

THE CHRONICLE

OF SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH

Beauty that
can save the world.

Art. The Catholic Church has inspired some of the world's greatest artists. Meet three local (and renowned) artists whose deep faith has fueled their own art for close to a century.

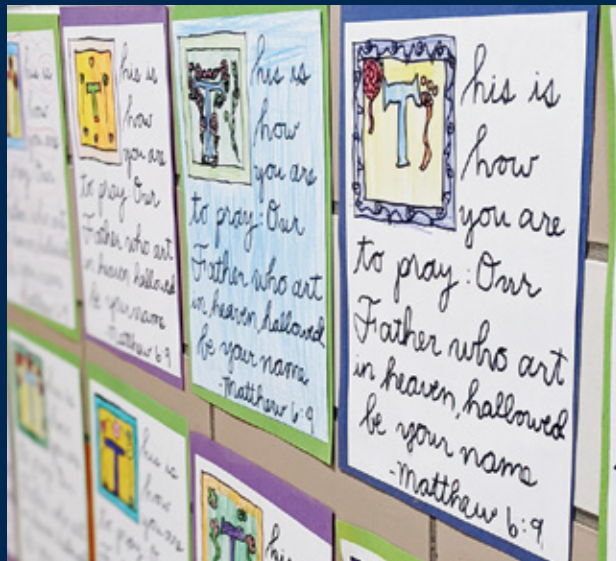


SOUTH HILLS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Little Saints Preschool • Grades K-8

The mission of South Hills Catholic Academy is to assist parents in the Christian spiritual, moral and intellectual formation of their children by ensuring the total development of each child – body, mind, and soul.

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SHCA is a financially independent non-profit organization, governed by a board of directors, and supported by generous benefactors.



Dear Parishioners & Friends...

Eight years have passed since we began to publish a semi-annual parish magazine, and the feedback has always been positive. People enjoy learning something about Catholicism and then seeing the life of our parish chronicled in print and photography, reading the names of parishioners who have celebrated Sacramental milestones, and remembering those who have gone to their eternal reward.

To date, without a doubt, the most popular edition of *The Chronicle* by far was the last one, the focus of which was the restoration of Saint Anne church, accompanied by a beautiful photo spread and descriptions of the sacred art and symbols that fill the church.

The positive response has prompted us to dedicate this issue to the sacred arts and artists who use their creative gifts to help us see, hear and feel the presence of God in new ways, and draw us into the mystery of His love.

In the pages ahead we highlight three local Catholics from the South Hills – a poet, painter and musician – all of whom have dedicated their long lives to the arts and have risen to both national, and even international, prominence.

I hope that reading their stories and reflecting on their work, you are moved to see art as more than merely an expression of human creativity, but also as a means of encountering the sacred.

And finally, I pray that this issue of *The Chronicle* will inspire all of us to seek and create beauty in our own lives, knowing that in doing so, we glorify the Creator Himself!

Sincerely,



Father Mike



Fr. Michael A. Caridi
Pastor



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The Life of a Saint ST. CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA

PATRON SAINT TO ARTISTS

Written by Ed Macko

St. Catherine of Bologna is the patron saint of artists, born into a devout and prominent family as Catherine de'Vigri in 1413. She possessed many artistic talents, which were displayed in her paintings of the Blessed Mother and the Lord, and in her self-portraits – where her humility showed as she did not attempt to hide her homeliness.

She was also an accomplished musician who played the violin “as if it were speaking melodies.” Though obviously very talented, Catherine boasted only of God who was “simply working His gifts through her.”

Even from a very young age, Catherine seemed to have a natural compassion for those less fortunate than her, and she surprised everyone with her piety and wisdom for one so young.

After the death of her father, Catherine decided to follow her heart and enter the Religious life of the Order of St. Augustine. Here she wrote, *“During my tender years, enlightened by Divine Grace, I entered God’s service in this Monastery with good intentions and much fervor. My life was filled with prayer, day and night. Any virtue I admired or heard of in others, I tried to imitate in my own life. I did so not out of envy, but to please God in Whom I had put all my love.”*

It was also during this time that she began to be openly tempted by the adversary in his hope that Catherine would become prideful in the gifts and talents God gave to her. Her constant rebukes would cause the devil to flee from her as he could not stand to be in the presence of true sanctity. Though Catherine suffered much, her love for God did not dwindle nor did her obedience to the Church.

One day, as Catherine was baking bread, the call for prayers came just as she placed several loaves in the oven. In the rush to leave and not be late for prayer, she made the



The Mystic Marriage of St. Catherine

painted by Giacomo Francia (circa 1486-1557, Bologna)

The Blessed Mother presents the infant Jesus to St. Catherine

sign of the cross over the loaves still baking and quickly left. When she returned – several hours later – she was amazed that the bread had not burned, but was indeed the most delicious bread she had ever baked.

Through all her visions and temptations, Catherine’s obedience and humility never wavered. On one Christmas, Catherine began praying 1,000 Hail Marys in front of the

Tabernacle when she found herself in the presence of the Holy Mother, who smiled and handed Catherine her infant son Jesus. Catherine reflected, *“The perfume that emanated from His Pure Flesh was so sweet that there is neither tongue that can express, nor such a keen mind imagine; the very*

St. Catherine of Bologna
Prayer for Artists

*Dear saintly Poor Clare,
Saint Catherine of Bologna,
so rich in love for Jesus and Mary,
you were endowed with
great talents by God and
you left us most inspiring writings
and paintings for wondrous beauty.
You did all for God’s greater glory
and in this you are a model for all.
Make artists learn lessons from you
and use their talents to the full.*

Amen

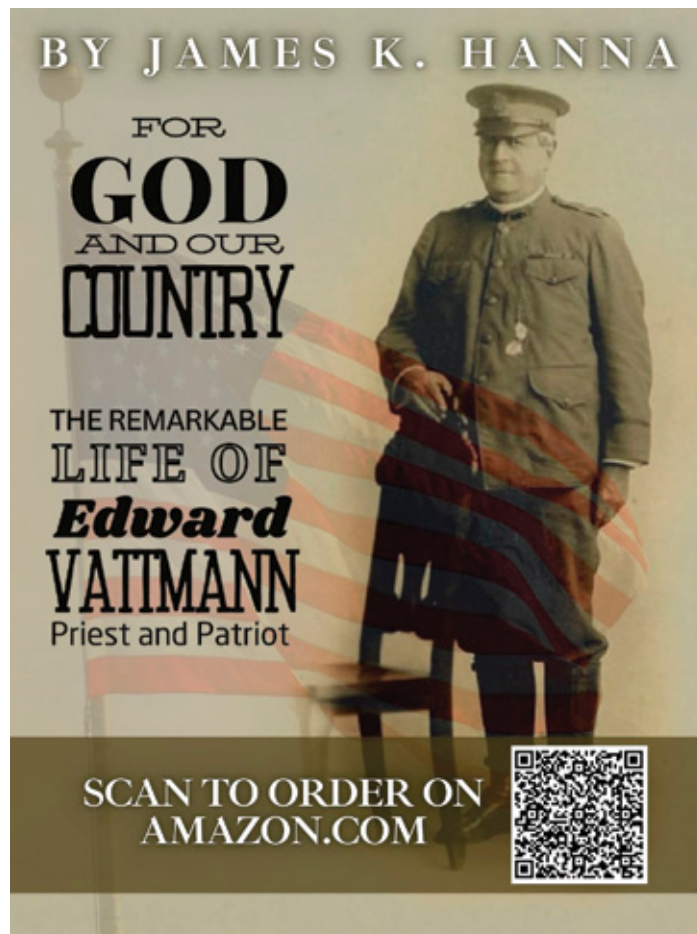
*beautiful and delicate
Face of the Son of God,
when one could say all
that was to be said,
it would be nothing.”*
Catherine was not
alone in experiencing
this most wondrous
event as her fellow
sisters smelled the
holy Presence of baby
Jesus and Our Lady as
a heavenly fragrance
filled the entire room.

