Reading Pastoral Region celebrates solidarity with combined parish picnic

Special Parish Report to The Catholic Telegraph

Fr. David Howard of the Reading Pastoral Region (consisting of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Sts. Peter and Paul Parishes in Reading) celebrated with parishioners at their first combined picnic on Sunday, Sept. 29 at Reading’s Koenig Park.

Though both parishes held picnics in the past, this was the first year of the combined picnic. Parish families gathered together for an early fall afternoon celebrating their faith community, friends, fun and food! It was great for members of both parishes to come together on such a very special day. The togetherness symbolized greater things to come from our Collaborative Pastoral Region.

Fr. Howard said, "It was such a tremendous blessing to see both parish families gather together in fellowship and work together to further solidify their identity as a Collaborative Pastoral Region and a shared community of evangelizers for Jesus Christ."

The planning committee, headed by Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parishioner Mary Sears, worked hard to ensure each guest had a memorable experience. Sts. Peter and Paul’s Social Committee reached out with a helping-hand to coordinate the event for their parish. Mary said, "What a great community building event. We had parishioners from ages 1-90 socializing and enjoying each other's company!"

Pam Eling of Sts. Peter and Paul’s Social Committee added, "Our first Pastoral Region Picnic was a great day and a wonderful way for us to show our unity in the spirit of Christ."

Over the past year, Father Howard has worked diligently with the Reading Pastoral Region of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Sts. Peter & Paul parishes by bringing them together for ministry. The two parishes now share Parish School of Religion, RCIA, Youth Ministry, Penance Services, Lenten Soup & Bread Dinners and normal camaraderie. The Parishes’ Youth Ministry coordinated children’s games including face painting, bubbles and other activities at this year’s picnic.

Reading’s Catholic Community is a rich part of the city and its' history. In May, the Reading Pastoral Region participated with Fr. Howard in Reading’s 104th Memorial Day Parade.

The Reading Pastoral Region’s transition has been very smooth, especially with the long relationship of working together on other things such as RCIA and supporting festivals and dances. The pastoral region just seemed like the natural progression for our community.

For additional information regarding the Reading Pastoral Region, please contact Sts. Peter and Paul’s Parish Office at 554.1010 or Our Lady of the Sacred Heart’s Parish Office at 733-4950.

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Blessing of animals set at St. Margaret of York

St. Margaret of York will have its annual Blessing of Animals Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. on the church plaza entrance.

The church is located at 9483 Columbia Road, Loveland, in Twenty-Mile Stand.
Singer Danielle Rose will perform in concert at St. Susanna Church <http://www.stsusanna.org/> in Mason at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5. Danielle is a music missionary, inviting others to experience the Eucharistic love of Jesus and Mary through the prayer song of her heart. Currently she is raising spiritual and financial support for the children of China Little Flower orphanage so that babies’ lives can be saved and souls brought to Christ. Her five albums are available through iTunes and www.daniellerose.com <http://www.daniellerose.com/>. Tickets are $5 in advance at the parish office, at the door, or at the St. Susanna parish website <http://www.stsusanna.org/> : For more information, contact Susan Hack at hacks@stsusanna.org <mailto:hacks@stsusanna.org> or 513-398-3821 ext. 3169.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church <http://www.saint-max.org/> invites you to attend Changing Habits: The Nun Monologues at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5. Tickets are $20/person in advance or $25/person at the door. Tickets include performance and appetizers. A cash bar will be available. For tickets or more information, visit www.saint-max.org <http://www.saint-max.org/> or contact Lakme Kodros at lkodros@saint-max.org <mailto:lkodros@saint-max.org> or 513-777-4322, ext. 105. An offering will be collected for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The Athenaeum Chorale will begin its 34th season with Sunday Vespers at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West <http://www.athenaeum.edu/> , Mt. Washington. The chorale is under the direction of Athenaeum Music Director Anthony DiCello. Fr. Timothy Schehr, professor of biblical studies at Mount St. Mary’s, will preside. The performance will include: Magnificat by Schiavone; Joyous Light of Glory by Schalk; Ave Maria, by Stravinsky, and Salve Mater Misericordae, by Poitier.

