relationships with relatives of the crime victims. It's the author's view that understanding the real meaning of the death penalty is hard unless it is personalized. But, while the names change, Claiborne's basic story is the same: People found redemption through a tragic death. The stories are moving and often inspirational, but the repetitiveness makes love, grace, forgiveness and mercy sound like cliches. Sometimes the cases cited don't even involve capital punishment.

People willing to slice through the rhetoric, however, will find much useful information. He takes on Bible quotes – such as “an eye for an eye” – used to morally justify the death penalty and shows how they need to be understood within the context of other quotes and within the evolutionary nature of a divine revelation spread out over thousands of years in different cultures and different historical periods. Claiborne notes how the “eye for an eye” rule actually limited capital punishment by clearly establishing that the punishment must fit the crime. In other words, you can't take two eyes for one eye as was done in prior cultures.

The author also describes how Christian theologians through the first three centuries almost unanimously opposed capital punishment on moral grounds tied to the lessons of Christ's crucifixion. He presents strong evidence that an evolution away from this took place in later centuries as Christians moved from minority outcasts to being part of political power systems.

Regarding the United States, he notes how capital punishment is unjustly applied to minorities, especially African-Americans, and that the poor receive the sentence in disproportion to their numbers. Added to this are the numerous cases of people condemned to the death penalty who were later proved innocent.

As a substitute for the death penalty, the book proposes “restorative justice,” a concept by which public officials, relatives of the victims and criminals themselves work together to devise plans to amend the harms done by the crimes. While it sounds controversial and somewhat idealistic, Claiborne sites U.S. cases in which such a framework has been applied. The idea certainly provides food for thought.

South Carolina Catholic makes sacred art from simple office supplies

By Christina Lee Knauss

ST. MATTHEWS, S.C. (CNS) – For years, Matthew Quay picked up paper clips from desks and absent-mindedly straightened them while listening to discussions or presentations at work.

He also carried some in his pockets to straighten during Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Orangeburg.

It was simply something to do with his hands to help him stay focused, he said.

He never figured that simple action would eventually turn into works of art that help persecuted Christians overseas.

Last fall, Quay started to experiment with twisting the straightened clips into various shapes. He made a cross. With a few more twists, he formed the corpus of Christ.

Within days, he was making beautiful crucifixes out of paper clips, sacred art formed from the simplest of office supplies.

Since then, Quay's creations have been displayed at the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center. Sales of the artwork have raised thousands of dollars to help persecuted and displaced Christians in the Middle East.

Around the same time he made his first paper-clip crucifix, Quay was feeling helpless and sad about the plight of families fleeing Syria and other war-torn parts of the Mideast.

“In September of 2015, I saw all those images of the refugees, especially that little boy who washed up on the shore in Turkey,” he told The Catholic Miscellany,



CNS PHOTO/CHRISTINA LEE KNAUSS, THE CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

Matthew Quay of St. Matthews, S.C., displays a crucifix that he made out of ordinary paper clips. Quay never figured that simple action would eventually turn into works of art that help persecuted Christians overseas.

newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston. “It really bothered me because I felt we were so comfortable over here and it seemed like there was nothing we could do. I never thought my feelings about the refugees and my art would come together.”

In December, his mother, Deni Quay, asked him to sell his work at Holy Trinity's annual Christmas bazaar. Quay, who belongs to Knights of Columbus Council 6891, had recently learned of the Knights' nationwide efforts to raise money for Christian refugees in the Middle East.

Finally, he said, he saw a way for his art to help the people who haunted his thoughts.

By December, his crucifixes had evolved from simple crosses in one or two colors to larger, more elaborate ones made with clips of varying sizes in many hues. In two days, he made more than \$1,400 for the refugee effort.

That success prompted Quay to devote even more time to his creations, to expand the complexity and variety of detail, size and color.

He purchased paper clips from office supply stores and online sources. People started giving him extras they had around the house. He especially treasures a donation of hundreds of vintage ones that came from the home of a former schoolteacher. Older clips, he said, come in darker, more burnished hues of silver and gold which add a special look to the crucifixes.

He found some about 4 inches long in a sale bin at a store. Those large clips ended up being ideal for his big crucifixes, which can be up to 17 inches long and use more than 200 clips. These large pieces take about 18 hours of work to complete, while smaller ones take

about four hours.

Quay said his inspiration for the colors comes from the seasonal vestments worn by Father Wilbroad Mwape, administrator at Holy Trinity, where he's a member.

When he's working, Quay said he spends a lot of time in “meditative thought.” Sometimes he prays “lots of Hail Marys,” he said, or for various prayer intentions.