In time, Catherine
moved to Bologna
where she became
Mother Abbess. There,

she continued to work tirelessly, writing spiritual guides
and poetry, including a *Treatise on the Seven Spiritual
Weapons Necessary for Spiritual Warfare*. She also continued
to play the violin and to paint – a painting she made of
St. Ursula remains on display in a Venice gallery. 🔥

*During the Lenten season of 1463, Catherine became
seriously ill, and on March 9th she passed away. She was
buried without a coffin and her body was exhumed eighteen
days later because of many cures attributed to her at her
graveside and the sweet scent coming from her grave.*

Her body was discovered incorrupt and remains so today.





*“Do you know that every
blade of grass is a study;
that every stalk of grain is an
autobiography; that every
flower is a poem?”*

~ Prince Myshkin,
from Fyodor Dostoyevsky's The Idiot



AN APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS AND ARTISTS – INTRODUCTION BY EDWARD MACKO

“Beauty will save the world.”

~ Prince Myshkin

About 60 years ago, I grew up in a Byzantine Catholic Church in lower Greenfield – in a place known as Rus’ka Dolina, or more affectionately as “The Run.”

While I’ve never heard anyone describe The Run as “beautiful,” it was in the sanctuary of St. John Chrysostom Church in The Run, that I learned what true beauty was. There I sat, almost every day while my mom cooked in the church’s kitchen, and let my imagination wander.

I would stare at the icons on the wonderfully adorned “iconostas” (the wall of icons that define the altar) and the ominous face of Christ on the ceiling. The ever-present aroma of incense added to the mystery of what my mind, and my soul, were slowly absorbing.

I certainly didn’t understand it then, but now I believe I was experiencing what Prince Myshkin understood: that true beauty – through the arts inspired by faith – can transform us and, indeed, save us. And, save the world.

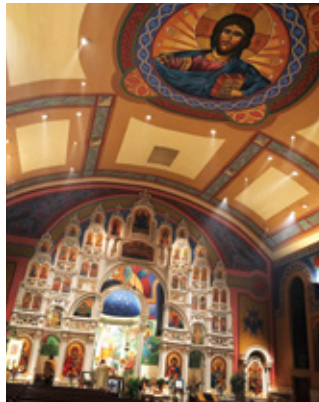
The arts engage us in ways nothing else can. They provide an active dialog between our senses and our imagination. They ask questions of us and demand answers. The arts inform us and illuminate the truth about ourselves by taking us deep within ourselves. They show us what is truly good – morally and aesthetically.

The arts enlarge our world. G.K. Chesterton once wrote that the man who has traveled the world to diverse places has potentially seen only its places, while the man who has never traveled beyond his own locale views the world through his imagination. That man, he said, breathes not the air of locality; but breathes the winds of the world. Through the arts, we can all breathe those same “winds of the world.” And see the world not as it is, but as it can be and as it was designed to be.

It is beauty that allows that to happen.

“If your choices are beautiful, so too will you be,” said Epictitus. Allow yourself to slow down and appreciate the beauty of all that surrounds you: the sky, the grass, the flowers, the birds, and of course, the neighbor who passes you by every day.

Open yourself to the arts. Appreciate beauty it will appreciate you. It will always lead to something good. And true. And beautiful.



St. John Chrysostom Church

THREE AMONG MANY

The three artists on the pages that follow have dedicated themselves to the arts for nearly 100 years. They are our neighbors. Even if we don’t know them, we know them through the works of art they’ve created, which will outlive all of us. Yet they are just three among many – artists and craftsmen who are part of the South Hills community, and whose work adds richness to our lives.

Sam Hazo, 97, is Pennsylvania’s only Poet Laureate. “True poems,” he says, “are momentary intensities, and they are invariably as brief as they are unforgettable. They startle us into the ongoing time of the present tense, and they keep us there as long as we are in their grip.”

Joe Negri, 95, has been a well-known Pittsburgh personality for over 90 years, first performing with the Pittsburgh Symphony as a young boy. He is probably best known as Handyman Negri from Mister Rodgers’ Neighborhood, but is also recognized as one of the most accomplished jazz guitarists in the country.

John Del Monte is now 100 years old and has a story, it seems, for every one of those years. He offers this as a testimony to his longevity and happiness, “Don’t take but give; give of yourself and you will be surprised by the rewards.”

Continued on Page 8



IT

A poem by Sam Hazo

Asked how it feels to love
and be loved, say nothing.

Love lessens when discussed.

Apart from the diction of deeds,
no proof matters but this –
if love's not once and only
all the time, it never
happened, or it's still
in waiting, or it's over.

Poet Sam Hazo

STORY BY MIKE AQUILINA

For the better part of a century, Samuel Hazo has been the public face of poetry.

Since the early 1950s his published poems have given voice to life's ordinary loves, labors, desires, and griefs. Last year (2024) marked the release of *The Treachery of Luck*, Hazo's thirty-fourth collection of poetry in some seventy years of writing.

But he hasn't just written poetry. He's promoted the art and taught the craft. From 1966 till last year, he served as executive director of the International Poetry Forum – which he founded – a unique institute that promotes poetry as public speech.

He speaks of his work in terms of mission and vocation, not something he chose, but something that chose him. "Poetry and belief have this in

“Poetry is as indispensable
to life as bread.”

~Sam Hazo

common,” he wrote recently. “They come to exist within us in their own good time and at their own preference, never at ours ... Poetry and faith and love rhyme in this way. We are unable to initiate through our own power what prompts any of the three to possess us. We can only acquiesce and cooperate with them when they do, which is why poets and saints and lovers are said to be ‘touched’ or chosen. They are incapable of choosing themselves.”

Sam was born in 1928 to immigrant parents and grew up in and around Pittsburgh, raised mostly by his great aunt, his mother having died when he was just seven years old. A graduate of Central Catholic High School, he earned a full scholarship to Notre Dame. It was there that he became inspired to take up writing. Hazo went on to earn a master’s from Duquesne University and a Ph.D. from Pitt. He began teaching at Duquesne in 1955.

Teaching and family life rank high among the experiences Hazo has reflected upon in his poems. Among his most anthologized works are “*Open Letter to a Closed Mind*” and “*To a Commencement of Scoundrels*,” both poems expressing the hopes and disappointments of a teacher.