“How Much is Too Much?” a parenting and life skills workshop by Catholic Charities <http://ccswoh.org/> , will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Nativity Parish <http://www.nativity-cincinnati.org/> cafeteria in Pleasant Ridge (Cincinnati). Parents can learn strategies to manage the pressure to “do more, be more, and give more,” effects on children, and how to build families that encourage cooperation and responsibility. There is no fee. The workshop will also be presented from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, at St. Vivian Parish’s <http://www.stvivian.org/> Ursuline Hall in Finneytown. The fee is $10 for St. Vivian parishioners and $15 for non-parishioners. To register or for more information, contact Sandy Keiser at skkeiser@ccswoh.org <mailto:skkeiser@ccswoh.org> or 513-241-7745.

St. Margaret of York Church <http://www.smoy.us/smoyp117/index.php/> in Twenty-Mile Stand will present a presentation on Theology of the Body with Deacon Russ and Missy Feldkamp from 7 to 8:30 pm. Thursdays Oct. 10, 17 and 24, with a reception to follow.

Come join your friends at Cincinnati’s largest annual Catholic youth gathering: CREDO <http://www.credoibelieve.org/> , hosted at Archbishop Moeller High School <http://www.moeller.org/> . This year’s topic is living a moral life – “Lord, When Did We See You?” It runs from 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, to Mass celebrated by Bishop Binzer at 11:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 12. Register online at www.credoibelieve.org <http://www.credoibelieve.org/> or contact Brad Bursa at youthminister@stgertrude.org <mailto:youthminister@stgertrude.org>.

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics <http://www.mariasteinshrine.org/> will host a workshop on St. Therese of Lisieux on Friday, Oct. 11, and Saturday, Oct. 12, plus an open house to celebrate the Little Flower, whose feast day was Oct. 1. The open house will have information available about Therese’s life, along with examples of The Little Way, prayers reflecting a Shower of Roses, and opportunities to pray with the relic of St. Therese at 8:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m., and 3:30 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, refreshments, and a showing of a film of her life.

I f cancer is part of your past or your present, you know it has impacted you and your family in a significant way. If you’d like a day to gently explore its meaning in your life, and perhaps look for the grace in it, the day-long retreat “The Cancer Journey – Face with Grace” on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford is for you. Through story and reflection, Liz Tassone, a cancer survivor and spiritual director, will help you look at meaning – both challenges and gifts – of a cancer diagnosis. Whether you or a loved one is facing a serious illness, this retreat will help you “push the pause button” and take the time to consider God’s invitation to you in your life – just as it is. Call Mary Ellen at 513-248-3500, ext. 10, for information or to register, or visit www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com <http://www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com>.

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property <http://www.tfp.org/> will sponsor its 7th annual Rosary Crusade from noon to 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 – the 96th anniversary of Mary’s apparitions at Fatima – on Fountain Square downtown. Bishop Binzer will speak about Marian Devotion; Fr. André-Joseph LaCassee, pastor of St. Gertrude’s Church in Madeira, will lead the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; and Deacon Amado Lim, of All Saints Church in Kenwood, will lead the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus <http://www.kofc.org/en/> will formally process carrying a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Events of Interest
 Calls for less 'Vatican-centric,' more socially conscious church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In his latest wide-ranging interview, Pope Francis said that he aimed to make the Catholic Church less "Vatican-centric" and closer to the "people of God," as well as more socially conscious and open to modern culture. He also revealed that he briefly considered turning down the papacy in the moments following his election last March, and identified the "most urgent problem" the church should address today as youth unemployment and the abandonment of elderly people. The pope's remarks appeared in a 4,500-word interview, published Oct. 1 in the Rome daily La Repubblica, with Eugenio Scalfari, a co-founder and former editor-in-chief of the newspaper. Scalfari, an avowed atheist, publicly addressed the pope in a pair of articles on religious and philosophical topics over the summer, and Pope Francis replied in a letter that La Repubblica published Sept. 11. The journalist reported that the two met in person at the Vatican Sept. 24.

