

OCT 12-13, 2019



OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

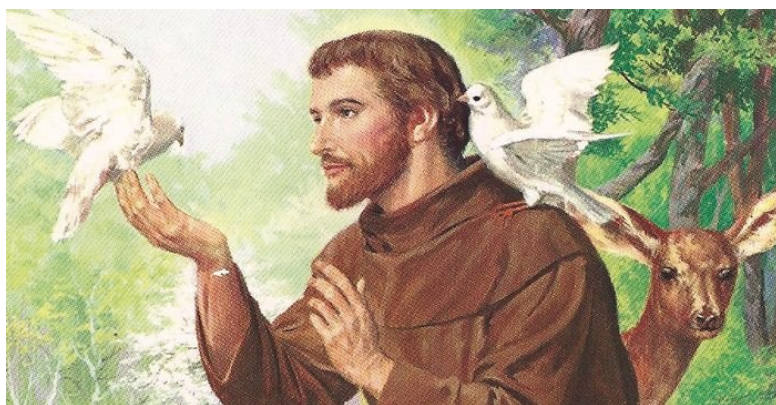
Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts

*Our vision is to lead all whose lives we touch
into a living relationship with the person of
Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament,
Service and Fellowship.*

www.youghcatholic.org



Pet Blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi



**BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD OUR GOD,
IN ALL YOUR CREATURES!**

To our visitors... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm
FRI 8:30am-1pm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

SATs 5:15-5:45pm at IC

Confession

and by appointment

We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul to help our neighbors in need. You may call them at 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers on pages 4 and 9, who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is DR. JONATHAN KRIZNER, DR. JENNIFER HARR.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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Administrator pro tem.

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DAVID BALLARD

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DAVID PANZELLA

Cemetery Care, Connellsville/Dawson

724.323.5365

SAT-SUN, OCT 5-6, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult.....	\$4,939.00
Loose.....	862.00
Maintenance.....	378.00
Total:	\$6,179.00

Cemetery	\$103.00
Accent.....	\$8.00
Seminary/Clergy.....	\$200.00
Mission Sunday.....	\$5.00



ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult.....	\$3,340.00
Loose.....	99.00
Children/Young Adults	24.00
Parish Improvements.....	25.00
Total:	\$3,488.00

Seminary/Clergy.....	\$50.00
Hurricane	\$288.00



ST. JOHN

Adult.....	\$2,415.00
Loose.....	321.00
Maintenance.....	345.00
Total:	\$3,081.00

Accent.....	\$14.00
Seminary/Clergy.....	\$147.00



ST. RITA

Adult.....	\$4,254.00
Loose.....	640.00
Maintenance.....	325.00
Total:	\$5,219.00

Cemetery	\$25.00
Accent.....	\$10.00
Seminary/Clergy.....	\$33.00



Bishop Malesic's collection for Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Support to help victims of Hurricane Dorian will be taken up THIS weekend in Connellsville.

Ushers, please be prepared for this second collection.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
NOT TO BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY
AT THE OLD IC CONVENT.**



2 Timothy 2:8-13 GLIDING INTO A HOLE

At the end of a hard day's work, at the beginning of a tough month, in the middle of a difficult season—some people feel like quitting. But they cannot. They have to keep on working, even in the face of failure. Like rowers slipping downstream when they strive to paddle up, they see no progress. But if they stop, it only gets worse. Often it is debt that saps our energy. We get deeper into trouble, and there seems no way out.

Rule number one for getting out of a hole is simple: Quit digging.

Even in the Christian life we all go through times of despair. Our prayer does not seem what it used to be. We are not as faithful

at attending church as we would like. The feasts and seasons drift by without acknowledgment. Kindness to a neighbor seems unappealing.

Some people let their faith glide into a hole that seems unfathomable. They do not know what to do.

The Second Letter of Timothy knows what to do: "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David." Jesus was the Son of God, but he was also human, a descendant of David. He was human like us. And he was raised from the dead.

Remember that. "If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him." He remains faithful to us if we open our hearts to him and remember.