He has also written profound

reminiscences of his parents, his brother, and the aunt who raised him. Countless poems express his love for Mary Anne, his wife of sixty years, and their son. Since Mary Anne’s death in 2016, Hazo has published six collections of poems, and each has explored themes of gratitude and grief.

“True poems,” he wrote in a 2007 essay, “are momentary intensities, and they are invariably as brief as they are unforgettable. They startle us into the ongoing time of the present tense, and they keep us there as long as we are in their grip.”

It is for such poems that he was named Pennsylvania’s first (and so far, only) Poet Laureate, serving 1993-2003. It is for such work that he has received a National Book Award nomination and twelve honorary doctorates.

And it is for such work that he still receives notice and praise. In 2024, at age ninety-six, he received the prestigious Common Wealth Award, whose past literary recipients include Nobel Prizewinners Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Toni Morrison, Derek Walcott, Seamus Heaney, and Saul Bellow.

Journalist Kenneth Woodward describes Samuel Hazo as the most complete man of letters ever produced by Notre Dame University. His work stands, and it is formidable. 🔥

THREE PILLARS OF CATHOLIC POETRY

It can be said that the only ones who don’t appreciate poetry are those who never took time to read it soulfully. Whether or not that is true doesn’t apply when it comes to these three masterpieces of the poetic art that every Catholic should read.

Pearl – Author unknown

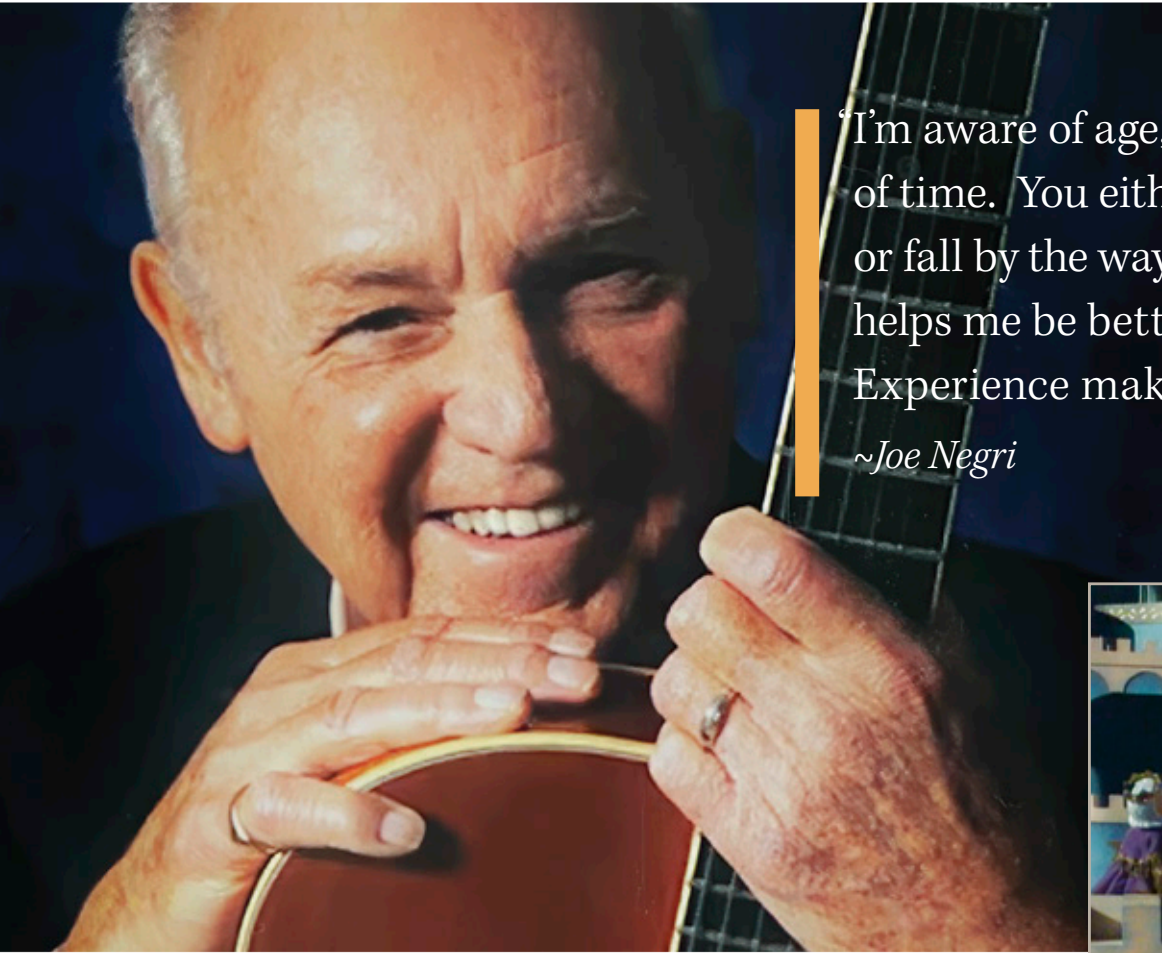
A 14th-century allegorical poem about a grieving father’s dream, in which he finds his lost daughter – his beautiful Pearl – in a heavenly paradise where she teaches him about divine grace and salvation. The poem explores themes of loss, faith, and spiritual transcendence through an intricate poetic structure.

Paradise Lost – John Milton

Not the easiest poem to read, but your effort will be well rewarded. It’s a massive work of art that tells the story of Satan’s rebellion against God, the fall of Adam and Eve, and man’s expulsion from Eden. Through grand, poetic language, it exposes the contrast between the lies of Satan and the promises of God and explores themes of free will, justice, and redemption.

The Divine Comedy – Dante

Often called the greatest poem ever written; a three-volume spiritual adventure of the poet’s journey through Hell (**Inferno**), Purgatory (**Purgatorio**), and Heaven (**Paradiso**). Under the guidance of the poet Virgil and the angelic Beatrice, Dante learns of divine justice, spiritual redemption, and ultimately, salvation.



"I'm aware of age, the passing of time. You either keep up or fall by the wayside. Maturity helps me be better, I think. Experience makes me better."

~Joe Negri



Musician Joe Negri

STORY BY FR. RICHARD INFANTE

Since his recognition in 1999 as Artist of the Year by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Joe Negri has been recognized as one of the most accomplished jazz guitarists between New York and Chicago. From his first performance with a ukulele on local radio as a young boy to his collaboration with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Joe Negri has been making beautiful music for over ninety years.

Joe is also widely known and loved for hosting television programs for children and for his portrayal of Handyman Negri on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," which was aired nationally on PBS.

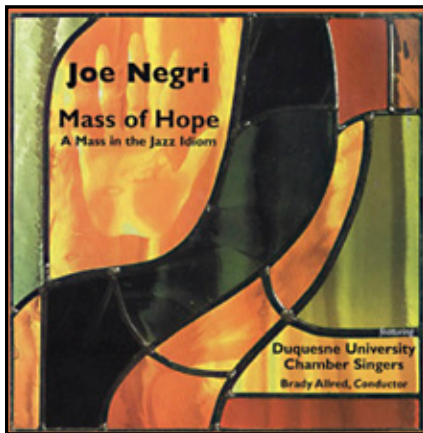
Between performances in concerts, on stage, and on television, he also found time to teach jazz guitar to generations of students at Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Former Bishop Anthony Bosco called him, "a man of magnificent musical talent and deep faith." Joe has always found new and creative ways to share his passion for his Catholic faith through jazz – recognizing the beauty and spiritual dimension of this unique American musical art form.

