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The Steubenville REGISTER

VOL. 64, NO. 15

SERVING 13 COUNTIES IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

APRIL 3, 2009

News Briefs

Bishops plead for poor and vulnerable

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two United States Catholic bishops called on lawmakers to remember “the least of these” as they set priorities for the federal budget resolution.

In a March 26 letter to both houses of Congress, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., and Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., called the allocation of opportunities and burdens in the federal budget “moral choices” and asked Congress to place “the needs of poor families and the most vulnerable in our nation and around the world first.”

The bishops, who chair the U.S. bishops’ committees on international and domestic social justice, respectively, asked Congress to consider the effects of the economic crisis at home, “as families lose their homes; retirement savings disappear; workers lose both their jobs and their health care; and so many people are left without hope or security.”

“Abroad, our major priority should be a continued and strengthened commitment to effective programs of relief, development and health care, particularly in Africa,” they added.

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishops Hubbard and Murphy offered several directions and concerns with this year’s proposed budget. They included reforming health care; funding federal child nutrition programs and domestic agriculture support; restoring funds for affordable housing; addressing climate change and reducing the burden of those disproportionately affected by it; reauthorizing the D.C. Scholarship Program; increasing foreign assistance; and funding for the migration and refugee programs of both the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bishops also asked that Congress pass a resolution that doesn’t reduce incentives for charitable giving.

Holy Land collection generosity urged

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church’s annual Collection for the Holy Land helps maintain Christian sites in the Holy Land, provides care for aged religious who spent their lives ministering in the land of Jesus and supports projects that help native Christians remain and thrive in the region.

Cardinal Luigi Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, appealed for support of the collection, which traditionally is taken up during Good Friday services.

Palm Sunday April 5

“... (T)hey brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (Mk 11: 7-9)



Final Mass celebrated at St. Michael Church

BELLAIRE — Many of the mines, mills and factories that drew people to Bellaire have closed. People have left. Neighborhoods have changed.

So, a lot of those people who filled the pews for a final Mass at St. Michael Church, March 22, were no longer regular parishioners, but ones who came back from St. Clairsville, Cambridge, Shadyside, Canton, Ohio, and other places where they have moved.

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon thanked them, and all parishioners, who came for what he described as a solemn, sad occasion, but also a time to give thanks for God’s blessings that have flowed through St. Michael’s.

Though the bishop said that any church closing is not a good thing, because “God has chosen us to be his people, we’re able to deal with this and are able to go forward.

“God is working in us, ... and we are confident as (his) people. We stand in the light of Jesus Christ, and we live in hope.”

After Mass, Msgr. Gene W. Mullett, pastor of St. Michael’s, as well as St. John Parish, Bellaire, and administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Neffs, hosted people at a remembrance in the church hall. There, people shared food and reminisced about what it was like to have attended St. Michael the Archangel Church, organized in 1907, as they looked at memorabilia.

Father Peter Koss was the parish’s first priest. He was

To Page 5



(Photo by DeFrancis)

St. Michael Church, Bellaire

Father Battocletti, Bridgeport native, dead at 81

BRIDGEPORT — Retired Diocese of Steubenville priest, Father Richard L. Battocletti, 81, died March 23.

He was in repose March 25 at St. Mary Church, Martins Ferry, where he had resided after his retirement as the parish parochial vicar and continued to minister until poor health forced him to give up his assistance with liturgies and visitation to the sick and homebound.

On March 26, a funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony of Padua, the church where nearly 56 years ago, Father Battocletti’s ordination to the priesthood by the late Bishop John King Mussio was a first. Bishop R. Daniel Conlon was celebrant and homilist at the funeral Mass.

Burial followed in St. Anthony Cemetery, Blaine.

Father Battocletti was born July 3, 1927, in Bridgeport, one of three sons of the late Richard and Josephine Zani Battocletti Sr.

