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Diocese Will Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Each year, the annual National Catholic Schools Week is not merely an observance, but a source of pride for the 20 grade schools and four high schools in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

"Every school in our Diocese will celebrate the week with a variety of activities," said Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden, director of education.

"The teachers and students see this as an opportunity to share the activities and spirit of their schools, especially during Catholic Schools Week."

The National Catholic Schools Week observance will be held from Sunday, January 26 through Saturday, February 1. The theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service."

The theme encompasses several ideas that are at the heart of Catholic education. Schools are communities - - small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, Church, city, and nation. Faith, knowledge, and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

"Some schools will begin the week with a Sunday Mass, many in which students and parents will address the parish com-

munity. They will discuss the benefits of their education and its importance to their Catholic faith," said Sister of Saint Agnes Mark Plescher, director of elementary education.

"All of the schools will hold Open Houses and will have a breakfast or luncheon. Many plan to invite war veterans to join them as a tribute for the sacrifices they have made for this country. Parents, grandparents, and volunteers will also be invited to share the day with them," added Sister Mark.

Of particular interest to Sister Donna Marie is a Patriotic Rosary planned by the students at Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown.

Said Sister Donna Marie, "this sounds like a great idea. I've never heard of it before." The idea originated by the founder of the Community of Caritas in 1910 upon a visit to Independence Hall in Philadelphia, when he sensed a strong presence of the Holy Spirit.

The students will dress in patriotic red, white, and blue, and write letters to veterans in their area thanking them for their service to our country.

Before each of the five decades of the Rosary is recited, words from a famous historical figure will be read and a patriotic song will be sung. Upon each bead a state will be mentioned.

The historical figures they are using are: George Washing-



ton, John Adams, General Robert E. Lee, James Iredell, one of the first justices of the Supreme Court; and Jedediah Morse, a prominent geographer of early America, and Father of Samuel F. B. Morse, the pioneer of the telegraph.

A sampling of many of the activities planned in the schools include spelling bees and knowl-

edge bowls. There will be family reading nights promoting religious vocations and careers.

Saint Andrew School in Johnstown is planning a Sock Hop. Admission to the dance will require a new pair of socks to be donated to charity. They also plan to collect cans of soup for the local food pantry, pennies for the Saint Vincent DePaul So-

ciety, and their older students will work in soup kitchens.

Saint Michael School in Loretto has many activities planned. Among them will be a collection of food items to be donated to the Dorothy Day Justice Center in Loretto. They will write essays and poems that focus on the theme of National Catholic Schools Week, and collect loose change they will donate to the Loretto Volunteer Fire Company.

The students continue to excel academically in diocesan schools. "I think we're doing very well academically," said Sister Donna Marie. "We're continuing to coordinate curriculums between the grade and high schools so our students are ahead of the curve when they begin their secondary education."

Sister Mark says the grade schools have been focusing on the arts such as music and drama this year, and foreign languages. "It's just beautiful to see the way our teachers work with the young students," said Sister Mark. "We are trying to teach children how to be independent thinkers and workers."

Sister Donna Marie, too, had high praise for teachers, administrators, parents and volunteers. She said the success of the schools is a collective effort. "It's very encouraging to see our enrollment continue to grow in both the high schools and grade schools," she added.

Faith, knowledge, and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

Adult Enrichment

Sabbath Series

Gallitzin: Once again the Carmelite Community of the Word is offering their well-known "Sunday Sabbath Series." Spend your Sunday afternoons enriching your spiritual life and taking seriously God's invitation to Sabbath rest.

The first in the series, The Incarnation: "Keeping God in the Flesh" by Oblate Father Ronald Rohlheiser, OMI is Sunday, February 2, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Future Sunday Sabbath presentations are as follows: February 16, "Many Faces of Fear: Exploring the Roots of Religious Fear"; March 2, "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler"; March 23, "Pius XII: Under the Roman Sky"; April 6, "Restless Heart: The Confessions of Saint Augustine."

Donation is \$15.00 for each

session or \$65.00 for five sessions registered at the same time. Pre-registration is required by the Friday before each session.

Overnight Mini-Retreat

Gallitzin: The Carmelite Community of the Word is offering an overnight retreat, "Create a New Heart in Me O God," Friday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. to Saturday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.

The retreat includes conferences, private and communal prayer, and time for private reflection, as well as opportunity for spiritual direction. Donation is \$45.00, and includes two meals, overnight lodging in a private room, and materials. Pre-registration is required by February 11; a \$10.00 non-refundable deposit due with registration.

Sessions will be held at Carmelite Community of the Word Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin PA.

To register, get directions, or for more information, call (814) 886 - 4098.

Community

Feed The Need Event

Johnstown: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will hold its first annual wine tasting event Saturday February 15, 2014. "Feed the Need With Wine" will be held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Living and Learning Center from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The event will also include art vendors, music and a photo booth. Wineries include Starr Winery, Allegheny Cellars, B&L Cellars, Glades Pike Winery, Raspberry Acres and Wapiti Ridge Wine.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person and will benefit the Society's Food For Families program in Johnstown. To purchase tickets call (814) 539 - 4627.

(Continued On Page 3.)



Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2014! This year's theme highlights three of the most important elements of Catholic education: faith, knowledge, and service.

Faith is absolutely central to the mission of our Catholic schools. They are places where our Catholic faith, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the teachings of the Church are proclaimed and integrated into the entire school experience. Our students are provided with the knowledge that will make them future leaders in our local communities and wherever they go. Our Catholic students are noted for their high academic standards, and the graduation rate is nothing short of outstanding.

Our students often tell me that a highlight of their Catholic school experience is the opportunity to put their faith and knowledge into action through their service to God and neighbor. Students deeply appreciate the opportunity to pray and worship regularly in their Catholic schools. I have personally seen the results of their efforts to be of service to others, especially the poor, in our diocese and beyond. And I receive numerous expressions of gratitude from the persons who benefit from the service of our Catholic school students.

The value of Catholic schools is clear; just ask the students. I invite everyone, including laity and clergy, to join me in responding to the challenge to make our elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable options for families for years to come. When the entire Catholic community comes together, great things can happen, and I thank you for your support.


I truly love visiting our schools and talking with students. Their faith, knowledge, and service are inspiring. If you have the chance, I encourage you to stop by and see for yourself. In honor of Catholic Schools Week, many schools are celebrating special Masses and offering open houses. Please join them in the celebration. I know you will be impressed and encouraged!

With prayerful best wishes to students, parents, and faculty during this Catholic Schools Week 2014, I am


Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Mark L. Bartchak*


Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown



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In The Alleghenies



YOUTH CHOIR: The Youth Choir of Saints Gregory and Barnabas Parish, Johnstown, led the sung prayer at the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy on Tuesday, December 24, 2013. The choir, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, also performed the play "Christmas Gifts" during the homily. Father Robert Ruston is pastor. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Greg Cveykus (sound technician), Sophia Conrad, Emma Preuss, Reagan Chase, Cody Reese, Abby Martinec. Second row: Marina Sumrada, Tre' Butts, Sydney Chase, Dawn Chase (play director) and Lois Graham (choir director).

(Continued From Page 2.)

High Schools

Open House

Altoona: Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School will host an open house and family fun night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. The event is open to students of all ages and all schools.

Information stations will be available on educational opportunities, financial aid, athletics, clubs, activities, technology center, along with representatives from the area parochial schools and Saint Francis University.

School tours will be available along with an open gym for students and an opportunity to meet the Marauders. Free Marauder draw string bag to all attendees, refreshments and free drawings.

Comedy Night

Altoona: Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School and M&T Bank present Touched by an Angel Comedy Night on Saturday, February 1 at Bavarian Hall. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. followed by three comedy acts starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Touched by an Angel event helps raise funds for the Bishop Guilfoyle Angel Fund, which helps students with financial hardships.

Tickets are \$70.00 per couple and are available by calling the Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic development office at (814) 944-3987. The ticket price includes dinner and the comedy show.

The Touched by an Angel event also features a silent auction that includes college tuition vouchers, Bedford Spring gift certificates, and many other great prizes.

Higher Education

Spaghetti Dinner

Loretto: The Dorothy Day Center at Saint Francis University will host a spaghetti dinner and Chinese auction on Sunday, February 9, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The dinner is open to the public and will be held at Saint Michael School Hall.