A Mass of Hope

Of all his musical recordings, Joe is most proud of his original composition entitled *Mass of Hope: A Mass in the Jazz Idiom*, which was commissioned by the National Catholic Educational Association to compose jazz music for the Mass at their national convention held in Pittsburgh in the mid-1970s.

Originally written and performed for a jazz combo and a few singers, Joe developed it over the next decade to include more instruments and additional vocalists. He then reworked

Pittsburgh Catholics are blessed to have the example of Joe Negri, who has found creative ways to use his considerable God-given talent to express his deep faith for the benefit of our community.



the *Mass of Hope* for a full church choir, adding new hymns and songs. Over the years, Negri performed and directed the *Mass of Hope* for both secular and sacred spaces, both in concert form and for the Catholic liturgy. In 2003, at the Pittsburgh JazzFest, Joe's *Mass of Hope* was featured among the performances and was dedicated to Fred Rogers who had died earlier that winter, prior to the festival.

Joe's desire to make his *Mass of Hope* accessible to church congregations culminated in the early 2000s when *Mass of Hope* accompanied the liturgy at both Nativity Parish in South Park and Our Lady of Grace in Scott Township. Joe – along with his musicians, vocalists, and parish choirs – delighted large gatherings with the unique blending of traditional Catholic worship and the contemporary jazz medium.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY OF MUSIC (AND THE DIVINE NUMBER SEVEN)

Music is the ultimate expression of beauty – the 'beautiful' partner of the good and the true.

Music can raise your heart beat. It can calm your nerves. It can expand your imagination. It can – and this is what it was designed to do – lift your very soul to God.

To those *not* musically inclined, it might come as a surprise that every single song or composition ever written was done so using only seven notes. From Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* to Bob Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind* to Joe Negri's *Mass of Hope* – all were composed using the same **seven notes**.

Theologically, the number seven is often associated with divine perfection, completeness, and spiritual fulfillment. Perhaps this is why music brings us such joy.

Take a two-week music challenge

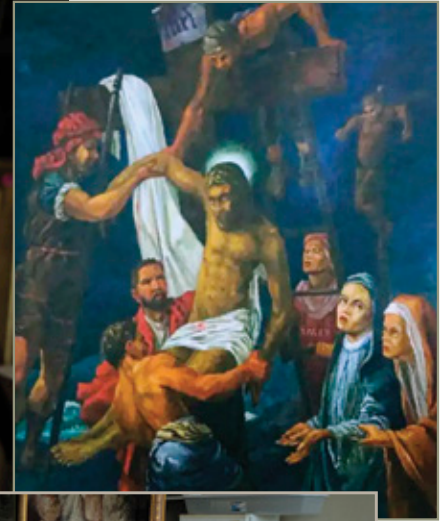
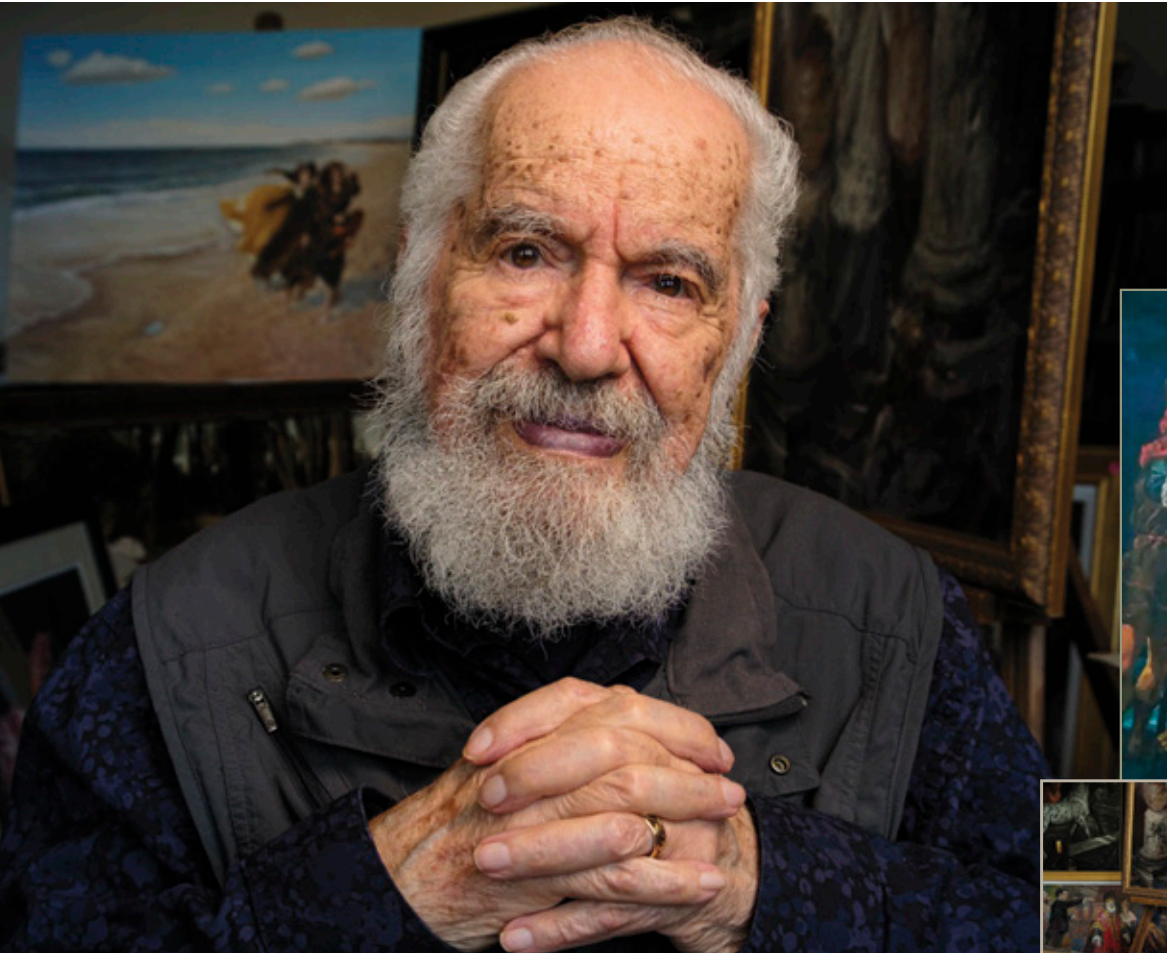
Change what you listen to – for two weeks. Theologians and philosophers have long believed that music strongly influences our moral character. [Scan the QR code](#) to learn about philosopher John Cuddeback's "two-week challenge" and discover the influence music can have on you.



Guitars for Christmas

Guitars for Christmas, released in 2003, contains popular carols and religious songs such as *We Three Kings*, *Silent Night*, and *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle* (You Descend from the Stars) a popular Italian Christmas hymn. Both this CD and *Mass of Hope*, blend Joe's musical talent with his deep Catholic faith. His lifelong search for religious beauty and musical artistry are preserved in these two wonderful recordings. 🔥





Artist John Del Monte

STORY BY JIM HANNA

On October 29, 2024, John Del Monte turned 100 years old. In an interview last summer, the Bethel Park artist offered no “secret” to longevity, but he did share his secret to happiness: “Don’t take but give; give of yourself and you will be surprised by the rewards.”