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A representative from the Maryknoll Lay Missioners will be speaking at St. Aloysius Masses THIS weekend for the Diocesan Mission Co-op. A second collection will be taken.



MKLM is a Roman Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work in poor communities in Africa, Asia, and North America, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON: Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 11:29-32

TUE: Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 11:37-41

WED: Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9; Lk 11:42-46

THU: Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-6ab; Lk 11:47-54

FRI: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9

SAT: Rom 4:13, 16-18; Ps 105:6-9, 42-43; Lk 12:8-12

SUN: Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-8; 2 Tm 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8

What's Happening at home

Our Children's Choir will rehearse on SAT, OCT 19 at 11am in IC's choir loft. Children in grades 3-6 in all 4 parishes are eligible for membership. In addition, junior/senior high students are invited to serve as leaders and cantors.

St. Rita Holy Name will meet on SUN, OCT 13 in Bucci Hall following 8am Mass at St. Rita. New members are always welcome. Coffee and donuts will be served. Remember, unity makes strength.



St. John Fundraising Committee will be making pirohi on TUEs, OCT 15, 22 and 29 at 8:30am in Moravek Hall for their upcoming sale. Any help would be greatly appreciated, whether it be

volunteering your time or making a monetary donation to help defray food costs. Cash or checks (payable to St. John and marked St. John Fundraising donation) may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the DeVivo Centre.

Tom Severin's Bible study on Job will continue on WED, OCT 16 in IC's Sciberras Hall, 6:30-8pm.

St. Rita Holy Name will have a pancake, buckwheat and sausage breakfast on SUN, OCT 20 in Bucci Hall, from 7am-noon. Try their famous buckwheat sandwich!

Adults \$6 and \$2 for children under 12.

Men are welcome to help set up on SAT at 9am.



The St. Aloysius Altar Rosary Society will meet on MON, OCT 21 at 6:30pm in the social hall. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd MON. Refreshments will be served. All women of the parish are welcome.

St. John's 125th Anniversary Silent Festival continues through SUN, OCT 27. You may drop your donation/pledge in the collection basket, or at the DeVivo Centre. Pledges made by OCT 27 may be paid through DEC 31.



Congratulations to JENNA GARLETTS & TONY MARCIANTE, married OCT 5 at St. Rita.

A Mass with the celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be held TUE, OCT 29 at 11am at St. Rita. The Mass will be followed by a lunch in Bucci Hall.

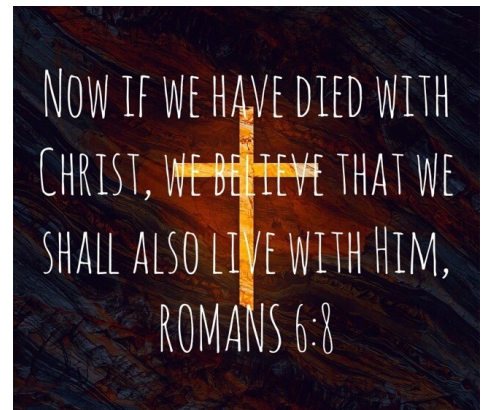
Anyone suffering with physical, mental, spiritual or emotional issues and who desires to receive the sacrament is most welcome to attend!



Immaculate Conception Christian Mothers are getting back to the business of making rolls again.

We are asking for monetary donations for the supplies. Checks payable to IC Christian Mothers may be put in the collection basket or dropped off at the DeVivo Centre.

Watch the bulletin for dates/times.



Workers will be cleaning up and removing all old decorations in the St. Aloysius cemetery. If you'd like to remove your own decorations, please do so by SAT, NOV 2. Volunteers are also needed to help with the clean up.

RCIA Inquiry sessions continue THU evenings at IC's Sciberras Hall, 6:30-8. If you'd like to become Catholic, or are simply interested in learning more about your Catholic faith, COME AND SEE.



Molli's Bible study on the Gospel of John continues at St. Al on FRIs after 8:30am Mass.