He is most aware that the crucifixes are God's work through him, especially when he considers what their sales have accomplished.

A series of simpler figures of Christ affixed to wooden crosses raised more than \$950 when his council sold them after Masses. That, combined with money raised from the bazaar and the exhibit, means more than \$5,500 will be donated to help refugees.



CNS PHOTO/SONY

Chuck, voiced by Josh Gad, and Red, voiced by Jason Sudeikis, appear in the animated movie “The Angry Birds Movie.”

The Angry Birds movie

By Kurt Jensen

NEW YORK (CNS) – Take an addictive phone app, contrive a plot to “explain” motivations, chuck in puns, brief potty humor and lengthy slapstick sequences, and you have the inane 3-D animated adaptation “The Angry Birds Movie” (Columbia).

That may sound like a harsh assessment of cheerful, largely inoffensive kiddie fare. So let's put it this way: Which would you rather do, play “Angry Birds” and hurl tiny flightless fowls at evil green pigs – which will at least focus your mind, however fleetingly – or watch a screenful of birds discuss their feelings for 97 minutes?

Among those emotions, in keeping with Hollywood's endless emphasis on individuality, is a central character's determination to dissent from the preternatural cheerfulness he finds all around him.

“Why do we have to agree?” Red (voice of Jason Sudeikis) asks the other inhabitants of Bird Island. “Why does it matter that we're not the same?”

Sometimes, the film concludes, it's important to have a warrior mindset. Especially so when the island's eggs are at risk from invading pigs who want to enhance their diet with yolky goodness.

That certainly squares with just war theory, and viewers of faith willing to squint sufficiently can even read a pro-life message into the movie's premise.

Red takes an anger management class, which proves futile but does supply him with a duo of new pals, both endowed with superpowers: Chuck (voice of Josh Gad) has the gift of great speed, while Bomb (voice of Danny McBride), as his name implies, can explode at will.

The pigs, led by Leonard (voice of Bill Hader), seduce the island's residents with endless parties as a preliminary to their egg theft. To thwart them, Red and his friends seek out the Mighty Eagle (voice of Peter Dinklage), the only denizen of the island who can fly. But he's too out of shape to be of any help, at least until the threat to the community's future becomes more obvious.

From there, things progress along lines that the more than 3 billion people worldwide who've downloaded the app will find familiar.

The film contains mildly scary action sequences and fleeting scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested.

Build the language of faith!

CATHOLIC QUIZ CATHOLIC QUIZ OF THE WEEK™ PART A MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST MAY 29, 2016

- What is the Latin name for the Body of Christ?**
 - Agnus Dei
 - Dominus Vobiscum
 - Corpus Christi
- What is customary on the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ?**
 - Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
 - Reception of Ashes
 - Blessing of Throats
- According to the psalmist, “You are a ____ for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.”**
 - priest
 - prophet
 - king
- At what part of the Mass does the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ?**
 - offertory
 - consecration
 - communion
- Who was the priest-king who offered bread and wine in thanksgiving for Abram's victory over the captors of Lot?**
 - Joshua
 - Noah
 - Melchizedek
- “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the ____ of the Lord until he comes.”**
 - power
 - death
 - resurrection
- Which 13th century religious woman and visionary saint first promoted the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ?**
 - Saint Thérèse of Lisieux
 - Saint Juliana of Liège
 - Saint Joan of Arc

Answers and References
 1 • c. Corpus Christi
 2 • a. Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
 3 • a. priest (Psalm 110:4)
 4 • b. consecration (CCC 1377)
 5 • c. Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20)
 6 • b. death (1 Corinthians 11:26)
 7 • b. Saint Juliana of Liège

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Mary's Day of Service



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. MARY PARISH

SHREWSBURY – St. Mary Parish recently held its 4th Annual Day of Service. According to the parish, some 250 people participated in the event. Pastor Msgr. Michael F. Rose, above, sifts dirt at the Saints Francis & Therese Catholic Worker House in Worcester, one of the sites at which the parishioners volunteered.



Anthony Finlay with his children, Jake and Liv, work at the St. Mary's vegetable garden.



Caroline Lynch, left, helps paint a fence at The Mustard Seed in Worcester. Parishioners also worked at Visitation House and packaged meals for Catholic Relief Services as part of the Day of Service.

Trinity marches in Southbridge parade



PHOTO COURTESY OF AL MENARD

SOUTHBRIDGE – Trinity Catholic Academy participated in the town of Southbridge's Bicentennial Parade on May 14. Besides the banner carriers, above, the school entered a float in the parade decorated as birthday cake for the town. The school also celebrated its 25th year as an elementary school. The float included handprints from all the students and teachers, along with words that the students used to describe various aspects of what Trinity Catholic Academy means to them.