The son of Italian immigrants and a native of McKees Rocks, Del Monte has spent a lifetime giving others the fruit of his artistic talents. That fruit, he says, is “Beauty.” It’s that quality in an object by which it pleases a person,

consisting of wholeness, proper proportion, and clarity.

He also emphasized memory and faith as qualities important in the creation of works of art. “Memory plays a very important part in a good artist,” he said while recalling his father’s faith. “Father always carried a rosary and had little statues of saints on the dashboard of his car. When I draw or paint, I am very conscious of religion, even when doing a still life of onions.”

One of the paintings in his studio is that of his late father sitting on a chair encircled by white smoke. The

white smoke was his choice for symbolizing the Holy Spirit, though he has used other representations in other paintings.

Holy Scripture inspires much of his art, finding inspiration in the New Testament letters of Saint Paul. “I enjoyed what Paul did and how he did it, so I would draw and paint him. I gave one painting of Saint Paul to Bishop Zubik.”

He also has a special devotion to St. Gemma, the Italian mystic also known as the Flower of Lucca. “In Italy, I lived three blocks from the Church of St. Gemma in Lucca (where he founded

“When I draw or paint, I am very conscious of religion, even when doing a still life of onions.”

~John Del Monte

Del Monte graduated from McKees Rocks High School in 1943 and enlisted in the Navy. After World War II, he attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and received a scholarship to the Art Students League of New York in Manhattan. After several years in there and New England, he studied in Italy, eventually founding Creative Art Studies, a school in Lucca, Italy, in 1969. Over the years he's taught in Europe and the states, including at Carnegie Mellon University. He still has a studio filled with paintings in Bethel Park.

Creative Art Studies). I was having pain in my left knee. I went to the church and prayed a simple prayer, 'Saint Gemma, cure my left knee.' The pain went away, and I have never had a problem since.”

John has a great appreciation for the spiritual significance of beauty, and agrees with the statement of the Second Vatican Council that “the fine arts, above all sacred art, of their nature, are directed toward expressing, in some way, the infinite beauty of God” and with the teaching found in the Catechism that sacred art is true and



Image: Christ the Pantocrator – The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

A CHURCH WITHOUT ART?

It's hard to think of walking into a modern Catholic Church and **not** encountering beautiful, sacred art in which, through the artist, the Spirit of God speaks to us. To think that a time existed when these beautiful icons were actually **destroyed** by the church is, well, unthinkable. But it did happen and it was period of time known as “iconoclasm.”

There were actually multiple periods of iconoclasm, but the most famous were the Byzantine Iconoclams of 728-787 and 814-842. They were brought on by Byzantine Christians who believed that the veneration of icons and religious images was a form of idolatry that violated the Second Commandment.

Debate raged over whether Christ's divine nature could be properly represented in an image. The Iconoclasts (those who opposed icons) believed that depicting Christ in material form limited his divinity.

- **The First Iconoclasm (726–787)** was imposed by Emperor Leo III and ended when Empress Irene restored icon veneration at the Second Council of Nicaea (787).
- **The Second Iconoclasm (814–842)** was revived under Emperor Leo V and ended when Empress Theodora permanently restored icon veneration in 843, celebrated as the Feast of Orthodoxy in the Eastern Orthodox Church.



About the Cover

Mosaic of Christ from Hagia Sophia, 1261, created after Constantinople was retaken by the Eastern Romans and returned to the hands of the Orthodox Church after 57 years of occupation.

beautiful when its form corresponds to its vocation: evoking and glorifying, in faith and adoration, the transcendence of God.

He hopes his works of sacred art have that effect: “I want paintings to lead to meditation on the Scriptures. Sacred art should be sensitive to

prayer; it should make one aware of prayer and make it easy to pray. Look at it long enough and study it and you will find out it works for you.” And he doesn't hesitate to add, “Art may also lead to laughter or an exchange of ideas, which is good also.” 🔥

The Art of Learning

A CONVERSATION WITH EMMA OROS,
CURRICULUM DIRECTOR AT SOUTH HILLS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Written and photographed by Ed Macko



No one would argue that there is an art to teaching. But learning? Well, there are actually seven arts. And they're divided into two categories: three to help you to write, reason, and speak; and four that help you calculate numbers, understand volume and space, decipher the cosmos, and appreciate harmony and melody. They're called the liberal arts – not because they're artsy, but because they free, or liberate, your mind to see the truth in things.

To tech or not to tech?

The first thing you may notice when you walk into the classrooms at South Hills Catholic Academy is where the technology is located – and *where it is not*.

“Technology in the classroom at SHCA is reserved to screens that display objects, or sentences, or something the class can discuss

and engage with. Here, classroom tech does not apply to smartphones or iPads or laptops that can be found on students' desks in most classrooms today,” says Emma Oros, curriculum director at SHCA. “We think the technology is best used when it is not used personally, but used globally across the classroom. For instance, a block of text, a piece of art, a place in the world – each might form the root of our class discussion and the students can engage with that image and with each other over that object.”

“We learn from history, so you can expect to hear 6th graders discussing and writing pieces about the Trojan War, the Gardens of Babylon, which is carried across all the classrooms because they're so tightly integrated.”

"The cool thing is that when students begin to question things of history, they often find themselves drawn into Christianity and Catholicism because they are seeing the actions of imperfect men being led and influenced by the imperfect gods they themselves have created."



Christ above all.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt 19:14)

The goal at SHCA is to have students learn how to think and speak, to be able to listen and engage, and to react to news and others' opinions, and then come to their own well-thought-out conclusions. We see their path as being able to discern truth, which comes from God, and follow it. The destination is sainthood.

Oros says, "we teach the students what they need to know when they need to know it. Interestingly, we find what they want to know is God. We have first-graders who have taught their parents how to pray the Rosary in Latin! This isn't high-brow or an intellectual stance; the students are easy with it, they love it and are excited by it. There is beauty and order in everything we do."

In closing she says, "if you've mastered the art of real-world problem solving, using your own hands and your own brain, then sure, technology can take you to the next level of problem solving. But if we rely on tech too soon, you miss that foundational level of being able to reason things out with your own mind." 🔥

THEY SAY THAT "GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE," BUT NO ONE EVER THOUGHT QUITE LIKE LEONARDO.

*"The thing that was given to me by
the universe was the chance to question it.
And that is my divine duty."*

Leonardo da Vinci is arguably the most well-known painter in history. Yet, over his lifetime he started a relatively few number of paintings – and he finished



even fewer. But 500 years after his death, the finished works he left behind have become the most revered works of art of all time, among them the **Mona Lisa** and **The Last Supper**. "Painting a person was easy," he said, "showing the thoughts and intentions of their mind was difficult."

Leonardo da Vinci had a phenomenally curious mind. Beyond his known works of art, he was involved in engineering, science, anatomy, geology, and botany.