IC Christian Mothers have a number of prayer blankets available. Please call Mary at 628-1764 with any questions or to request a blanket. You may leave a message.



Congratulations to MILA JAYMES, daughter of Matthew & Christina Guard, baptized OCT 6 at IC.



Nar-Anon will meet on WED, OCT 16 in St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.

A Catholic Men's Fellowship Retreat will be held FRI/SAT, OCT 18/19 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, starting at 6pm and closing with Bishop Malesic celebrating Mass. Register at www.cmfgbg.org.

Visitation Rosary Altar Society Bake Sale, SAT. OCT 19 after 4:30pm Mass and SUN, OCT 20 during dinner.

Visitation will hold a homemade Cavatelli/Meatballs or Spaghetti/Meatballs Dinner, SUN, OCT 20, 11:30am-2:30pm in their community center. Dinner also includes salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Adults/\$12, children (4-10)/\$6, children 3 and under/Free. Tickets can be purchased at the door and takeout will be available.

Father Jose Maniyangat, a native of Kerala, India, and retired priest of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., will celebrate a Mass for Health and Healing at St. Cecilia Parish, Grindstone, SAT, OCT 26 at 10am with a luncheon to follow. Please call the church at 785-7781 with questions.

St. Pius Christian Mothers of Mt. Pleasant are sponsoring a cash Bingo on SUN, OCT 27. Doors open at noon. Early birds start at 1:45pm. Your \$25 ticket includes an Italian lunch. Call 547-5269, 331-2546 or 547-1911.



Congratulations to
KELSIE SEMAN & JESSE SWINK,
married OCT 5 at St. Aloysius.

Geibel will host its first
GATORFEST ON SUN, OCT 20
at noon at the school.



Activities include a live alligator demonstration, DJ, food trucks, bounce houses, pumpkin painting, giveaways, school tours and the Toward the Top Race. Go to geibelcatholic.org for more info.

Geibel is holding its winter coat/
blanket drive OCT 21 - NOV 3.

New/gently used coats, blankets and warm baby sleepers can be dropped off at Geibel from 7:30am-3pm. Items will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul and Connellsville Area Community Ministries. Contact Marian Cadwallader at 628-5600 or mcadwallader@geibelcatholic.org



St. Vincent dePaul Society's food pantry serving the poor and needy of the Connellsville-Dunbar area is running bare and is in dire need of many food items. To replenish food supplies, a food donation drive will be held SAT, OCT 19 from 9am-noon, in St. Rita's parking lot at the side door to Bucci Hall, where the food pantry is located.



SVDP members will be on hand to collect food donations. Items needed are: peanut butter, cereal, canned fruit, Stove Top stuffing, canned yams, pumpkin pie mix, canned tuna, canned chicken, pancake mix, pancake syrup, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, chicken broth, packaged noodles, vegetable soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, cranberry sauce, rice meals and pasta meals.



We do our best to keep the parish databases current. You can help by letting us know any time your household changes. Please call the DeVivo Centre at 628-6840 or St. Al's Brady Centre at 277-4236 if:

- ◆ Your family moves into or out of one of our parishes
- ◆ Your address changes
- ◆ Your phone number changes/you drop your landline
- ◆ Singles marry and spouse is not recorded
- ◆ An adult child moves away
- ◆ There is a baby or other addition to your family
- ◆ You separate or divorce
- ◆ A member moves to a nursing home or other care facility



