

**EXCERPTS FROM THE MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 52nd WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FOR VOCATIONS
26 APRIL 2015 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Theme: Exodus, a fundamental experience of vocation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter offers us the figure of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep: he calls them, he feeds them and he guides them. For over fifty years the universal Church has celebrated this Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In this way she reminds us of our need to pray, as Jesus himself told his disciples, so that “the Lord of the harvest may send out labourers into his harvest” (Lk 10:2). He called not only the twelve Apostles, but another seventy-two disciples whom he then sent out, two by two, for the mission (cf. Lk 10:1-6). Since the Church “is by her very nature missionary” (Ad Gentes, 2), the Christian vocation is necessarily born of the experience of mission. Hearing and following the voice of Christ the Good Shepherd, means letting ourselves be attracted and guided by him, in consecration to him; it means allowing the Holy Spirit to draw us into this missionary dynamism, awakening within us the desire, the joy and the courage to offer our own lives in the service of the Kingdom of God. To offer one’s life in mission is possible only if we are able to leave ourselves behind. On this 52nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I would like reflect on that particular “exodus” which is the heart of vocation, or better yet, of our response to the vocation God gives us. When we hear the word “exodus”, we immediately think of the origins of the amazing love story between God and his people, a history which passes through the dramatic period of slavery in Egypt, the calling of Moses, the experience of liberation and the journey toward the Promised Land. The Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible, which recounts these events is a parable of the entire history of salvation, but also of the inner workings of Christian faith. Passing from the slavery of the old Adam to new life in Christ is a event of redemption which takes place through faith (Eph 4:22-24). This *Passover* is a genuine “exodus”; it is the journey of each Christian soul and the entire Church, the decisive turning of our lives towards the Father.

At the root of every Christian vocation we find this basic movement, which is part of the experience of faith. Belief means transcending ourselves, leaving behind our comfort and the inflexibility of our ego in order to centre our life in Jesus Christ. It means leaving, like Abraham, our native place and going forward with trust, knowing that God will show us the way to a new land. This “going forward” is not to be viewed as a sign of contempt for one’s life, one’s feelings, one’s own humanity. On the contrary, those who set out to follow Christ find life in abundance by putting themselves completely at the service of God and his kingdom. Jesus says: “Everyone who has left home or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (Mt 19:29). All of this is profoundly rooted in love. The Christian vocation is first and foremost a call to love, a love which attracts us and draws us out of ourselves, “decentring” us and triggering “an ongoing exodus out of the closed inward-looking self towards its liberation through self-giving, and thus towards authentic self-discovery and indeed the discovery of God” (Deus Caritas Est, 6).

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Mon. 04/27 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**
 Feast Easter Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass **Communion Service Only, due to Clergy Gathering**

Tues. 04/28 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**
 Feast Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr
 8:00 AM Mass **Communion Service Only, due to Clergy Gathering**

Wed. 04/29 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**
 Feast Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
 8:00 AM Mass **Communion Service Only, due to Clergy Gathering**

Thur. 04/30 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**
 Feast Saint Pius V, Pope
 8:00 AM Mass Bill Stitt, Ann 4/28, *Stitt Family*

Fri. 05/01 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**
 Feast Saint Joseph the Worker
 8:00 AM Mass Father J.D. Zatalava, Birthday, *Staff*

Sat. 05/02 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**
 Feast Fifth Sunday of Easter
 4:30 PM Mass Fred & Geraldine Petrunyak, Sr., *Family*

Sun. 05/03 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**
 Feast Fifth Sunday of Easter
 9:00 AM Mass Cassarly Family, *Lorraine Shuma*
 11:00 AM Mass Michael F. Zaczek, B/day Remb., May 2, *Sister and Brother*

*Lord
 Jesus
 Christ
 Son
 Of
 God
 Have
 Mercy
 On
 Me
 A
 Sinner*

Happy Birthday:


05/01 Shirley Siedlarczyk
 05/03 Bob Simanski, David Stein
 05/04 Sherry Byrne, Amanda Clark, Virginia Ferraro,
 Tom Riggleman, Eileen Starr

Wedding Anniversaries :

05/01 Kathleen and Gary Koeck
 05/04 Rita and Stan Sral

Nocturnal Adoration
Friday, May 1, 2015

UPMC Friends Chapel
4th Floor of UPMC Hospital 8-11
PM
(parking vouchers available at the
Chapel)



*Our Lady of Fatima
 Plead that we pray the
 Holy Rosary Daily
 At O.L.F. before each Mass
 and privately
 from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm*

MONEY MATTERS

(Third Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2015)

164 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$2,075.25 of which \$ 202.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	181	# Used	73	# Unused	108
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Collection One Year Ago = \$ 2,416.75

In the following note to his parishioners Father Brian Saylor, pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Church and School, accurately summarizes and articulates well the conclusions reached by the Altoona Quadrant Pastors in union with Bishop Mark when they met together last week. All in attendance agreed that this would be the policy and practice of each of the Catholic Grade Schools "feeding" Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. The so called pre Advanced Placement Program came to be outside the normal collegial processes involving the pastors and the Bishop and the "new program" both practically and philosophically stands at odds with decisions already in place flowing from the official diocesan Quadrant plan for the Altoona area.

**SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH
5514 ROSELAWN AVENUE
ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16602**

April 15, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It has been brought to my attention that some families are considering the new pre-Advanced Placement program at Bishop Guilfoyle. While I understand the opportunity that this appears to be, I want to clarify the position of St. Rose of Lima Parish with regards to this program.

This new program is not part of any Diocesan or Quadrant plan for the Altoona Area. It was created by Bishop Guilfoyle High School independent of the Diocese or the Elementary Schools.

Please know that no Parish Subsidy is available for students participating in the new Bishop Guilfoyle 7th & 8th Grade Program. I wanted to make sure this was clear to all parents as they make plans for the next school year.

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Brian R. Saylor

Remember:

May,

as Mary's month,

is the month of

The Holy Rosary.

humanity, proclaims the liberating word of the Gospel, heals people's spiritual and physical wounds with the grace of God, and offers relief to the poor and the suffering.

Dear brothers and sisters, this liberating exodus towards Christ and our brothers and sisters also represents the way for us to fully understand our common humanity and to foster the historical development of individuals and societies. To hear and answer the Lord's call is not a private and completely personal matter fraught with momentary emotion. Rather, it is a specific, real and total commitment which embraces the whole of our existence and sets it at the service of the growth of God's Kingdom on earth. The Christian vocation, rooted in the contemplation of the Father's heart, thus inspires us to solidarity in bringing liberation to our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest. A disciple of Jesus has a heart open to his unlimited horizons, and friendship with the Lord never means flight from this life or from the world. On the contrary, it involves a profound interplay between communion and mission (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 23).

This exodus towards God and others fills our lives with joy and meaning. I wish to state this clearly to the young, whose youth and openness to the future makes them open-hearted and generous. At times uncertainty, worries about the future and the problems they daily encounter can risk paralyzing their youthful enthusiasm and shattering their dreams, to the point where they can think that it is not worth the effort to get involved, that the God of the Christian faith is somehow a limit on their freedom. Dear young friends, never be afraid to go out from yourselves and begin the journey!

The Virgin Mary, model of every vocation, did not fear to utter her "fiat" in response to the Lord's call. She is at our side and she guides us. With the generous courage born of faith, Mary sang of the joy of leaving herself behind and entrusting to God the plans she had for her life. Let us turn to her, so that we may be completely open to what God has planned for each one of us

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



GOAL FOR 2015 = \$15,100.
PLEGGED TO DATE = \$ 2,625.

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