The dinner will include spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Cost for an adult meal is \$7.00; meals for children 12 and under are \$4.00.

All proceeds from the dinner and auction will benefit the Dorothy Day Center, which was created in 1981. It is a volunteer-based agency that strives to live out Franciscan values by following in the footsteps of its namesake, Dorothy Day. The Center serves local families in need in four counties (Blair, Bed-

ford, Cambria, and Somerset). The Center provides support, programs, food, clothing, and monetary assistance and relies mainly on donations from the local community to be able to help others. For questions about the dinner please call (814) 472-2832 or visit francis.edu/ddc-spaghetti-dinner-14/.

Sign Day

Loretto: The Saint Francis University American Sign Language (ASL) Club will host its third annual Sign Day on Sunday, April 6, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the John F. Kennedy Student Center.

The event is open to students in grades one through twelve. Participants will learn the alphabet, numbers, Pledge of Allegiance, and will also jam in ASL to "Dynamite" by Taio Cruz. In addition, Boy and Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to learn the Scout Pledge or Scout Law in ASL, and will be on their way to earning a badge.

Registration for the event is due no later than Friday, March 7. The cost is \$10.00 per child, and includes a t-shirt. Partici-

pants should bring a labeled, bagged lunch to the event. For more information, or to register, contact (814) 472-351 or lakeline@francis.edu or visit francis.edu/asl-sign-day-2014/.

Schools

Help National Zoo

Johnstown: At just about the same time that a new baby panda was being born at the National Zoo in Washington, DC., a group of students in Johnstown was being asked to help with one of that zoo's major fundraisers—"ZooLights". For "Zoolights", the National Zoo is decorated in spectacular fashion! The theme for this year's included large paper Mache animals by California artist Andy Byers. Zoo fundraiser, Judy Mabon, needed 1,000 origami cranes to be made by hand and prayed upon in reference to an ancient Japanese tradition; and she called upon the 7th and 8th grade classes at Cathedral Catholic Academy to do so.

(Continued On Page 6.)

TRIDUUM IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES



**February 9-11, 2014
7:00 PM each night**

SUNDAY

**Adoration – 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM
7:00 PM – Praise and Worship
Holy Hour with the Rosary
Exposition and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament**

MONDAY

**Adoration from 4:00 – 7:00 PM
7:00 PM – Mass**

TUESDAY

**Adoration from 4:00 – 7:00 PM
7:00 PM – Mass with Anointing of the Sick
GUEST HOMILIST – FATHER ANTHONY PETRACCA
Confessions each evening at 8:00 PM**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH
2700 Broad Ave Altoona**

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Point Of View

Struggling with being sick over the last several days leaves my body feeling tired and depleted, wanting only to crawl back into bed and hide under the covers for mornings on end. How wonderful the thought of hibernation sounds to me! A dark, cozy, warm resting place where my only goal is to fall into a deep, dream filled sleep, allowing the busyness of life to go on about me, without a care in the world, being wonderfully oblivious to time itself! Sleep, sleep, wonderful sleep!

“Wake up, you are dreaming!” the voice in my head suddenly stirs my thoughts back to reality. This wonderful thought can’t be entertained for too long, for my schedule is packed and there are things to get done! “No time for being sick,” the voice reminds me. “Your daily routine does not allow time for this inconvenience, push through it, rub some dirt on it and go on.” “Don’t you know the world and all its cares abound?” UGH! Will someone please give me my favorite blanket, sheepskin slippers, and turn off the lights? My mind needs a serious nap!

Why is it in the craziness of this time - crunched world we find it hard to slow down, to admit that we may need some rest, to be honest and say we are tired and weak? Why do we have to always put on a strong front, afraid to let down our guard, when the truth is when we are tired and exasperated by life, taking the time to rest is not only okay but really essential, actually a very Christ like thing to do!



The Bureau Drawer

By Amy Kanich
A Need For Rest

I remind myself often of the gospel story which tells of the account of Jesus ministering to large crowds, healing the sick, casting out demons and then retreating to the other side of the mountain, to REST! God, made into flesh, knew that in order to continue in His ministry of life and to fulfill His earthly mission that He needed to slow down, get away from it all, to go to the other side of the mountain and rest in His Father’s embrace.

Many of us are tired and some of us may be really, really tired from the trials of our lives. Some are tired from physical illness, exhausted from mental worries, worn –out from life’s emotional hurts. Tiredness can come in the form of life’s disappointments, unrealistic expectations, loneliness and prolonged grief. Being tired of the cares of everyday life is really tiring in itself!

Just like the Gospel account, when we feel the weight of being tired taking its toll, God calls us to rest, to come to the other side of the mountain to renew our strength, to fall into the arms of our loving Father. So where is the other side of the mountain for Catholics in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown?

Maybe for some a resting place is found by kneeling in the presence of Jesus, during Eucharistic Adoration, at one of our beautiful diocesan churches, for others it may be realized in an individual or group spiritual retreat graciously hosted by our religious communities, and for many it is discovered in the faith filled programs and workshops held throughout our diocese, such as those sponsored by Family Life.

Family Life is offering several upcoming “other side of the mountain” programs for individuals who need to find rest and restoration in their lives. Upcoming programs include **Renewing Passion and Purpose** for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse through divorce; **Widow/ Widower’s Spiritual – Tea** for those individuals who would like to rest in the Lord, as they continue on their own life’s journey and **Calm My Anxious Heart** – a program designed for women who long to experience peace and contentment despite feelings of anxiety and fear in their daily life. For those who are interested in any of these programs, please call the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551. The other side of the mountain awaits you!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
New Model For Schools Must Succeed

In her 1948 history of the Sisters of Mercy of Loretto – Cresson, **So Surely Anchored**, author Katherine Burton provides this description of the first parish school in Loretto, opened by the Sisters in 1848:

“The convent proved itself much too small for their purpose, and so much of the work was conducted in a tinner’s shop next door which was no longer in use. Benches for the children were nailed against the walls, and a chair was provided for the instructor. There was no other furniture. Everything was simple and plain, but from the beginning the Sisters were delighted with the results of their work.” Burton notes further on that the pioneering efforts of the Sisters were not easy, but they were heartened by the fact that “the children were good and willing to learn.”

Thus began Catholic school education in the territory that would eventually encompass the Diocese of Altoona – Johnstown.

In the long years that have passed since those first Sisters of Mercy began to teach in Loretto, the strength of Catholic education has waxed and waned, and grown strong again, in these Allegheny Mountains. From one pioneering Sisterhood, many dozens of religious communities of women came here to educate the young people of our local Church. And when their numbers declined, faithful lay women and men took up the burden and have made noble efforts to keep our schools alive. They have struggled valiantly, as did their predecessors, to build schools that are communities of faith, knowledge and service.

Today, in the Diocese of Altoona – Johnstown, 20 Catholic elementary schools and 4 Catholic high schools continue the ministry of Catholic education begun in the tinner’s shop in Loretto. Over 4500 students are educated in our Catholic schools. Standing behind those students are parents, teachers, parish communities and pastors who are committed to seeing those schools survive.

To work to ensure the survival of our schools, Bishop Mark has announced the beginning of a new model for Catholic elementary schools, one that moves from a parish – based approach to a regional, collaborative model. Four geographic quadrants of our Diocese have been recognized; a Catholic high school is located in each of those quadrants. The Bishop is now meeting with pastors from those four regions to explain what this new model might entail. Collaboration among all interested parties is essential if this new model is to work. With a goal of making Catholic education “available, accessible and affordable” it is vitally necessary that the new model will work. Failure is not an option.

Much has changed in Catholic education since the days of the tinner’s shop school in Loretto. But even today children are good and willing to learn. They deserve to be able to learn in a faith – based environment where Catholic values are given full voice.

For the sake of the children, may all work together to make this new, regional, collaborative model of Catholic education, a success.

With Few Words On Abortion, Pope Francis Shows A New Way To Be Pro - Life

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis' decision to talk less than his predecessors about abortion has puzzled and distressed some supporters of the pro-life movement. Yet the pope has made clear his commitment to the defense of unborn life and, thanks to his colossal popularity and gift for communicating across cultural divides, his pontificate could prove a boon to the pro-life cause in enormous and unprecedented ways.

The pope's comparative reticence on abortion became evident to many observers a few months into his pontificate. At a June Vatican Mass dedicated to pro-life causes, an event that had been planned under Pope Benedict, Pope Francis surprised many when delivered a homily without any reference to abortion, euthanasia or any other specific threat to life.