Hank Adair, Victoria Altimus, Arlene Argiro, Scott Aronhalt, John Auer, Maureen & Stephen Austen, Peter Babyak, Janice Bailey, Al Balow, Heather Bardin, Meghan Bayer, Scott Bell, Maya Bennett, Marissa Bercik, Reanne Berger, Seth Beveridge, Scott Bigley, Anise Black, Betty Blacka, Jeffery Blystone, George Bordas, Gail Boucher, Devin Braddock, Mary Bredesen, Brian, Michael Brienza, Elizabeth Brown, Quinn Bukovac, Divinia Calinao, Bob Camilli, Jamey Camp, Margaret Carbonara, Kay Caringola, Grace & Larry Carroll, Cecil Casini, Anthony Cecchini, Toni Cellurale-Kuhlman, Mallory Chaikcic, Patty Check, Anthony Colatch, David Coldren, Heather Collins, Jack Conko, Steve Conko, Cindy Costello-Ford, Rose Cowan, Gloria Cross, Ron & Donna Cross, Robert Cumberland, Pat DeCara, Frank Decker, Debbie Del Sordo, Aidan DeMarco, Lavonne Dillinger, Paul Dillon, Albert Disson, Joyce Doppelheuer, Agnes Dowling, Sandy Drury, Mike Dunaway, Cathi Dunn, E.J. Duritza, Alberta Dusha, Melody Dynes, Ronald Egnot, Joan Emanuel, John Emanuel, Charlotte Eutsey, Tony Fao, Ron Farina, Michael Farris, Michelle Farris, Joan Fattori, Sandra Fletcher, Frankhouser & Hager Families, Cameron Frame, Sr., John Frick, Jason Friguglietti, Nicholas Gaborko, Christopher Galik, Marge & Ralph Galley, Robert Gallo, Sr., Jean Gallo-Ciscon, Machaela Garlowich, Greg Garred, Sr., Timmy Gibbs, Barry Glotfelty, Tanya Gray, Allie Guilian, Garrin Haggerty, Paul Hammaker, Jim Haney, Lola & Bill Hardy, Connie Hatter, Betty Healey, Nancy Heinbaugh,

Paul Helinsky, Frederick Helms, Alexia Herchko, Bill Herman, Angela Hill, John Hohmann, Arlene & Jay Hon-eycutt, Dennis Hough, Ruthie Hough, Herk & Connie Hubbard, Barry S. Huey, Grady Humbert, Dominic Ianello, Dolores laquinta, Brittany Johnson, Jackie Johnson, Darlene & Donnie Johnston, Kevin Jones, Karen, Rich Kazmierczak, Chase Kemp, Larry Kenison, Larry Kent, Lora Keslar, Joann Kieta, Carol King, Lorraine Kinnick, Alcuin & LaRena Kirsch, Zachary Knabenshue, Judie Kosisko, Kathy Kovac, Trish Koval, John Kuzyck, Bernadine Lafko, Susan Lake, Kevin Lape, Sean Lewandowski, Michaelene Lint, Michael Litman, Anita Grasso Lizza, Maryann Lloyd, Justin Loncala, William & Adina Long, Alvera & Michael Long, Savannah Longanecker, Ruth Lonigro, Shannon Lown, Donald Lowry, Jeffrey Madarish, Koochie Maiese, Noah Manges, James Marnell, Roger Marshall, Christine Martin, Daniel Martin, Marie Martin, Ted Martin, Theresa Martin, Kim Mari, Carol Martray, Bret Martucci, Ann Matthews, Betty Mazurik, Robert Mazurik, Jean McCormick, Janet McCune, Dave McMullan, Jeanne Meagher, Hunter Meese, Michael, Justin Miller, Kayia Miller, Sarah Miner, Terri Molinaro, Kay Molnar, Diane Monaco, Stephen Monaco, Fotenie Mongell, Adam Morgan, Kimberly Morrell, Edward Mulhorn, Tom Mullen, Carmella Mullins, Betty Nagy, Ron Nagy, Irene Nakles, Anna Newton, Fred Niemits, Eugene Onusko, John Orazi, Sr., Mike Ozorowski, Caroline P., John Pessamato III, Jonathan Philburn, Tom Pierce, Frank Pilla, Daniel Piper, Doug & Joyce Pirl, Velda Plesz, Sylvia Pockstaller, Barry