He attended St. Anthony School, Bridgeport; St. John Central High School, Bellaire; Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Wheeling, W.Va.; St. Charles Seminary, Columbus, Ohio; St. Gregory Seminary, Cincinnati; and Mount St. Mary of the West, Cincinnati.

After his May 30, 1953, ordination to the priesthood, Father Battocletti’s first assignment was to St. Mary Parish, Marietta, where he remained for four years. Other assignments included St. Benedict, Cambridge; St. John, Bellaire; Our Lady of Angels, Barton; and St. Joseph, Bridgeport.

While serving in those parishes, Father Battocletti also taught in high schools associated with them: St. Mary, Marietta; Guernsey Catholic Central, Cambridge;



(File photo)

Father Richard L. Battocletti

and St. John Central, Bellaire.

He also served as director of youth in Assumption Deanery and as chaplain for St. John Hospital, Steubenville, the Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Belmont County Serra Club.

In addition, he was appointed to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Lowell; St. Paul, Flushing; Immaculate Conception Mission, New Matamoras; and the Hannibal Mission Station.

In 1973, Father Battocletti was named pastor of St. Michael Parish, Bellaire; and then pastor of St. Adalbert, Dillonvale; St. Gabriel, Minerva; and St. Teresa of Avila, Cadiz.

He also was administrator of Christ the King Mission, Tappan Lake, and St. Matthias Mission, Freeport.

While serving as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Brilliant, and parochial vicar of St. Peter and St. Stanislaus parishes, Steubenville, he also was comptroller at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville.

From 1980 until 1989, Father Battocletti served on the Council of Priests (Presbyteral Council).

He was a member of the “Pactum Marianum.”

Bishop Conlon said of Father Battocletti, “During the years I have known him, he has unfortunately been quite ill.

“Ill health was apparently a constituent part of much of his life and priesthood.

“Sometimes serving as a priest of Christ involves not only sacramental sacrifice, but also physical sacrifice, as well.”

St. Joseph Central graduate singled out for service to church, community

BRIDGEPORT—A woman, described as having done her job very, very well, has been named St. Joseph Central School distinguished graduate for 2009.

Betty Bartosek, a native of Bridgeport, was singled out for the award March 25 by St. Joseph Central Principal Daniel D. Delande after an all-school Mass.

The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Thomas C. Petronek, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Bridgeport, and concelebrated by Father John F. Mucha, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and pastoral administrator of the school.

Throughout the years, children from St. Joseph and St. Anthony parishes, as well as former parishes in Barton and Blaine, have attended St. Joseph Central School.

As explained by Delande, the award is presented yearly in cooperation with the Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Educational Association to St. Joseph Central graduates who embody the goals of elementary Catholic schools in their lives, are examples for children currently attending parochial schools and emphasize the qualities that make Catholic schools different. Recipients have been people from all walks of life who are well-rounded models of Catholic education, the principal said.

Lorlean Fialkowski, one of Bartosek's nieces, introduced "Aunt Betty" as a woman who "has always been a wonderful, religious example for us" and a person who valued her Catholic education.

Bartosek was born March 23, 1926, a daughter of Andy and Hester Dolak. After graduating from St. Joseph Central School, she attended nearby Bridgeport High School. The high school and

College of Commerce, Wheeling, W.Va., graduate spent more than 30 years in a managerial position at an Ohio Valley insurance company.

Bartosek said that she not only learned the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic at St. Joseph Central School, but more importantly learned to know, love and serve God. While in the fifth grade, she began music lessons and by seventh grade was playing the organ for Masses at her parish, St. Joseph, she said. She continues as parish organist and choir director. In addition, Bartosek is active in the parish Catholic Woman's Club and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, having held offices in both organizations. During her years of volunteering, Bartosek said she was supported totally by her husband, Walter, now deceased.

In 2001, Bartosek received a papal award, the Cross "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" from Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon who had requested it from Pope John Paul II. She received the award for outstanding service to the diocese, the bishop told Bartosek and other honorees at that time.

Bartosek also has been involved for decades in ecumenical service with the Bridgeport Christian Friendship Council, providing food for the needy, toys for children and scholarships for youth.