- He staged experiments on the nature of falling objects more than a century before Galileo or Newton
- He read Greek and Roman philosophers and frequently questioned their wisdom
- He conceived a "self-propelled cart" – a precursor to the modern automobile
- He sketched designs for weapons of war including tanks, chariots, and multi-barrel cannons
- He designed early conceptions of helicopters and parachutes, inspired by his close observation of birds

He claimed that real knowledge was best found in nature and best gained through the process of observation and experience. Like his paintings, few of his ideas and inventions were ever implemented in his lifetime, but the sketches and notebooks he left behind have inspired many and remain a source of inspiration for us today.



MEET THE BANNONS

Photos and story by Ed Macko

This is Hope.

(HOPE ISN'T HER NAME. IT'S HER STORY.)

Her name is Lainey – which means bright, shining light.

But if not for the tear-filled prayers of a hopeful mother- and father-to-be, we wouldn't be reading her story because there would be no story to tell.

At 22-weeks, Lainey's little body was in an abnormal position – wrapped in a ball and feet over her head.

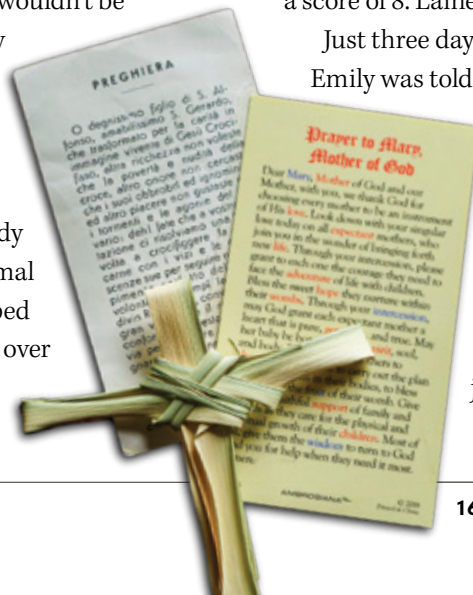
Two weeks later, the only change was that there was now no bodily movement. A normal Doppler score, which measures healthy blood flow is a score of 8. Lainey's was a 2.

Just three days before Christmas, Emily was told that Lainey was very

sick and would need to be sent to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for further care. The news was shocking. Lainey was just 15 oz. and still

four months from natural birth, and Emily was told the only decision was to deliver immediately. "Can you please tell me if you feel there is any hope at all?" she begged tearfully. "Can't you just say you have hope?" "No," the doctors answered, "We're sorry but there is no hope."

"I was in shock," remembers Emily. "But we decided in spite of this news to have faith. I started going to daily mass and lit a candle everyday. I prayed so hard I actually felt my faith radiating within me. Fr. Mike became the rock I needed and even



administered the Anointing of the Sick to me, and by extension, Lainey.”

Amazingly, over the next three weeks Lainey started growing, though her bodily position didn’t change. “She grew from 15oz to 25oz; we took that as hope,” says Emily, “but the doctors still cautioned us that even if she survived she would most likely have a neuromuscular disorder because of the condition of her legs.”

Hope above all Hope

On March 21, 2024, Emily and Logan’s prayers were answered when Lainey entered the world as a perfectly normal, perfect healthy baby girl at only 37 weeks. She was tiny, only 3 lbs. 4 oz, but in every way, perfect.

Still in NICU three weeks after the birth, the Bannons ran into the same NICU doctor that offered them no hope. “We asked her if she remembered us? At first, she didn’t,” says Emily. “But the next day, she came to us and very sincerely apologized for rushing the judgment and for saying what she said. She went on to admit she had learned a very valuable lesson through this experience and our journey of faith.”

Today, Lainey is nearly a year old, weighs 12 pounds, and is all of the bright, shining light her name means. Logan remembers, “I was just trying to remain strong for Emily, but it turned out that Lainey was being strong for both of us.” Emily adds, “She beat all the odds. My body wasn’t doing it for her, and the hospital offered no hope, but thankfully, God did.” 🔥

THE PORTAL OF THE MYSTERY OF HOPE

by Charles Peguy, French poet

The faith that I love best, says God, is hope.

Faith doesn’t surprise me.

It’s not surprising.

I am so resplendent in my creation...

Charity, says God, that doesn’t surprise me.

It’s not surprising.

These poor creatures are so miserable
that unless they had a heart of stone,
how could they not have love for one another?

How could they not love their brothers?

How could they not take the bread from their own mouth,
their daily bread, in order to give it to the
unhappy children who pass by...

What surprises me, says God, is **hope**.

And I can’t get over it.

This little hope who seems like nothing.

This little girl hope.

Immortal...It’s she,

the little one, who carries them all.

Because Faith sees only what is.


But she, she sees what will be.

Charity loves only what is.

But she, she loves what will be.



The Bannons – Logan, Lainey & Emily



“God saw all
that he had made,
and it was very good.”

~ Genesis 1:31

The opening excerpt of Pope Saint John Paul II's
Letter to Artists, released on Easter Sunday, 1999.

Scan this QR code
to read the full letter



THE ARTIST, image of God the Creator

None can sense more deeply than you artists,
ingenious creators of beauty that you are,
something of the pathos with which God at the
dawn of creation looked upon the work of his hands.