165th Anniversary of Foundation scholarship



Sister Constance Bayeur, S.S.A., presents the scholarship to Morgan Polinski.

WEBSTER – On May 5, Morgan Polinski received the Sisters of St. Anne "165th Anniversary of Foundation" Scholarship. Morgan was awarded the scholarship for demonstrating academic effort, service beyond the school's expectation, and for exemplifying the spirit of the Sisters of Saint Anne in caring for others.

Sister Constance Bayeur, S.S.A., personally presented the scholarship to Morgan at Mass. Morgan will be attending All Saints Academy in the fall.

Eight scholarship winners

STERLING – St. Richard of Chichester Parish gave out eight \$750 scholarships to high school seniors at Mass on May 8. The scholarship names and winners are:

The Marie San Martino Scholarship of St. Richard's
Winners are: Julia Hryniwecicz, David Philbin

The Father Michael Warner Scholarship of St. Richard's
Winners are: Caitlyn Boutotte, Kenan Kolanda

The C.C.D. Helper Annual Scholarship of St. Richard's
Winners are: Shannon Sweet, Rachael Sweet

The Annual Altar Server Scholarship of St. Richard's
Winner is: Michael Curtin

The 'Paul Bergeron' Memorial Knights of Columbus Scholarship of St. Richard's Council 14940
Winner is: Daniel Pingeton

Honoring Rosa and her followers



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

FITCHBURG – On May 11, St. Anthony School held its annual celebration of Venerini Associates and Sisters with a Mass and presentations followed by a special meal served by the school's eighth-graders. These women have played a large part in the history and founding of the school. Pictured above, back row left to right, Father Leo-Paul LeBlanc, Associate Patricia Fitzgerald, Sister Loretta Ciccarelli and Sister Frances Julian. Front row, left to right: Associate Ellen DePatie, Sister Carol Skehan, Sister Pauline Badagliacca, Sister Inez Ferrari, Sister Theresa Rose Carchidi and Sister Janet Badagliacca. Little "Rosa Venerini" pictured in front of the group and at left, is Anjali Caron a first-grader. In her day Rosa Venerini rang her bell to let all the school girls know it was time for school. Her motto was: "To Educate, is to Set Free"



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Presentation Gardens blessed

By Patricia O'Connell
CFP Correspondent

FITCHBURG – St. Bernard Elementary School celebrated an anniversary with the dedication of a statue and garden, honoring religious sisters and a former student.

This is the 50th year the school, which was founded in 1886, has been in the present building.

On May 16 Bishop McManus celebrated Mass in the cafeteria. Then he blessed a new statue of the Blessed Mother donated by Terry and Patricia Martin, in honor of Patricia Martin's mother, Ellen DiNardo Feigenbaum.

Mrs. Feigenbaum was educated at St. Bernard Elementary School and St. Bernard Central Catholic High School. She was



active in her parish, St. Anthony of Padua, and worked at the family grocery store while raising her children.

A blue flier inserted into the Mass program said the statue will serve as a "wel-

come to all who enter our door."

The Martin family also donated Presentation Garden, which surrounds the statue and is dedicated to the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The sisters came to Fitchburg 130 years ago to teach the children of Irish immigrants. They are still active at the school and in the community. Several attended the Mass.

In his homily Bishop McManus touched upon the school's motto, "Deeds not words," taken from the message proclaimed by the sisters' foundress, the Venerable Nano Nagle.

Speaking about the Gospel in which Jesus drove a demon out of a boy who was prone to convulsions, Bishop McManus



PHOTO BY PATRICIA O'CONNELL

Bishop McManus prepares to bless the new Presentation Garden and statue of Mary, seen at left, at St. Bernard's Elementary School in Fitchburg.

said the Lord took the boy by the hand and helped him to stand up. Jesus always extends his mercy, the bishop said. He said banishing the demon was accomplished through the power of prayer.

"Never underestimate the power of prayer," he

told listeners. "Prayer is simply lifting our hearts and our minds to God."

He noted that the Blessed Mother talks infrequently in the Bible; she doesn't say a lot, but her actions speak volumes. At the Wedding Feast of Cana she tells the servers to "do

whatever he tells you" just before Jesus turns water into wine.

"She tell us, 'Do whatever My Son tells you,'" Bishop McManus said to the students. "We are taught that deeds of mercy are more important than words."