She also is a volunteer at Wheeling Medical Park, Wheeling, W.Va. She has amassed more than 14,000 hours of volunteer time at the hospital.

"I realize how fortunate I am," the honoree said as she acknowledged the Mass attendees, who included her family and friends as well as the students and staff at St. Joseph Central. She cautioned the stu-



Betty Bartosek displays the 2009 St. Joseph Central School, Bridgeport, distinguished graduate award that was presented to her by St. Joseph Central Principal Daniel D. Delande, left. Father John F. Mucha, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bridgeport, and pastoral administrator of St. Joseph Central School, second from left, and Msgr. Thomas C. Petronek, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Bridgeport, right, join in honoring the awardee. (Photo by DeFrancis)

dents to "do it well, from the heart and for the love and glory of God," no matter what role they take in life.

"You have many talents to give back to God."

"One thing that will never change is the love that God has for you," she said.

After a reception for the award recipi-

ent in the adjacent parish hall, Bartosek visited the students, back in school, and presented each with a pin designating him or her as a "child of God." The pins had been blessed earlier by Msgr. Petronek, who also delivered the homily at the Mass on the Annunciation, and urged everyone, "May we become more like Jesus."

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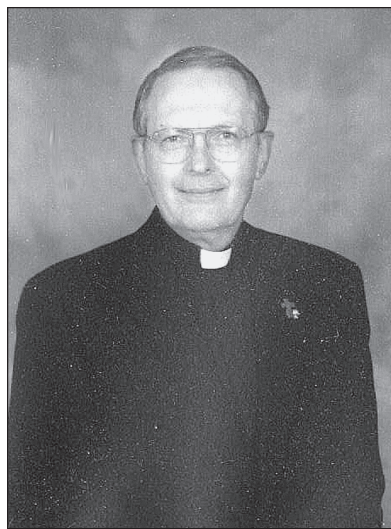
Shadyside



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In serving, one permanent deacon ministers most of the time with his wife at Familyland

Editor's Note: Bishop R. Daniel Conlon has issued the call for men who want to become permanent deacons in the Diocese of Steubenville. Deadline for application to the diaconate is May 1. A three-year diaconate formation program will begin June 1 in the diocese. However, a few men already serve the diocese as deacons.



(Photo provided)

Deacon Randall Redington

Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, as well as at Masses celebrated by Bishop R. Daniel Conlon.

Born in Lorain, Ohio, on Nov. 8, 1943, Deacon Redington has been married since 1966 to Mary Alberta (Mary Ellen) Havanas. Of his wife, Deacon Redington said, "Her support and involvement in my preparation as well as her support and involvement throughout my 25 years of diaconal ministry was, is and will continue to be of critical importance to my sense of peace and to the overall effectiveness of my ministry."

Prior to relocating to Steubenville in 2001, he spent 30 years in education at the high school and college level. Deacon Redington has a mortuary science degree and is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the state of Ohio. In addition, he holds degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio; Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; and Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was part of the permanent diaconate formation program at Lourdes College, Sylvania, Ohio, and was ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, in 1983.

More than 30 years ago, he and his wife began serving summers as missionary volunteers and served in Oklahoma, Kentucky, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. As missionaries, the couple evangelized door-to-door, worked with the poor, conducted Bible study and fed prisoners, among other things. Since 1989, the Redingtons have volunteered at Familyland, where they now reside part time. They, too, are residents of Rosemont Avenue, Steubenville.

He, too, has been involved in a variety of other ministries throughout his diaconate, such as preparing people for the sacraments, visiting shut-ins in their homes, hospitals, nursing facilities and in prisons and directing retreats.

In addition, Deacon Redington has served at First

Saturday Light of the World Cenacles for more than 12 years, been active in youth and bereavement ministries and the Knights of Columbus pro-life activities for which he was cited by the organization as Ohio's religious of the year in 1998.