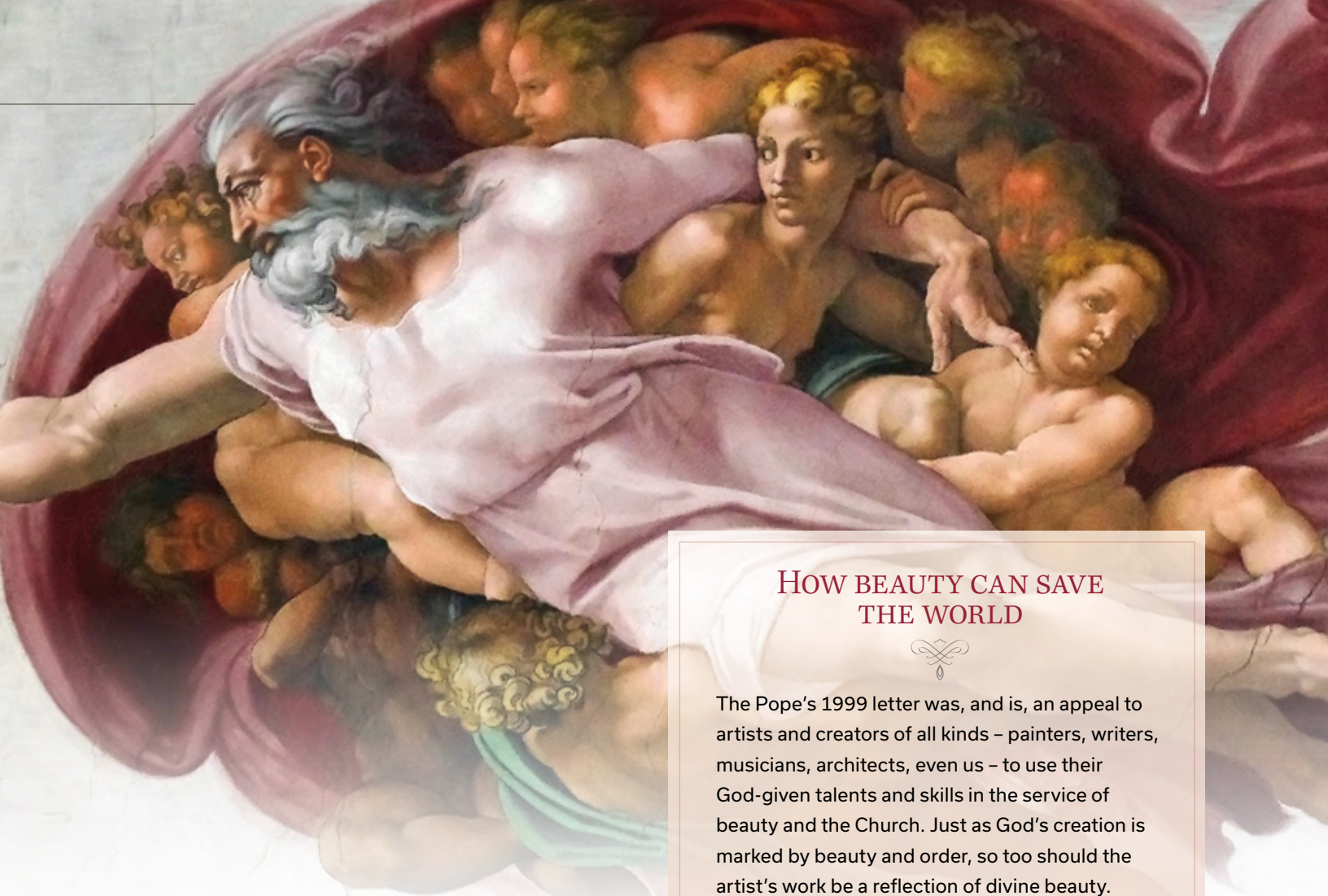
A glimmer of that feeling has shone so often in your eyes when—like the artists of every age—captivated by the hidden power of sounds and words, colors and shapes, you have admired the work of your inspiration, sensing in it some echo of the mystery of creation with which God, the sole creator of all things, has wished in some way to associate you.

That is why it seems to me that there are no better words than the text of Genesis with which to begin my Letter to you, to whom I feel closely linked by experiences reaching far back in time and which have indelibly marked my life. In writing this Letter, I intend to follow the path of the fruitful dialogue between the Church and artists which has gone on unbroken through two thousand years of history, and which still, at the threshold of the Third Millennium, offers rich promise for the future.

In fact, this dialogue is not dictated merely by historical accident or practical need, but is rooted in the very

essence of both religious experience and artistic creativity. The opening page of the Bible presents God as a kind of exemplar of everyone who produces a work: the human craftsman mirrors the image of God as Creator. This relationship is particularly clear in the Polish language because of the lexical link between the words *stwórca* (creator) and *twórca* (craftsman).

What is the difference between “creator” and “craftsman”? The one who creates bestows being itself, he brings something out of nothing—*ex nihilo sui et subiecti*, as the Latin puts it—and this, in the strict sense, is a mode of operation which belongs to the Almighty alone. The craftsman, by contrast, uses something that already exists, to which he gives form and meaning. This is the mode of operation peculiar to man as made in the image of God. In fact, after saying that God created man and woman “in his image” (*cf. Gn 1:27*), the Bible adds that he entrusted to them the task of dominating the earth (*cf. Gn 1:28*). This was the last day of creation (*cf. Gn 1:28-31*). On the previous days, marking as it were the rhythm of the birth of the cosmos, Yahweh had created the universe. Finally he created the human being, the noblest fruit of his design, to whom he



subjected the visible world as a vast field in which human inventiveness might assert itself. God therefore called man into existence, committing to him the craftsman's task. Through his "artistic creativity" man appears more than ever "in the image of God," and he accomplishes this task above all in shaping the wondrous "material" of his own humanity and then exercising creative dominion over the universe which surrounds him. With loving regard, the divine Artist passes on to the human artist a spark of his own surpassing wisdom, calling him to share in his creative power. Obviously, this is a sharing which leaves intact the infinite distance between the Creator and the creature, as Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa made clear: "Creative art, which it is the soul's good fortune to entertain, is not to be identified with that essential art which is God himself, but is only a communication of it and a share in it."

That is why artists, the more conscious they are of their "gift," are led all the more to see themselves and the whole of creation with eyes able to contemplate and give thanks, and to raise to God a hymn of praise. This is the only way for them to come to a full understanding of themselves, their vocation and their mission. 🔥

HOW BEAUTY CAN SAVE THE WORLD



The Pope's 1999 letter was, and is, an appeal to artists and creators of all kinds – painters, writers, musicians, architects, even us – to use their God-given talents and skills in the service of beauty and the Church. Just as God's creation is marked by beauty and order, so too should the artist's work be a reflection of divine beauty.

He reminds artists that their vocation is not merely to create for personal expression, but to use it as a means of communicating beauty and order to the world.

The Church needs art, and art needs the Church, he says. But here he is speaking of more than just a painting on a wall, here the Pope is making the case that all of us are called to be artists in that we are entrusted with the task of crafting our own life. In a certain sense, and in the midst of cultural chaos, we are tasked with making our life a work of art – indeed, even a masterpiece.

"Artists of the world, may your many different paths all lead to that infinite ocean of beauty where wonder becomes awe, exhilaration, and unspeakable joy."

~Pope Saint John Paul II

April 4, 1999

Easter Sunday



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Pope Francis opens the door to Jubilee Year 2025

BY FATHER MIKE CARIDI

Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a special Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church.

Going back to the Book of Leviticus, the concept of a Jubilee year refers to a special moment of grace set aside to give thanks to God for His goodness and generosity, to implore His pardon and mercy and, finally, to beseech His blessings upon the future.

While its roots are Scriptural, the practice of a Jubilee Year was formalized by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 and has been observed approximately every 25 years since then.

Generally, Jubilees are marked by special pilgrimages, the granting of indulgences and the opening of the Holy Door in Saint Peter's Basilica – a symbol of entering more deeply into God's mercy.

The current Jubilee Year holds an even greater significance, since it also coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, convoked in 325 to confront the heresy of Arianism, a terrible error that denied the divinity of Jesus Christ. From Nicaea comes the Nicene Creed we proclaim every Sunday, confessing Jesus to be, “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.”

For us, the Jubilee Year presents an opportunity to deepen our faith in Christ as our Divine Savior, by seeking reconciliation with God through sacramental Confession forgiving others as Jesus would, participating in pilgrimages to holy places, and reflecting upon the beautiful teachings and traditions of our Catholic Faith. 🔥

How can I gain a Plenary Indulgence during the Jubilee Year?

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

For centuries a feature of Holy Year celebrations has been the indulgence, which the Church describes as a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for their sins.

“Every sin ‘leaves its mark’” even after a person has received forgiveness and absolution through the sacrament of reconciliation, Pope Francis wrote in the document proclaiming the Holy Year. “Sin has consequences, not only outwardly in the effects of the wrong we do, but also inwardly, inasmuch as ‘every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death, in the state called Purgatory,’” he wrote, quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The norms for receiving an indulgence during the Holy Year were signed by Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with matters of conscience and with the granting of indulgences.