Premoshis, Gemma Premus, James Price, Marisa Primozic, Scott Prinkey, Ruth Ann Puskar, Joseph Ranker, Theresa Ranker, Susan Reagan, Dexton Reed, Imogene Rega, Joe Rega, Maryann Reid, Freda Rennick, Tammy Renzi, Jeannette Roley, Ellen Romanko, Terry Rose, Terry Ross, Ronald Rozell, Mary Margaret Ruck, Robert Ruck, Jay S., Joe Sages, Lorelai Santangelo, Parker Scarry, Betty Schott, Theresa Schott, Gavin Schuller, Brennan Sechrist, Susie Seman, Lisa Sezawick, Ray Shamberger, Mary Ann Shandorf, Steve Shandorf, Linda Shank, Martha Sheets, Kelly Huffman Sherbondy, Gen Sherwood, John Shields, Michele Sholtas, Jackie Shrum, Lester Shultz, Sr., Jeff Sigado, Erin Sigwalt, Gunnar Skrobacz, Kendal Skrobacz, Eric Smearman, Mattie Smith, Thomas Soberdash, Dennis Soisson, Mark Soisson, Marian Soldano, Sonya Spaw, Heather Spennati, Evelyn Sperry, Charles Spicola, David & Lori Stofan, John & Janet Stroncheck, Sadie Swank, James Thompson, Stephanie Tober, Michael Tonarelli, Karla Tressler, Carol Trimbath, Turner Trimbath, Ronnie Umble, Shaun Valente, David Voda, David Voda, Jr., Denise Voda, Ursula Vozar, Carol Ward, Doug Ward, Millie Warnick, Melvin Washington, Chuck Watson, Nancy Watson, Lois Weibl, Henry Whipkey, Marcella Wilburn, Evelyn Williams, Lee Williams, Roianne Wilson, Teri Winterhalter, Barbara Wisilosky, Beth Ann Wisniewski-Lee, Bernie Wolfe, Becky & Bob Wurst, Frank & Margaret Zaddell, Sr. Mary Mark Zavatsky, Anita Zentarsky, Richard Zientarsky, Esther Ziska, Sammy Zorichak, Johyn Zurich, Amy Zvara.

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by Anyone - please contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy,



religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the Childline number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, x1221.

A Dedication Recital for IC's new 3-manual Walker organ will be presented on SUN NOV 17 at 3pm, as part of the parish's 150th Anniversary celebration. The Dedication Recital will be presented by J. Christopher Pardini, director of music and liturgy and organist at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.



Congratulations to
MARIA STUVEK & RYAN CHRISTOPHER,
married OCT 5 at IC.

MINISTERS: Please call/email Chris Sparks with any dates you are UNable to serve in NOV.
628-7510 or
crsparks1@zoominternet.net

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON, OCT 14		ST. CALLISTUS I, POPE & MARTYR
8:00am	St. Rita	Charles & Gertrude Grosso (Children, Sonny, Arlene & Anita)
8:30am	St. Al	Anna Stefano (Ronald Pujia)
TUE, OCT 15		ST. TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
8:00am	St. John	Joseph, Mary & David Mazurik (Robert E. Mazurik, Sr.)
8:30am	St. Al	Dennis MacBurney (Carl & Theresa Piergallini)
WED, OCT 16		ST. HEDWIG, RELIGIOUS, ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOCQUE, VIRGIN
8:00am	St. Rita	Ricky Rush (Mother, Tina Molinaro & Chris & Katie Dillinger)
8:30am	St. Rita	Adoration until 4:30pm
THU, OCT 17		ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP & MARTYR
8:00am	IC	George Kovack (Swink Family)
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
8:30am	St. Al	Albert Vitti (Nephew, Joseph E. Kozak)
FRI, OCT 18		ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST
8:00am	St. Rita	Paul A. Nagy, Sr. (Tom & Janice Bailey)
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:30am	St. Al	Gebadlo Family (Geraldine)
SAT, OCT 19		VIGIL
		ST. JOHN OF BRÉBEUF, ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS
4:00pm	St. Rita	Gloria & Victor Gasbarro (Family)
5:00pm	St. Al	Midge & Betty LaFisca (Paul & Rosemary Bosetti)
6:00pm	IC	Louis Czajkowski (Wife & Daughters)
SUN, OCT 20		29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00am	St. Rita	Joseph A. Zavatchan (Bob, Amy & Robbie Flockvich)
9:00am	St. Al	Stanley Tabaj (John & Ruth Tabaj)
9:30am	IC	Pro Populo
11:30am	St. John	Frank & Leona Fors (Mary Kurtz)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of THOMAS SCHOMER, who died recently. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - OCT 19				MINISTRY SCHEDULE - OCT 20			
	SR-4PM	ST. AL-5PM	IC-6PM	ST. RITA-8AM	ST. AL-9AM	IC-9:30AM	ST. JOHN-11:30AM
ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	E Rittenhouse Z Zimmerman	R Trimbath J Trimbath	G Zavatchan G Zavatchan	G Joseph T Barrett	M Ross A Sampey	R Sebeck E Snyder	K Heckman L Heckman
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	J Rittenhouse M Pieczynski L Sparks	K Andolino M Vinoverski S Lincoln	P Daniels D Calinao P Calinao	G Bohinski D Gephart L Lauffer	A Trimbath J Wallace S Smith	J Baluch C Baluch J Miller	D Siecinski J Speeney J Kosinski
CROSS BEARERS	J Domer	W Trimbath	L Geary	C Joseph	F Vinoverski	A Zavatchan	R Gaudiello
LECTORS	G Panzella	T Shal	L Grinko	M Lazor	B Martin	T Szepesi	C Petrasun
ROSARY		J Connell			T Grover		