As he recounted his path to becoming a permanent deacon, Deacon Redington said that he and his wife were encouraged by a pastor in the Diocese of Toledo to enter a lay ministry program. After the two-year program, men could be invited to diaconate formation, and men and women could advance in catechetical or pastoral associate programs. Thus, he started diaconate formation, and his wife enrolled in the catechetical program.

Deacon Redington was incardinated as a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Steubenville in 2002.

Though he said it is difficult to cite the most beneficial aspect of serving as a deacon, he added: "Certainly, there is a great deal of satisfaction realized from fulfilling the charism of the diaconate, which is service."

"Under the direction of the bishop and the parish priests, in most cases, the deacon has a myriad of opportunities to serve the body of Christ. As with all efforts to serve others, the call to suffer is ever present. I have been richly blessed through my efforts in each of the ministerial involvements. ... In most cases, it was the suffering and sacrifice involved in the ministry that called me ... to spiritual growth. ...

"(T)he single most beneficial aspect of being a permanent deacon is that being in holy orders has provided and will always provide me with the grace of ordination to keep me close to Our Lord and to holy mother church during the good times and the rough times. ...

"The grace of holy orders is very real, and it is what I treasure the most in my vocation as a permanent deacon. ..."

Bishop Conlon's Schedule

April

- 4 Conference with seminarians, Holy Name House of Formation, Steubenville, 10 a.m.
Passion Sunday Mass, Holy Family Church, Steubenville, 4 p.m.
- 5 Passion Sunday Mass, Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, 10:30 a.m.
- 6 Chrism Mass, Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 7 Chancery staff meeting, chancery, Steubenville, 9:30 a.m.
Radio segment WDEO 990 AM, noon
Chrism Mass, St. Mary Church, Marietta, 7 p.m.
- 8 Tenebrae, Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 9 Mass of the Lord's Last Supper, Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 10 Celebration of the "Tre Ore," Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, noon
Liturgy of the Lord's passion and death, Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, 7 p.m.
- 11 Easter Vigil, Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, 8:30 p.m.
- 12 Easter Sunday Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, 8:30 a.m.
- 15 Confirmation, St. Stanislaus Church, Maynard, 7 p.m.
- 16-17 National Catholic Educational Association Convention, Anaheim, Calif.

People invited to special Mass

FLUSHING — In this year of St. Paul, a special Mass is scheduled for 3 p.m., May 3, at St. Paul Church, Flushing.

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon will celebrate the Mass.

Father Frederick C. Kihm, pastor of St. Paul Parish and St. Mary Parish, Lafferty, invites everyone to make a pilgrimage to St. Paul's, participate in the Mass and attend an open house, afterwards.

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Child Protection Review Board completes examination of decree

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After several months of relooking at the diocesan “Decree on Child Protection,” the Diocese of Steubenville Child Protection Review Board has agreed the document is ready for Bishop R. Daniel Conlon’s action.

At a March 24 meeting, review board members formally accepted the decree, as updated during months of study.

The multipaged document was drawn for the Diocese of Steubenville at the mandate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops who had drafted a “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” as the result of sex abuse by some clergy, nationwide.

Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, vicar general, who actively participated in the drafting of the diocesan decree and an accompanying “safe environment” program that requires training of parents, ministers, educators, church personnel, volunteers and others involved with minors as to the issue of abuse of children, has guided the decree’s review, said necessary every five years.

The Diocese of Steubenville decree, proposed to prevent the abuse of children and adolescents and to provide a system for handling incidents of abuse after they occur, became effective March 5, 2003.

Though each section of the decree was studied individually and then collectively

by the board, most of the members’ discussion centered on the frequency for training and the agency or agencies that should conduct background checks for people who work with children and young people.

Consensus was that clerics, employees and regular volunteers must attend yearly orientation on the decree and any subsequent matters pertaining to child and youth protection.

Background checks are to be conducted for clerics, employees, volunteers, auxiliary personnel and personnel furnished through a third party contract on a regular basis. The checks could be conducted at the state or federal level, or both.

Msgr. Kemo will present the updated decree to Bishop Conlon for eventual promulgation and printing.