Humility, service attract people to church, not power, pride: Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As a series of consultations aimed at the reform of the Vatican bureaucracy began, Pope Francis told his group of cardinal advisers that humility and service attract people to the church, not power and pride. "Let us ask the Lord that our work today makes us all more humble, meek, more patient and more trusting in God so that the church may give beautiful witness to the people," he said Oct. 1 during morning Mass in his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae. The strength of the Gospel "is precisely in humility, the humility of a child who lets himself be guided by the love and tenderness of his father," he told the cardinals. The pope was concelebrating the Mass with the eight cardinals he chose in April to advise him on reforming the governance of the Roman Curia. The group’s first formal meeting was to be held Oct. 1-3, with the first day of deliberations falling on the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux -- a saint the pope is particularly devoted to.

Eucharistic congress celebrates 'youth, vitality' of Knoxville Diocese

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) -- The Diocese of Knoxville celebrated its 25th anniversary in grand fashion by holding its first eucharistic congress, which drew about 5,000 Catholics from throughout Tennessee and around the country to gather in prayer and song, fellowship and worship. "My wife, Karen, and I attended this conference and were just blown away by the sea of love and affection for our Catholic faith in east Tennessee. Guests attending the congress asked how such a small mission diocese in east Tennessee attracted such big-name speakers. They included New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. bishops' conference; Cardinal Justin Rigali, former archbishop of St. Louis and Philadelphia who has served on two Vatican congregations and is currently in residence in Knoxville; Father Robert Barron, currently rector of Mundelein Seminary in the Chicago Archdiocese, who created the "Catholicism" television series; and Scott Hahn, best-selling author and theology professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

Cardinal sees religion's soul, head, heart embodied in popes

RYE, N.Y. (CNS) -- The three most recent popes exemplify the soul, head and heart of religion, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York told an interfaith group Sept. 29. "All religions come to look to the pope for spiritual guidance and example," he said. "Every religion, faith, church, organization, family needs a soul, a head and a heart." Cardinal Dolan addressed more than 600 people at the 35th annual conference of the Rye Women's Interfaith Council, convened at the Church of the Resurrection in Rye. He acknowledged that the program was postponed from March to accommodate "my flimsy excuse of having to be in Rome to elect a new pope. Thank you for your patience." Blessed John Paul II was a "particularly gleaming example of the primacy of the soul," Cardinal Dolan said. Despite the challenges he faced in war-torn Poland and throughout his life, the cardinal said, Blessed John Paul lived by the words he spoke to the public when he was elected pope in 1978: "Be not afraid. The primacy of the spiritual, the essence of the soul," he said, was demonstrated during the pope's June, 1979 visit to Poland, when 1.5 million people gathered for Mass chanted spontaneously for 17 minutes: "We want God!"

Furthering transparency efforts, Vatican bank publishes report

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As part of its continuing efforts to promote transparency and to demonstrate its stability and adherence to industry standards, the Vatican bank published its annual report for the first time in its history. The Institute for the Works of Religion, as the bank is formally known, released its independently audited report Oct. 1, publishing the 100-page document on its website: www.ior.va. In his introduction to the report, Ernst von Freyberg, president of the institute, said, "2012 was a successful year for the IOR and for our clients. The IOR posted earnings of $66.6 million euros (about $117 million), which allowed us to contribute 54.7 million euros toward the budget of the Holy See, while transferring 31.9 million euros to our general operating risk reserves." The bank’s earnings for 2012 were more than four times greater than the 20.3 million euros it earned in 2011.
St. Bernard teacher Susan Frame introduces parents to the new math series that “digs deeper.” St. Bernard School in Taylor Creek recently held two Curriculum Nights for parents. During brief, grade-specific sessions, teachers presented the curriculum, routines, and policies that the students experience each day. Part of the presentations introduced parents to the school’s new math and language arts series that emphasize conceptual understanding and critical thinking. St. Bernard School is located at the corner of Springdale and Harrison and serves over 190 students in grades kindergarten through eight.

Eighty two Roger Bacon students were asked to bring a donation, a box and themselves to Roger Bacon High School Sep. 28 to spend the night outside experiencing homelessness. RB’s annual Shantytown is an opportunity to raise student awareness, and to address and breakdown stereotypes. Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless spoke about the vast amount of people experiencing homelessness every night in Cincinnati, and had speaker Debra, discuss her own situation. Not only did the students sleep in a box for the evening they also had activities, reflections and a prayer vigil throughout the night. This event seems to open the eyes and hearts of Roger Bacon students each year and helps to break down the walls and misconceptions of homelessness.