During his weeklong visit to Brazil the following month, the pope said nothing about the country's moves to liberalize abortion (or its legalization of same-sex marriage), explaining afterward to reporters that the "church has already expressed itself perfectly on that."

Among people used to regarding the pope as the world's foremost advocate for the unborn, his silence was disquieting.

"Some people think that the Holy Father should talk more about abortion," Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston said in a speech to the Knights of Columbus in August. But the cardinal added: "I think he speaks of love and mercy to give people the context for the church's teaching on abortion."

In a widely quoted interview published the following month, Pope Francis acknowledged that he had "not spoken much" about "issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods," and that he had been "reprimanded for that."

"But when we speak about these issues, we have to talk about them in a context," the pope said. "The teaching of the church, for that matter, is clear and I am a son of the church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time."

The day after that interview was published, Pope Francis spoke out strongly on abortion for the first time since his election, denouncing it as a product of a "widespread mentality of profit, the 'throwaway culture,' which has today enslaved the hearts and minds of so many," and stating that "every unborn child, though unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of the Lord."

Just as strong were his words in the apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), published in November, in which he affirmed the church's "particular love and concern" for "unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us," and quoted Blessed John Paul II's statement that "every violation of the personal



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano

POPE AND PRO - LIFE FAMILY: A couple wearing T-shirts with the message in Portuguese, "Stop Abortion," present a replica of a fetus to Pope Francis during the offertory at the closing Mass of World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in this July 28, 2013, file photo. The pope had met the couple, who have a baby girl with anencephaly (missing part of her brain), the previous day and invited them to participate in the Mass.

dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God."

A key element in the pope's words on abortion is the link he makes between protection of the unborn and the wider cause of social justice.

"Defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right," Pope Francis wrote in the apostolic exhortation. "It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be."

It is nothing new for a pope to draw such connections, as Pope Francis knows, since he made a similar point in September by quoting Pope Benedict: "If personal and social sensitivity in welcoming a new life is lost, other forms of welcome useful to social life will dry up."

Yet such arguments are especially effective coming from Pope Francis, because his vehement

criticisms of global capitalism, along with his conciliatory attitudes toward some of the more contentious issues between the church and contemporary secular culture, have earned him a reputation as less of a conservative than either Blessed John Paul or Pope Benedict.

"It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life," Pope Francis has written. Nevertheless, many now see support for legalized abortion as a progressive position. The idea of a pope who is at once progressive and pro-life is thus bound to strike them as paradoxical.

And there is nothing better than a good paradox for getting someone to question his assumptions, even on a topic as polarizing and long-debated as abortion. If any public figure today is capable of persuading large numbers of people outside the pro-life ranks to change, or at least open, their minds on the question, it is Pope Francis.

There is another way, at least as important, in which Pope Francis acts a witness for life: the countless images of him embracing, kissing and caressing people with crippling or disfiguring injuries or diseases. No verbal argument could more powerfully refute the eugenic mentality behind the culture of abortion than the sight of a pope passionately celebrating human lives that many would insist are not worth keeping.



CNS Photo/Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters

POPE KISSES SICK CHILD: Pope Francis kisses a sick child as he arrives to visit the Bambino Gesù children's hospital in Rome Saturday, December 21, 2013.

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School



OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY Fun NIGHT

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

At Bishop Guilfoyle

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DIFFERENCE!

(Continued From Page 3.)

Their religion teacher, Marsha Critchfield, who happens to be Judy's sister, was happy to introduce this service project to her students, and they readily agreed.

Anyone who has visited the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., knows that it is free of charge to all visitors. It takes much work behind the scenes to keep it that way! Fundraising is a major component of what goes on out of the public's view, and "ZooLights" is one of the zoo's annual projects. For "ZooLights", the zoo, not normally open for evening hours, is open at night, giving families an opportunity to visit and explore in a nocturnal environment. It's a great treat for all animal lovers—young and old alike!

That's where the 7th and 8th grade students from Cathedral Catholic Academy enter the picture! Once they committed to the plan, the students learned to make the paper fowl and be-

gan their endeavor, making a prayer intention on each crane they folded. They sent their creations in two batches, with the last one arriving in Washington by the end of November. They even made an extra 50, just in case. The zoo staff loved the paper birds immediately—with one staffer actually requesting to use them for his wedding this summer!

The children are very proud of their accomplishment, primarily because they were able to help our country in this unique and valuable way. In fact, the school's parent association sent both classes on a trip to the zoo to see their handiwork in its full spectacle. The students traveled to Washington on Monday, December 16, 2013, for a special tour that acknowledged their participation. They were awestruck when they finally got to see all 1,000 cranes in one place because they knew that for this one day, they were an actual part of the National Zoo!

You're Invited!

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

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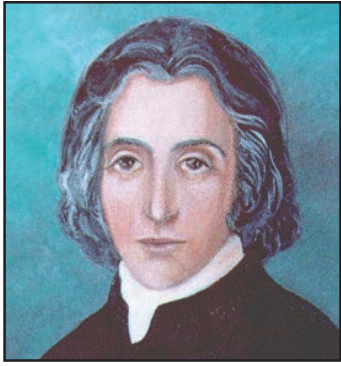
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Cause Of Jesuit Missionary Echoes That Of Father Gallitzin

As the Cause of the Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin enters its Roman phase today, Monday, January 27, the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints is considering the Cause of another pioneer missionary who, like the Reverend Prince, devoted his life to people in a land far from home, desiring to remain with the people there forever, making their

way of life his own.

The Cause of Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci was opened and almost immediately closed in 1984, in the Diocese of Macerata, Italy, where he was born in 1552. Bishop Claudio Guliodori of Macerata reopened the Cause in 2010; the official records or "acta" of the Cause were received at the Vatican last May.

Father Ricci's Cause is of particular interest to one of his fellow Jesuits: Pope Francis.

According to Catholic News Service, Bishop Giuliodori met Pope Francis at the Vatican the first week of May. He wrote in the Macerata diocesan newspaper, "I never imagined I'd be able to speak about the cause of Father Matteo Ricci with a Jesuit pope. After the great attention given by Benedict XVI, who never missed an occasion to encourage us to promote the cause, we now have the joy of placing it into the hands of a Jesuit."

The bishop said when he spoke to Pope Francis about the cause, the pope highlighted Father Ricci's "innovative method of evangelization based on the inculturation of the faith" and the missionary's courage and humility in learning from the Chinese.

Father Ricci entered China in 1583 and began writing a catechism in Chinese 10 years later. His insistence on respecting Chinese culture and customs, and even tolerating forms of ancestor veneration by Chinese who had been baptized, placed him at the center of a huge church debate on culture and religious practice.

Father Ricci died in Beijing May 11, 1610, and his death was followed by centuries of church debate and even disputes over the extent to which a very limited number of Confucian practices -- including veneration of ancestors -- could be seen as a tolerable part of Chinese social and cultural tradition rather than as religious practices incompat-



CNS Photo/Nancy Wiechec

JESUIT MISSIONARY: An old print depicts Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci in traditional Chinese garb, a mode of dress he adopted in his attempt to inculturate Christianity into Chinese life.

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

O God, light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who sent Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin to serve God's people in the Allegheny Mountains, feeding your sheep by his words and forming them by his example, pour out your Spirit to sow seeds of truth in people's hearts and to awaken in them obedience to the faith.

May the Gospel continue to be preached and the Sacraments bring power and grace to the faithful. By the example of this man of faith, Demetrius Gallitzin, may your people advance in the path of salvation and love.

Confident of your faithfulness to us, we humbly ask you, our God, to grant us the favor of (name your intention).

May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ + +

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ible with Christianity.

Marking the 400th anniversary of Father Ricci's death in 2010, retired Pope Benedict said Father Ricci's life and mission represented a "fortunate synthesis of proclaiming the Gospel and of dialogue with the culture of the people who are receiving it, an example of balance between doctrinal clarity and prudent pastoral action."

Father Ricci is also known for having brought European scientific instruments and knowledge to China, opening up a scientific exchange between the two continents, the now-retired pope had said. However,

Father Ricci "didn't go to China to bring science, but to bring the Gospel, to bring God," Pope Benedict said.