A revised safe environment program also will be submitted, Msgr. Kemo said. One member of the review board, Julie Selmon, Monroe County Common Pleas Court judge, will meet with the safe environment committee, at the suggestion of Msgr. Kemo.

During a 6:30 p.m., May 19, meeting at St. Mary Parish, St. Clairsville, the review board is expected to decide on how a newly promulgated decree should be presented and members’ involvement in the training.

Committee on marriage examines draft of bishop’s pastoral initiative

MARIETTA — The diocesan National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage Committee on March 28 reviewed a draft on “Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan” from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Subcommittee on Marriage and Family of which Bishop R. Daniel Conlon is a member.

The committee was formed in 2008 by Michele A. Santin, director of the diocesan Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities), at the request of Bishop Conlon.

Since the bishops expect to present a national pastoral initiative on marriage by the fall, each diocese is asked to have a committee already in place to accept the bishops’ writing, Bishop Conlon said.

In November, all of Ohio’s priests are expected to attend a first-ever state convocation on the marriage initiative.

As comments on the initiative are collected, another draft of the document is anticipated prior to its presentation to all bishops for a vote, Bishop Conlon explained to the committee as he accepted its members’ input.

The diocesan committee’s goal is to make the bishops’ initiative on marriage known, Santin said. Thus, subcommittees for communications, catechesis and marriage support were formed and are expected to meet prior to the next committee meeting at 11 a.m., Sept. 19, at St. Mary School, Marietta.

Members of the committee include: Msgr. Robert J. Kawa, pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Beverly; Father Daniel Heusel, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Tiltonsville,

and St. Lucy Parish, Yorkville; and lay members, Bill and Susie Weiss, James and Teresa “Jane” Rudman, Dave and Mary Nelson, Gerry and Joan McKeegan, Tim and Suzie Delaney, Robert and Nisan Coniker, Robert and Cindy Brown, Joe and Mary Augenstein, Martha “Marti” Jones and John Balzano.

Meanwhile, Santin announced the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers in conjunction with the University of St. Thomas and the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth will present “Becoming a Marriage-Building Church” conference June 25-28 at the University of St. Thomas, Center for Catholic Studies, St. Paul, Minn.

The conference will include keynotes addressing the sacramentality of marriage, relationships skills, programs to enhance the marriage relationships, as well as the bishops’ pastoral initiative on marriage and its implementation.

Among the keynote speakers are: John Grabowski, associate professor and director of moral theology/ethics of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; Helen Alvare, a faculty member at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va., and a member of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for Marriage and Family; Christopher West, author; and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Additional information on the conference is available at www.nacflm.org/displayconvention.cfm.

Statement from Bishop R. Daniel Conlon

STEUBENVILLE — The Diocese of Steubenville has received what it considers to be a substantiated allegation of abuse of a minor child by Father John B. Nadzam.

Father Nadzam died in February 2005.

The incident of abuse was described as having occurred in the 1970s.

Diocesan officials, acting in accord with the Diocese of Steubenville “Decree on Child Protection,” notified local civil authorities when they first learned of the allegation.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1950, Father Nadzam served parishes in Steubenville, Buchtel, Chesapeake, Fairpoint, Dillonvale, Pomeroy and Shadyside and a mission in Modoc while in the Steubenville Diocese.

He also was a teacher at Catholic Central High School, Steubenville,

and principal of St. Joseph Central High School, Ironton.

If anyone has been abused by Father Nadzam, or anyone else connected to the Diocese of Steubenville, he or she should contact Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, vicar general of the Diocese of Steubenville, by telephone at (740) 282-3631 or through e-mail at kkemo@diosteub.org, as well as local civil authorities.

When allegations are made concerning child abuse, they are dealt with in a straightforward and compassionate manner.

We are committed to full compliance with state law and church policy on abuse.

At the same time, I ask for prayers for those who are victims of child abuse and for those who are perpetrators of child abuse, particularly within the Catholic Church.

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