On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we had two separate pet blessings – one at St. Rita's grotto and one at St. Aloysius' Padre Pio

shrine. They were such perfect environments for a blessing on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi as they combine beautifully both the natural and the supernatural.

But keeping those places looking nice does not happen automatically. I was so grateful when Mary and the Youth Group (a decent name for a rock band, btw) offered to come and pull some weeds. I'm also super grateful to Mary Kay Dunaway, Mary Jane D'Amico, and any other volunteers I don't know about who keep those places looking nice all year long. This goes for all of our churches that are kept clean, tidy, and beautiful not only by paid staff but by many volunteers. It is just another example of how so many people quietly give back to God so that their left hand does not know what their right hand is doing (Mt 6:3). While it often goes unrecognized, it does not go unappreciated.

The big news of the week is that Fr. Bob is taking a six month leave of absence and Fr. Paul Lisik is going to become the pastor of our parishes on November 6.

I know that many are wondering what's going on with Fr. Bob. I am also curious to know because I'm concerned for him.

But there is clearly a reason we don't know and our love and concern for Fr. Bob ought to propel us to two things: respecting his privacy and praying fervently for him. That is what we can and should do, even if it doesn't feel like much.

When I found out that Fr.

Paul would be coming I breathed a sigh of relief. Admittedly I'm still nerv-

ous because I worked very well with Fr. Bob and I wonder what my working relationship will be like with Fr. Paul. But it greatly helps that I actually know Fr. Paul. I went to Holy Cross School with his niece and nephew and he would stop by at his *alma mater* on occasion. He is also known to our community, as he was here at IC as a deacon and again at St. John as a pastor in the 90's. In fact, he thinks it's funny that he left for Monessen during St. John's 100th anniversary celebration and will be returning during their 125th anniversary.

I am looking forward to getting to know Fr. Paul better and to working with him. But I'm most especially looking forward to learning from him. While I have some experience doing administration from my past life, learning



Fr. Paul Lisik

and knowing how to be a priest is another thing entirely. When a monk first enters the monastery, for a year he reports each day and is given work to do. He does not have an official job. This is because during his time of discernment, his primary vocation is not to be a professor, a book-keeper, or a gardener. It is to be a monk – to pray and to live in community. Everything else is ancillary. If he cannot love just being a monk, regardless of his work, he will be miserable.

Just so, I need this year to learn how to be a priest – what it means to celebrate Mass, to hear confessions, to experience Christmas and Easter in a parish, and ultimately to come to know what it truly means for me to be a priest and how to live and to love my priesthood. That will take time and I'm grateful to now have the time to take for that process without the added responsibility of administration.

Well, in a month anyway.