Agence France - Presse reported Sunday, January 12 that Ricci has been held up several times by the Jesuit pontiff, Pope Francis, as an exemplary evangelist.

"We must always ask forgiveness and look with shame upon the apostolic failures brought about by a lack of courage. I am thinking, for example, of the pioneering intuitions of Matteo Ricci which, at the time, were abandoned," Francis said in a speech in November.

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
**Abortion, Hunger
 Are Threats To Peace**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis said world peace requires the defense of human dignity from violations such as world hunger, human trafficking and abortion.

The pope made his remarks Jan. 13 in his first annual address to the Vatican diplomatic corps, offering a survey of world conflicts and crises he said were caused by "envy, selfishness, rivalry and the thirst for power and money."

Speaking in the Apostolic Palace's Sala Regia, the vast "royal hall" where popes traditionally received Catholic monarchs, Pope Francis spoke of what he has frequently called a "throwaway culture" exemplified by widespread food waste that leaves children starving or malnourished.

"Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food or disposable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as if they were unnecessary," the pope said. "It is horrifying just to think that there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day; children being used as soldiers, abused and killed in armed conflicts; children turned into merchandise in that terrible form of modern slavery called human trafficking, which is a crime against humanity."

The pope also lamented what he called rising numbers of "broken and troubled families," which he attributed to both moral and material factors: the "weakening sense of belonging so typical of today's world" as well as the "adverse conditions in which many families are forced to live, even to the point where they lack basic means of subsistence."

Noting the devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan in November, Pope Francis warned against "greedy exploitation of environmental resources," and quoted what he said was a popular adage: "God always forgives, we sometimes forgive, but when nature -- creation -- is mistreated, she never forgives!"

Most of the pope's speech was devoted, as usual for the occasion, to geopolitical problems in different regions of the world.

The pope called for an end to the almost three-year old civil war in Syria, voicing hope for upcoming peace talks and praising neighboring Lebanon and Jordan for accepting refugees from the conflict. He also noted what he called "significant progress" in ongoing negotiations over Iran's nuclear program.

Pope Francis lamented the "exodus of Christians from the Middle East and North Africa," as well as violence between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Without specifying countries, the pope noted sectarian tensions in Asia, "where growing attitudes of prejudice, for allegedly religious reasons, are tending to deprive Christians of their liberties and to jeopardize civil coexistence."

The pope recalled his July visit to the southern Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, an entry point for immigrants without legal permission to enter Europe, and voiced sympathy with those who, "in the hope of a better life, have undertaken perilous journeys which not infrequently end in tragedy."

"I think in particular of the many migrants from Latin America bound for the United States," he said, "but above all those from Africa and the Middle East who seek refuge in Europe."

After his speech, the pope personally greeted the attending ambassadors and their spouses.



ONE MORE TIME: Postmarked January 25, 1944, this postcard shows the church and rectory of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Parish in Gallitzin, and also bears the portrait of founding pastor Father Pawel Brylski. Addressed to Father Francis Reed Hoy, editor of *The Catholic Register*, a message on the card's back, dated January 24, 1944 reads "I have sent you the report, Saturday, but it takes three or four days before you can get it. Such is the service of mailing in Gallitzin PA." It was signed by Father Francis Pilz, pastor. The card was posted with a one - cent defense stamp.

A few days ago, my daughter was telling me about something that one of her children had done. It was not something harmful, but it was not something good. "I let it slide," she said. "You have to pick your battles."

I agreed.

Not getting around to picking up your toys in your bedroom isn't on the same level as smacking your brother in the head with one of those toys.

Yes, clean your room but ... it's not the worst thing that can happen.

As a parent, spouse, adult son or daughter, sibling, employer or employee, be wise to pick your battles, to consider what matters and what you can let slide. On a small scale, it's a matter of judgment tempered with mercy.

In a similar way, as adults, we have to consider and choose what "battles," what religious, social or political causes, we're willing to become more actively involved in, and that can be tough because it's easy to be pulled in so many directions. Do we fight for the unborn, the hungry, the homeless, the abused, the unemployed or underem-



Your Family

By Bill Dodds
**Picking Your Battles
 And Causes**

ployed, the exploited, the poorly educated, the homebound, the dying? The list is so long, the stories, the faces, are so sad and the needs are so great.

The church teaches us to perform corporal works of mercy, such as feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned and burying the dead. Jesus told us that whatever we do for these, "the least," we do for him.

What can we do? And what can't we do?

We can't do everything we may want to do. We can choose one area, one issue, to which we feel called. Perhaps we can focus on a need we've experienced and our firsthand knowledge of it will foster empathy and understanding.

We can't save the world. (It has been noted that position has been filled.) But we can make a huge difference in the lives of individuals. That's true whether we work on the front lines (offering care to women facing crisis pregnancies, for example) or at the systemic level (advocating changes in the laws regarding abortion, for instance).

We can't hand out blank checks to every worthy cause, ministry or apostolate, or sit on the sidelines and solemnly vow to set up a charitable foundation once we win the lottery. We can give to a cause, organization, ministry or apostolate that needs our donation and will use that gift prudently.

We can pray. There's no "can't" to that. There's no excuse not to do that -- today.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Completing Christ's
Sufferings

Q. When I was reading evening prayer recently, I came across a quote about our filling up what is lacking in the suffering of Christ. For a few years in the early 1950s I was a Trappist monk at Gethsemani, and I have read a fair number of spiritual books since then. But now I am 80 years old and can't seem to remember what that sentence means. What could possibly be lacking in the suffering of Christ? (Audubon, N.J.)

A. The passage to which you refer is taken from Paul's Letter to the Colossians 1:24 and is translated in the Bible as follows: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church."

This does not mean that the sacrifice of Jesus was incomplete. In fact, the Letter to the Hebrews says in 10:14: "For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated."

What it means is that, for whatever reason, God has chosen to involve us, as followers of Jesus, in the work of redemption. Pope Pius XII said in his 1943 encyclical "Mystici Corporis Christi" (in No. 44): "This is a deep mystery ... that the salvation of many depends on the prayers and voluntary penances which the members of the mystical body of Jesus Christ offer for this intention."

Paul was writing to the people of Colossae while he was in prison, one of his several forced confinements for the sake of the Gospel. Except for the night between Holy Thursday and Good Friday, Jesus never suffered that same indignity.

So in a real sense, Paul was adding his particular sacrifice to that of Christ. By accepting our sufferings and setbacks willingly, the mystery of Christ's passion continues in us and our own lives become redemptive.

Q. Sometimes I feel uncomfortable exchanging a hand-

shake when it is time for the sign of peace, or I might have a cold and I don't want to chance spreading germs. How do I -- politely -- not shake someone's hand? (City of origin withheld)

A. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which is the church's official guide to the celebration of Mass, has this to say about the sign of peace in No. 82: "There follows the rite of peace by which ... the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the sacrament."

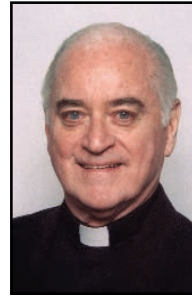
It goes on to explain that the particular manner of the exchange is left to the discretion of national conferences of bishops "in accordance with the culture and customs of the people."

That guideline is worth quoting, not only in that it denotes the purpose of the gesture, but because it shows that the sign of peace is an ordinary and expected part of the Mass. In the U.S., the gesture most commonly used is a handshake (which is far less expressive than in the early days of the church, when the custom in the western Mediterranean world was to "greet one another with a holy kiss.")

If you are under the weather and concerned about spreading germs, it would certainly be acceptable for you to greet others simply with a word of peace, perhaps with a whispered explanation, "Sorry, I have a cold."

It sounds to me, though, that in your case, you may feel uncomfortable shaking hands with a stranger even when you're not sick. You should not feel compelled to do so. I would suggest, so that you're not misunderstood, that you take care to greet those surrounding you with a warm smile and a wave.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
Surrendering To The Divine

Nearly 50 years ago I had an out-of-body experience. I was lifted out of my own skin and actually looked down on myself sitting in the church pew below. The experience was awesome, and it changed my life.

At the time my faith was weak, my soul was restless. As a draftee in the Army during the Korean War, I was troubled by about my future. What was I was going to do with the rest of my life? Even though I attended Mass and received holy Communion almost daily, my level of commitment to Jesus was clouded with doubt because I did not understand the challenge of the Gospels.

I thought that all I needed to do in order to be a good Catholic was to try to stay in the state of grace and go to church. I learned there was more to it than that. I began to sense God calling me to the priesthood. For me, accepting my vocation was a life-or-death decision.

It meant accepting Jesus as Lord, as someone for whom I would be willing to die (I thought I was willing to die for Jesus at the time, but I smile now because it was only a theoretical martyrdom that I considered).

What was more certain was my resistance. I did not want to lay aside my personal happiness for a faith fantasy. I wanted a wife and family. If Jesus was calling me to the priesthood, I was certainly not convinced of it. This struggle went on for a few years.

My thinking had been heavily influenced by the climate of rationalism and skepticism all around me. Many of my contemporaries saw the Gospels as nothing more than a collection of religious fables, but for me, giving up marriage for a book of fables was too much to ask.

Gradually I began to realize that the Gospels are meant to be read as though Jesus actually did and said what the sacred authors claimed. They give us accounts of events that they had personally witnessed, such as Jesus in the town of Jericho restoring sight to Bartimaeus, a blind beggar who was the son of Timaeus.

Granted, there are such things as parables, like the stories of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, which were more teaching devices than historical events, but in all instances Jesus speaks to us directly through the sacred authors.

Knowing this made all the difference in my eventual decision to be a priest. If martyrdom was reasonable, then celibacy was, too. The act of accepting my calling to the priesthood became easier when I rejected the errors of the skeptics.

The Gospels teach us that the way of Jesus is the way of the cross and that Christian joy is the byproduct of self-surrender.

Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274
January 28



Thomas so shocked his noble Italian family when he entered the Dominicans about 1244 that his brothers imprisoned him for a year. But he would not yield, and studied under St. Albert the Great, becoming a master of theology in 1256. For the rest of his brief life, the "dumb ox," as he was dubbed, taught, preached and wrote, producing the monumental *Summa Theologica*.

His thinking became enormously influential in later centuries and he was named a Doctor of the Church in 1567.

Catholic Charities Strikes Gold At 'Olympics'

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

"I just didn't realize the large number of programs Catholic Charities supports," Lynn Holtz remembers thinking. "I was really surprised as were a few of my colleagues."

Holtz, a member of the Diocesan Finance Council, heard Jean Johnstone discuss those ministries at a Finance Council meeting. Johnstone is executive director of Catholic Charities for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. There are three Catholic Charities offices located in Altoona, Johnstown, and Bellefonte.

"I decided right then and there at that meeting I wanted to do something to help," Holtz recalled. That was in September of 2013, and by January 4, 2014, she had organized the first Red Neck Olympics, which raised nearly \$4,000.

Lynn was having a difficult time coming up with a name for the games. A friend of hers, Dominic Simanski of Cresson,



REDNECK OLYMPICS: Jean Johnstone, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, proved herself to be a good sport by taking part in the toilet seat toss at the Redneck Olympics held Saturday, January 4 at The Barn in Dysart. Organized by Lynn Holtz and her husband, Roy, the event raised almost \$4,000.00 for Catholic Charities.

figured the barn setting and toilet seat toss made it a Red Neck Olympics, she laughed.

With the help of her husband, Roy, friends, and parish-

ioners, Lynn said the event was a big success. "It was great. The teams of three persons needed only to be there an hour, but many stayed into the evening to socialize," she said. "Many of them continued with friendly competition after the event ended."

As luck would have it, Lynn who developed the concept and organized the event, fell ill and couldn't attend. Roy, and other volunteers from the church ran with it, and the day came off without a hitch. "I'm very grateful for the volunteers," she said.

Members of Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart, the Holtz's have operated a what she calls a "Youth Barn" for the past 15 years. "We have an old barn we converted into a place where young people can hang out and enjoy healthy activities," explained Lynn. "We did it for our church and community."

The Barn, as it is known, has wrestling mats, a basketball court, volleyball court, and batting cage among other activities



available to the young people.

"I cannot thank Roy and Lynn enough for all of their hard work and planning for the benefit of Catholic Charities," Johnstone said.

"I feel there were three winners of this event; those who won prizes, Catholic Charities, and all of the participants who had a fun, exciting day competing in the games.

"The event will grow. And in the end, families in our Diocese will receive help with heating and basic needs as a result of the Holtz's support of the mission of Catholic Charities."

The Olympic events included: basketball shooting, volleyball, ping - pong, the corn hole game, and a toilet seat toss. Each competition lasted 10 minutes. The three - person teams paid a \$30.00 entry fee. It included soft drinks, food, and water. Most of it was donated by a very generous parishioner.

The winner among 28 teams was determined by a system of points. Place finishers

were awarded points, and points were also awarded for money each team collected from sponsors beyond the \$10.00 per person entry fee. All of the money raised during the event was awarded to Catholic Charities.

Johnstone and her husband, Bruce, participated in the games. "We had a blast! Even though I was a little sore the next day, joining in on the activities, and sharing the excitement was well worth it," she laughed.

Roy thought the first Olympics went very well. "Even some people who were driving by stopped to see what all of the commotion was about and ended spending the evening," he said. "It was fun and everyone really seemed to enjoy it."

Lynn said they are planning on having it again next year, but probably in the Spring to avoid bad weather and the flu season. "I've been thinking that maybe next year we can even get some friendly competition between towns throughout the Diocese," Lynn said.



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Proclaiming Gospel 'At Heart' Of Catholic Education

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- National Catholic Schools Week will be observed in U.S. dioceses Jan. 26-Feb. 1 with the theme: "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

"Our schools have educated millions of young people over the years by providing them a superior academic background, always pointing the way to eternal life," said Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Neb., chairman of education committee of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The success of Catholic schools in handing on the faith, generation after generation, is a bright light in the history of the church in the United States," he added.

About 2.1 million students are currently educated in more than 6,600 Catholic schools across the country. Of these students, an estimated 99 percent graduate from high school and 85 percent attend college.

"The heart of the apostolate of Catholic education is the mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Catholic schools provide a rich environment of faith and learning where students experience how much God loves them in Christ," Archbishop Lucas said.

"They are free to express their own love for God in prayer and the celebration of the sacraments and to express love of neighbor in a community where each is respected as a gift from God," he added.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Catholic Schools Week, sponsored by USCCB and the National Catholic Educational Association. Schools and parishes around the country plan to mark the week with special Masses and school activities.

New Model For Schools

(Continued From Page 16.)

"We are the smallest Diocese in the state in terms of population, but the only Diocese that had an enrollment increase," the Bishop noted.

One of the most interesting situations involving Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese is unfolding in Centre County -- a growing population area.

Saint John the Evangelist School in Bellefonte and Our Lady of Victory School in State College have been experiencing strong enrollment. However, St. John's has grades K - 5 and it is a challenge for students to transfer for grades 6, 7, and 8 at OLV School which generally operates at capacity.

This also impacts Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, which wants to see students make a seamless transition from Catholic elementary school to Catholic secondary school.

Collaboration between the Catholic elementary schools and

the four Catholic high schools is a key reason behind the creation of the new quadrants, Bishop Mark said.

Each elementary school quadrant also has a Catholic high school in that region.

"The committee saw this as an opportunity for our efforts to promote Catholic education in a way that is mutually beneficial for elementary and secondary schools," the Bishop said.

Bishop Mark expressed his thanks to the committee members for their commitment to strengthening Catholic education in Altoona - Johnstown.

"The time has come to make sure we position our elementary schools for a successful future," he said. "I truly appreciate the dedication and hard work of those who served on the committee, and I continue to ask for everyone's prayerful support as we work to make Catholic schools an available, accessible and affordable option for families."



CNS Photo/Tom McCarthy Jr., Catholic Review

BUS TOUR: Kelly Casella, Caprice Medina and Reggie Baylor of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore talk with Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully from the University of Notre Dame and Cristo Rey teacher Lee Imbriano last October. Baltimore was one stop on a national bus tour promoting the university's Alliance for Catholic Education, a teacher-training program.

Notre Dame Marks Anniversary Of Teacher - Training Program

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Some organizations celebrate milestone anniversaries by hosting big events at their headquarters, but not the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education.

The program -- which serves under-resourced Catholic schools -- is marking its 20th anniversary on the road.

Alliance for Catholic Education, called ACE, began a nine-month 50-city bus tour in October, bringing the program's leaders to Catholic schools around the country in a donated bus decorated with the slogan "Fighting for Our Children's Future National Bus Tour."

The tour, divided into four sections, started in Dallas and made stops during the fall in the Midwest and the East Coast. After a December and January break, it was set to resume in February touring the South, Southwest and West Coast before finishing in Seattle in May. It can be followed on Twitter @theACEbus and stops are posted online at <http://ace.nd.edu/20/route>.

Holy Cross Father Timothy

Scully, a co-founder of ACE, which began in 1993, came up with the bus tour idea as a way to see what's going on at the local level at Catholic schools. At stops en route program officials awarded a school and educator in each diocese and met with local politicians and diocesan and educational leaders.

In an interview with Catholic News Service during the middle of the first leg of the tour, Holy Cross Father Sean McGraw, ACE's co-founder, and John Staud, senior director for pastoral formation and administration, said they had been energized by what they had seen so far.

Father McGraw said the school visits "are about the kids" and have been a great way to "rally the troops."

Staud said they were seeing firsthand how ACE-trained teachers or school partners were making a difference, but they also saw how much more can be done.

"We feel we're just getting started," he said.

ACE began with a Service Through Teaching program sending teachers to continue their training while serving under-resourced Catholic schools in the U.S.

ACE began with a Service Through Teaching program sending teachers to continue their training while serving under-resourced Catholic schools in the U.S. It has since expanded to include a Catholic school leadership program, academic formation, outreach and professional development.

While the Notre Dame group paid tribute to schools and teachers, Father Scully received recognition of his own in New York where he was awarded the \$100,000 William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship for founding and leading ACE. The award was presented by officials from the Manhattan Institute Nov. 5 at the University Club in Manhattan and the prize money will be given to the Congregation of Holy Cross to support its worldwide education mission.

At a visit to St. Anthony School in Milwaukee Nov. 18, Father Scully said the school was a great example of what is possible when tax incentives, like parental school choice, are applied to Catholic education.

Kathleen Cepelka, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Milwaukee Archdiocese, said working with ACE gives the archdiocese the maximum ability to grow schools.

"We're very proud of St. Anthony," she said. "Not just because it's the largest Catholic school in the country, but because it is a place where, on the south side of Milwaukee, the children and families who participate in the school are able to experience hope."



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Pope Names 19 New Cardinals

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Stressing that their role would be one of service rather than honor, Pope Francis named 19 new cardinals, including six men from his home region of Latin America.

The pope announced the nominations Jan. 12 after praying the Angelus and said he would formally induct the men into the College of Cardinals Feb. 22.

Although cardinals are traditionally known as "princes of the church," Pope Francis, who has pointedly refused many of the trappings of his office, characteristically dismissed any element of pomp in the distinction he had decided to bestow.

In a letter to the new cardinals, released by the Vatican Jan. 13, the pope wrote that a red hat "does not signify a promotion, an honor or a decoration; it is simply a form of service that requires expanding your vision and enlarging your heart."

Pope Francis instructed the cardinals-designate to "receive this new designation with a simple and humble heart. And while you should do so with joy and happiness, do it in a way that this feeling may be far from any expression of worldliness, or any form of celebration alien to the evangelical spirit of austerity, sobriety and poverty."

The consistory will bring the total number of cardinals to 218 and the number of cardinals under age 80 to 122. Until they

reach their 80th birthdays, cardinals are eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

Two current cardinal electors will turn 80 in March, bringing the number of electors back to the limit of 120 set by Pope Paul VI. (Other popes have occasionally exceeded that limit for short periods of time.)

Some observers had predicted that Pope Francis, the first pope from Latin America, would use his first selections to make major changes in the composition of the cardinal electors, perhaps by boosting the presence of residential bishops from the global South and reducing that of Vatican officials or prelates from rich Western countries.

Half of the new cardinal electors hail from statistically underrepresented regions in the southern hemisphere, including three of the world's poorest countries: Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Haiti. Yet Pope Francis did not substantially reduce the representation of groups with a traditionally strong presence.

Five of the new electors are from Latin America, an increase by one-third of the current number from the region. Latin America, home to about 40 percent of the world's Catholics, will account for about 16 percent of the group eligible to choose the next pope.

The archbishops of Westminster and Quebec are also on the list of those to receive red hats; the latter is only cardinal-designate from North America.

Four of the new cardinal electors are from Italy, leaving that nation's share practically unchanged at nearly a quarter. However, the pope passed over the archbishop of Venice and the archbishop of Turin, both dioceses that traditionally come with a red hat.

Four new cardinal electors are Vatican officials, three of them in offices that traditionally entail membership in the college. Such officials will continue to make up slightly more than a third of the cardinal electors.

Three of the new cardinals are already over the age of 80 and, therefore, ineligible

to vote in a conclave. The pope uses such nominations to honor churchmen for their scholarship or other service to the church.

Among the new so-called honorary cardinals is Cardinal-designate Loris Capovilla, who served as personal secretary to Blessed John XXIII.

Here is the list of the new cardinals:

-- Italian Archbishop Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, who will turn 59 Jan. 17.

-- Italian Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, 73.

-- German Archbishop Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 66.

-- Italian Archbishop Beniamino Stella, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, 72.

-- English Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, 68.

-- Nicaraguan Archbishop Leopoldo Brenes Solorzano of Managua, 64.

-- Canadian Archbishop Gerald Lacroix of Quebec, 56.

-- Ivorian Archbishop Jean-Pierre Kutwa of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 68.

-- Brazilian Archbishop Orani Tempesta of Rio de Janeiro, 63.

-- Italian Archbishop Gualtiero Bassetti of Perugia-Citta della Pieve, 71.

-- Argentine Archbishop Mario Poli of Buenos Aires, 66.

-- Korean Archbishop Andrew Yeom Soo-jung of Seoul, 70.

-- Chilean Archbishop Ricardo Ezzati Andreollo of Santiago, 72.

-- Burkina Faso Archbishop Philippe Ouedraogo of Ouagadougou, 68.

-- Philippine Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato, 74.

-- Haitian Bishop Chibly Langlois of Les Cayes, 55.

-- Italian Archbishop Capovilla, 98.

-- Spanish Archbishop Fernando Sebastian Aguilar, retired, of Pamplona, 84.

-- Saint Lucian Archbishop Kelvin Felix, retired, of Castries, who will be 81 Feb. 11.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE AND CARDINAL - DESIGNATE: Pope Francis is pictured next to Cardinal-designate Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, during an exchange of greetings with ambassadors to the Holy See at the Vatican Monday, January 13.

Pope Francis Limits 'Monsignor' Honor For Diocesan Priests

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Pope Francis has decided to limit the honor of "monsignor" among diocesan priests and grant it from now on only to those at least 65 years of age.

The change, which is not retroactive and does not affect Vatican officials or members of religious orders, was announced in a letter from the Vatican Secretariat of State to nunciatures around the world, along with instructions to inform local bishops.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, informed U.S. bishops of the new policy in a

Of the three grades of monsignor -- apostolic protonotary, honorary prelate of His Holiness and chaplain of His Holiness -- only the last will be available to diocesan priests who meet the new age requirement.

letter dated Dec. 30. Msgr. Ronny E. Jenkins, general secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, forwarded the letter to the bishops Jan. 3.

Of the three grades of monsignor -- apostolic protonotary, honorary prelate of His Holiness and chaplain of His Holiness -- only the last will be available to diocesan priests who meet the new age requirement.

Bishops must resubmit any pending requests for papal honors in accordance with the new rules.

Archbishop Vigano's letter did not give a reason for the change, but Pope Francis has often warned clergy against the temptations of careerism and personal ambition.

The archbishop noted that there had been no change regarding the granting of ecclesiastical honors to laypeople.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, noted Jan. 6 that Pope Paul VI had reformed the system of ecclesiastical honors in 1968, reducing the number of titles to three.

"Pope Francis' decision thus follows in the same line, with further simplification," Father Lombardi said.

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"What a Pharmacy Was Meant To Be"

The Cost Of Sainthood: Cardinal Announces Plan To Contain Fees For Causes

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Having a holy son or daughter formally recognized as a saint by the universal church could easily cost a quarter of a million dollars. But experts say the church isn't selling halos; it's compensating professionals doing serious research, so that a pope can solemnly declare his certainty a person is in heaven.

The costs involved in moving a cause from local fame to universal veneration as a saint depend on a variety of factors, such as whether the postulator -- the official promoter -- is volunteering his or her time, and how many potential miracles must be investigated before the pope formally recognizes those required for canonization.

Expenses typically include: collection and translation of eyewitness statements and documents; exhumation and reburial of the candidate's body, if necessary to verify the location of the grave; preparation and publication of the "positio," a biography and official position paper documenting the candidate's holiness; fees for theological, historical and medical consultants; and the beatification and canonization ceremonies themselves.

The head of the Congregation for Saints' Causes announced Jan. 13 that his office had established a reference list of standard charges for the process. Reporting the next day on Cardinal Angelo Amato's announcement, the Vatican newspaper said it was a move "inspired by a sense of sobriety and equity, so there would no longer be a lack of uniformity" in the costs borne by different causes.

Jesuit Father Marc Lindeijer, vice postulator of sainthood causes for his order, told Catholic News Service Jan. 15 that if a cause "is not too complicated" -- for instance, if the candidate died hundreds of years ago,

making it impossible to interview eyewitnesses -- the normal cost of bringing the candidate to beatification is about 50,000 euros -- or just more than \$68,000 at current exchange rates -- including the cost of the ceremony.

U.S. Catholic officials traditionally have used \$250,000 as a benchmark for the cost of a cause from the initial investigation on a diocesan level to a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

"The costs are relatively low compared to what similar services would cost in the real world," Father Lindeijer said.

For example, obtaining a decree of the process' validity -- issued after the congregation has studied all the paperwork and made sure everything was done properly -- costs 150 euros, he said, "which is nothing, considering the amount of work involved."

The cause also must pay 150 euros each to as many as nine historians, theologians or other professional consultants chosen by the congregation to study the "positio," a document of at least 600 pages, and usually over 1,000 pages, Father Lindeijer said.

The congregation charges 350-400 euros for the decree opening the cause, the postulator's "mandate," the assignment of a relator (the investigating judge), and the "nihil obstat" ("no objection") permitting a diocesan bishop to open a local inquiry into a candidate's sanctity, one official said. The cause must pay 700 euros to each of the consulting physicians assigned by the congregation to study a potential miracle.

Cardinal Amato did not say if the congregation would publish the pricing guidelines, which are currently available only to bishops and other officials.

Postulators for religious orders, such as the Jesuits, generally do not draw a salary or stipend, even if the candidate is not a member of their order.



CNS Photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters

CANONIZATION MASS: A large crowd gathers in Saint Peter's Square during a May 12, 2013 Mass at which Pope Francis canonized the first Colombian saint, a Mexican nun and some 800 Italians martyred by Ottoman Turks in the 15th century.

But some postulators are laypeople doing the work as a profession and they have to live off what they make, Father Lindeijer said.

"There have been unscrupulous people," who have taken advantage of dioceses and religious orders, he said, "so it is good to have guidelines so that people beginning a cause know what it is likely to cost."

Waldery Hilgeman, a

33-year-old layman serving as postulator of the cause of the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Nguyen Van Thuan and others, said he has no set price for his services.

One of the biggest expenses of a canonization is the booklet handed out to everyone at the Mass, Hilgeman said. But if a candidate is being canonized with other saints, the cause needs to pay only for copies sufficient

to supply its own pilgrims.

Msgr. Greg Mustaciuolo, chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York and postulator of the cause of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, said the cause has "spent almost as much as we've taken in sending out information and prayer cards."

He and the others working on the cause, mainly employees of the archdiocesan Catholic Charities, are not asking for a stipend, which is just as well since the two largest groups of Catholics supporting the cause tend not to have money to donate.

"Most of those following the cause are on the older side and share (Day's) views, including that you should use what you have to care for the poor," he told CNS. "While they are totally supportive of the cause, they don't have any money."

"Another group is college and university students, but they also have no money," he said. Many other causes are supported by the alumni of schools run by the candidates' religious orders, "but her people were at soup kitchens and homeless shelters."

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Now Showing

'Mary Of Nazareth' A Moving Look At Life Of Virgin Mother

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The story of the Gospels unfolds through the eyes of the mother of God in "Mary of Nazareth" (Ignatius Press Films), a beautiful, often moving depiction of the life of Mary from her childhood through the passion and resurrection of her son.

Italian director Giacomo Campiotti (2002's "Doctor Zhivago") has produced a handsome and respectful film, with a gifted international cast and some luminous cinematography shot in Tunisia. The script, by Francesco Arlanch, more or less follows the biblical account, with a few intriguing departures, inspired by apocryphal writings, that heighten the drama.

For example, we are told that King Herod (Andrea Gior-

dana) heard a prophesy of a girl who would one day bring forth a savior, prompting him to terrorize Judea, in a precursor to the slaughter of the innocents. Mary's parents, Ann (Antonella Attili) and Joachim (Roberto Citran), hide their young daughter, keeping her safe.

Mary (Alissa Jung) is a joyful but special child, one whom dogs and snakes fear. Her parents are happy but often perplexed. After Mary's betrothal to Joseph (Luca Marinelli), and the Annunciation, a resigned Joachim tells Mary, "Forgive me. I always knew you were a mystery, but I never knew how great a mystery."

The Nativity (unfortunately, Joseph misses the birth, as he leaves the cave to fetch water) is beautifully rendered. Mary possesses a strong, almost psychic bond with her young son, aware when he is hurt or in danger, and



CNS Photo/Courtesy Of Ignatius Press

MARY OF NAZARETH: Luca Marinelli portrays Joseph and Alissa Jung is Mary in a scene from the movie "Mary of Nazareth." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The movie is not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

experiencing visions of his future Passion in her mind.

Once Jesus (Andreas Pietschmann) begins his public ministry ("He couldn't stay and be a carpenter forever," Joseph says), Mary is always present, strong and compassionate, helping when she can. But when she asks him for assistance with the wine at Cana, she later worries she was impulsive, forcing Jesus to act before he was ready.

Mary not only shares her son's ministry, but also his pain. Every blow during the scourging is felt by Mary, as is the slow agony of Crucifixion. She literally crawls up the hill of Calvary on her hands and knees to be near her dying son.

The depictions of the slaughter of the innocents and the Passion are graphic, even harrowing, which pre-teens might find upsetting.

But for the rest of the family, "Mary of Nazareth" makes for an enriching catechetical experience that's also both inspiring and entertaining. The

film is fittingly dedicated "to all mothers, whose life-giving, sacrificial love, like Mary, changes the world."

"Mary of Nazareth" is available for sponsored screenings in theaters, and is expected to be released on DVD later this year. For more information, visit www.maryfilm.com.

The film contains several scenes of bloody violence and death. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Sunday Mass
Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of
the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass Telecast
Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
Downtown Johnstown
11 a.m. - Noon WWCP - TV FOX Channel 8

Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

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Holy Land/Italy: Mar. 31-
Apr. 13, Apr. 7-20, Apr. 14-27 ...

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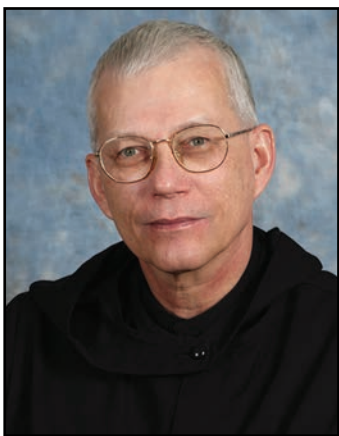
Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

Upcoming guests on "Keeping The Faith," Bishop Mark L. Bartchak's segment of "Proclaim!" will include:

February 2 - - Altoona Central Catholic School co-principals Patricia Labriola and Sherry Buck discuss their unique situation of sharing leadership of the school.

February 9 - - Father Matthew Reese, diocesan director of vocations, talks about his efforts to reach out to young men considering a vocation to the priesthood.

May They Rest In Peace



**Father Francis G. Ehnat
O.S.B.**

Benedictine Father Francis G. Ehnat, monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, died Wednesday, January 8. He was 66.

He was born December 10, 1948 in Bay Shore, Long Island NY, the son of the late Donald L. Ehnat, who died in 1952, and the late Marianne (Fink) Ehnat Dean. His stepfather was James H. Dean.

He attended Eisenhower Elementary School, Kansas, and was a 1967 graduate of Camden High School, South Carolina. He earned a bachelor of science degree in zoology in 1972 from Clemson University. He also attended Armstrong State College in Savannah and Saint Vincent College. He began studies for the priesthood at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2007, and received his master of divinity degree in 2012.

He made simple profession of monastic vows on July 10, 1985 and solemn profession of vows on July 11, 1988. He was ordained a deacon on July 23, 2011, by The Most Rev. Lawrence E. Brandt, Bishop of Greensburg. He served his deacon internship at Saint Benedict Parish, Carrolltown. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 2012 by The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, Bishop of Erie, at the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

The funeral Mass for Father

Francis G. Ehnat O.S.B. was celebrated by Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki on Monday, January 13 in the Archabbey Basilica. Committal was in the Saint Vincent Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Health and Welfare Fund, Saint Vincent Archabbey, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650.



Father Benjamin Dykas

Father Benjamin Dykas, 85, a senior priest of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, Monday, died January 13.

He was born Albert R. Dykas February 28, 1928, in Boston MA the son of the late George and Sophie (Ignatowicz) Dykas. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joseph; and aunt and uncle, Frank and Aniela Borowski. He is survived by nephew, Richard Dykas and family, Dedham MA; and cousins: James Condon and family, Las Vegas NE; Michelle Pedzewick and family, Walpole MA and Lillian Rock and family, Bogart GA.

A graduate of Medford High, Medford MA. He was an Army Air Force veteran of World War II.

Father Dykas studied philosophy at Assumption Seminary, Chaska MN; and theology at Saint Anthony - on - Hudson, Rensselaer NY. He was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop William Scully at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany NY on May 27, 1961, and served as a Priest for 52 years.

Prior to being incardinated into the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown he served at parishes

and institutions in New Jersey, New York and Canada.

Locally, Father Dykas served as parochial vicar at Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg; Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bellefonte; and Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish, Johnstown.

Father Dykas served as pastor at Saint John the Baptist Parish, Portage; Saint John the Baptist Parish, Acosta; Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Dun-

cansville; Saint Boniface Parish, Saint Boniface; and then retired after serving seven years as pastor of Saint Columba Parish, Johnstown.

He was a member of the Polish American Priests Association and the Polish Museum of America. Friends will be received Sunday, January 19th from 1p.m. until time of transfer prayers at 2:30 p.m. at the Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home,

710 Broad St. Visitation will continue at St. Therese Catholic Church, 536 Decker Ave. from 3 – 8 p.m. where vigil service will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

The funeral Mass for Father Benjamin Dykas was celebrated Monday, January 20 at Saint Therese Church, Johnstown with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak as the principal celebrant. Committal was in the Grandview Cemetery Mausoleum, Johnstown.

Former Ambassador To Vatican Thomas Melady Dies At 86

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Thomas P. Melady, who served in several diplomatic posts and continued to play a role as "citizen-scholar" long past the age when most people would have retired, died Jan. 6. He was 86.

Melady died at his Washington home of a brain tumor, which doctors only recently diagnosed.

Melady was an ambassador under three presidents: to Burundi (1969) and Uganda (1972) under President Richard Nixon, and then as the ambassador to the Holy See under President George H.W. Bush (1989) and in the first year of the administration of President Bill Clinton. Melady left the post in early 1993. He also was named by Nixon as senior adviser to the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

He was remembered by one of his successors to the Holy See post as "a perpetual ambassador."

University of Dayton professor Miguel Diaz, who was ambassador from 2009 to 2012, told Catholic News Service that Melady was the first former ambassador to reach out to him when Diaz was nominated and that he continued to be a welcome adviser and mentor.



CNS Photo/Bob Roller

THOMAS P. MELADY

"Once my nomination was made public, he immediately took me out to lunch and we had a tete-a-tete on Vatican diplomacy," Diaz said, with Melady offering helpful advice about what challenges Diaz might face.

Across differences of political party and generation, "it grew into a collegial friendship," Diaz said.

In the very small group of former U.S. ambassadors to the Holy See, Melady "was the leader of the club," said Diaz. He observed that despite their activism with different political parties -- Diaz with the Democrats and Melady with the Republicans -- the two wound up as co-signatories of an assortment of letters and statements on public policy.

Melady's death is "truly a loss, not just for the Melady family but for all of us," Diaz said. "We don't have many people like him left."

Melady was born March 4, 1927, in Norwich, Conn., and served in the U.S. Army at the close of World War II. He earned degrees from Duquesne University and The Catholic University of America and taught at St. John's University. As an early proponent of African studies, he served from 1959 to 1967 as the president of the Africa Service Institute, which brought leaders of newly independent African nations to the United States. He was an adjunct professor at Fordham University from 1966 to 1969, when he began his diplomatic service.

He later went on to serve as chairman of Seton Hall University and as a consultant to the National Urban League. After his diplomatic service, he taught at George Washington University and was president of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., from 1976 to 1986.

Melady is survived by his wife of 52 years, Margaret, with whom he co-wrote several books; daughters Christina Melady and Monica Melady Micklos; and seven grandchildren.

Among his many honors and awards, he was a Knight of Malta and recipient of the Grand Cross of the Order of Malta; was a recipient of the Order of Pius IX and the Order of St. Gregory the Great. He was the recipient of 30 honorary doctorates and was honored by the leaders of Senegal, Liberia, Cameroon, Madagascar and Croatia.

Diocese Will Move To Collaborative Model For Catholic Elementary Schools

By Tony DeGol

As the nation begins its observance of Catholic Schools Week, the Diocese is announcing new steps to ensure that Catholic education in Altoona - Johnstown remains available, accessible, and affordable for years to come.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak has agreed to a model that involves organizing the 20 Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese within four geographical quadrants.

The recommendation came from a committee appointed by the Bishop more than a year ago to study the schools.

He asked the group to offer suggestions to guarantee the sustainability of a quality Catholic education in a safe and efficient environment guided by sound financial principles.

The 13-member committee – comprised of individuals with pastoral, educational, or business expertise – met on a regular basis for several months. The group recently offered its final report to Bishop Mark.

“The original model for Catholic schools was parish-based,” said Bishop Mark during an interview at his office in Hollidaysburg. “But times have changed, and because of new challenges, the optimum way to

strengthen our schools is to take a collaborative approach, which has already been done at certain locations in our Diocese.”

The Bishop referred to the relationships established among schools in locations such as Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Johnstown, Cresson, Northern Cambria, and Lock Haven, where multiple parishes jointly operate a Catholic elementary school.

“The idea is to find ways in which Catholic schools in each region of the Diocese can better maximize their resources and better meet the needs of students,” the Bishop added.

The new quadrants will be identified as follows and include the following schools:

Altoona Quadrant

- Altoona Central Catholic School
- Saint John the Evangelist School, Altoona
- Saint Rose of Lima School, Altoona
- Hollidaysburg Catholic School
- Saint Patrick School, Newry
- Saint Matthew School, Tyrone
- Saint Thomas School, Bedford

Johnstown Quadrant

- Cathedral Catholic Academy, Johnstown
- Our Mother of Sorrows School, Johnstown

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



The Good News in Education

- Saint Andrew School, Johnstown
- Saint Benedict School, Johnstown
- Saint Peter School, Somerset

Mainline Quadrant

- All Saints School, Cresson
- Holy Name School, Ebensburg
- Northern Cambria Catholic School, Nicktown
- Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown
- Saint Michael School, Loretto

State College Quadrant

- Our Lady of Victory School, State College

- Saint John the Evangelist School, Bellefonte
- Lock Haven Catholic School

Bishop Mark has scheduled meetings with the pastors of parishes directly involved with the operation and support of the elementary schools to inform them of the new model.

He has asked Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden, Diocesan Director of Education, to recruit a consultant to lead the development of the quadrant model as well as facilitators who will work with the schools in each quadrant.

Eventually, boards approved by the Diocese will be established to oversee the op-

eration and governance of the schools in each geographic quadrant, the Bishop said, adding that the Diocesan Education Office will provide resources, expertise, and the organizational framework necessary to support the model.

Other Dioceses in Pennsylvania have engaged in similar changes, Bishop Mark pointed out.

Unlike other Dioceses, however, Altoona - Johnstown continues to boast steady enrollment.

There are 2,950 students registered at Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese this 2013 - 2014 academic year, a slight jump from 2012 - 2013.

(Continued On Page 11.)

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