The basic conditions, he wrote, are that a person is “moved by a spirit of charity,” is “purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion” and prays for the pope.

Along with a pilgrimage, a work of mercy or an act of penance, a Catholic “will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory.”

SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH

Sacramental Milestones



NEWLY BAPTIZED

2023

12/10 Logan Lee Ehrman
12/17 Michael John Chiodo

2024

1/14 Luke Thomas Davis
1/18 Camille Navy Wilkinson
2/24 Lottie Louise Pattison
2/25 Nina James Toner
3/10 Leighlany Marie Lozano
3/17 Rory Ann Beu
3/31 Oliver Schlenker
3/30 Stephanie Jean Marrotti
3/30 Vito Richard Marrotti
3/30 Angelo Stephen Marrotti
3/30 Lucrezia Valentina Marrotti
3/30 Destiny Rayne Saxon
3/30 Beth Elaine Ubinger
4/7 Luka Thomas Hruska
4/14 Caleb John Smith
4/20 Bruno Randy Riccardi, III

4/21 Brieley Christine Hunt
4/21 Christopher Thomas Hunt, Jr.
4/28 Kaylee Rose Palcho
5/4 Olivia Harper Higgins
5/12 Ryder Kai Tran
5/19 Frederick Michael Skowronski
5/25 Stephan Myers Brown, Jr.
5/25 Kaden Jaye Valentine-Brown
5/25 Jeannetta Marie Valentine-Brown
5/25 Nixon James Valentine-Brown
5/26 Trevor Joseph Dvorchak
6/8 Colbie Mae Glock
6/9 Carson Jay Fritz
6/15 Taylor Mae Keefe
6/16 Meadow Reign Wells
6/23 Elijah James Franceschi
6/30 Bennett Richard Cox

7/14 Leonardo James Ranella
7/21 Gabriel Jerome Bosle
7/28 Bryson Dale Johnson
8/4 Alexander Suwannanan Jordanoff
8/4 Charles Suwannanan Jordanoff
8/10 Ryker William Anderson
8/11 Luke Chiesa Aves
8/18 James Ryan Hedge
8/24 Penny Marie Rombach
8/25 Lainey Frances Bannon
8/31 Beckhan Dane Rafalowski
9/8 Marlow Marie Todd
9/15 Sadie Lynn Pawlak
9/30 Roger Burdell McDavitt
10/6 Elizabeth Rae Rauch
10/13 Adrian DePasquale
10/20 Riley Renee Phoenix
10/20 Cameron Claire Swisher
10/27 Kallum Michael Keegan Beemsterboer

11/3 Cole Alexander (America) Evans
11/3 Ava (Elizabeth) Evans
11/23 Mariana Espejo
11/23 Jazmin Salinas
12/7 Hezekiah Iris Bishop
12/7 Bliu Denim Levin-Mack
12/23 Liam O'Brien Nath
12/29 Silas Anthony Scarpaci

2025

1/5 Rowan Russell Dobrosielski
1/11 Mikiyah Michelle Szoszorek
1/11 Michael Alelander Szoszorek, Jr.
1/11 Nina Alyiana Gillette
1/12 Grayson DJ Gallagher
1/19 Luca Thomas DiRenna
1/19 Xander Jakob Little
2/2 Conor Rae Steedley
2/2 Codi Ashton Steedley

DEARLY DEPARTED 10/2023-02/2024

Robert Figurski
 Stephen M. Furge Jr.
 John Schaefer
 Thomas F. Welsh
 Raymond P. Osekowski
 Elizabeth Fedkoe
 Sally Brennan
 Audrey H. Danley
 Joseph Dick
 Janice Loughrey
 Dennis J. Welsch
 Esther Howe
 Francis Hynds
 Richard C. Burdelsky
 Ralph T. Boden
 John Vincent Davin II
 Edward F. Pajak
 Danile Klisavage
 Frank D. Mastandrea

Joyce Irr
 Ray "Fred" Labadie
 Mary E. Humes
 Camilla Foley
 James Vertullo
 Joann Aubele
 Frances Rosa
 Maxine Ricciuti
 Laurie Belsterling
 Marilyn Bittel
 Mary Gallagher
 Gladys Falgiani
 Beverly Mikulski
 Elva Hogel
 Violet Bartoli
 Albert Makstutis
 Patti Haas
 Rudy Pallan
 Irene Kusmira

James Zamaris
 Andrew Novak
 John Ibella
 William A. Ruth
 Kerry M. Sullivan
 Olin DePolo
 Natalie Schmitt
 Glenda Jean Amrhein
 Joseph McKeown
 Anthony Lucchitti
 Judith Sestili
 James McCarthy
 Richard T. Catanzaro
 Joan Hrynda
 Mary Virginia Kistler
 Rosemarie Caldwell
 Marlene Caldwell
 Barbara Shock
 Shirley Mazurkiewicz

Dolores Wank
 Lillian Maier
 Donald Kaminski
 Andrew Telegdy
 Ralph Baumgart
 Linda Mascaro
 Gerald Fedele
 Alfred Cardamone
 Angela Kennedy
 William Gallagher
 Gertrude McCrum
 William Shay
 Mary Jean Donati
 Thomas Cardamone
 Eileen Kilsavage
 Mary Louise Pullia
 Joseph Barron
 Rita M. Welsh
 Karen Migale

Marlene Heller
 Lucy A. Perrino
 Ella Fisher
 Robert A. Maloney
 Patricia Sharek
 Catherine Threnhauser
 Audrey Friday
 Patricia Ann Kubiak
 James S. Enright
 Leona Cibrone
 Sara Crescini
 Sandra Lanzi
 Mary "Jerry" Haluck
 Maureen Costello
 Eugene Sciuolo
 Anna Van Steenbergh
 Marlene Chevette

CONFIRMATION

March 30, 2024

Lillian Louise Marie Abel
 Meghan Hope Anderson
 Veronica Hope Balkovec
 Aaron Joshua Beck
 Hennasey Catherine Bittner
 Harrison John Burgess
 Gianna Marie Carlstrom
 Alexander James Cerminara

Zalayna Rayne Cole
 Clara-Isabel Curtis
 Tara Elizabeth Del Signore
 Brice Robert Faber
 Lila Clementina Gaetano
 Ella Bree Gigliotti
 Katelyn Marie Gilmore
 Raymond Gilmore
 Landon Jason Glock
 Ethan Joseph Hankinson
 Daisy Karen Henze
 Gracie Ann Hughes

John Patrick Hyrb
 Elijah Thomas Klipstine
 Bruno Arthur Kollar
 Anabell Rose Lopez
 Mia Candace Madden
 Emma McFarland
 Jack Henry Meade
 Nicholas Rocco Muffi
 Michael Jared Murphy
 Natalie Marie Pascarella
 Samantha Grace Pasquarelli
 Matthew Xavier Prince

Caroline Robbins
 Cecilia Ann Rowland
 Olivia Anne Sibbet
 Veronica Smerecky
 Maya Elizabeth Tatel
 K-dence Louise Truan
 William Joseph White

Jeannetta Marie
 Valentine-Brown
 Nixon James
 Valentine-Brown

September 30, 2024

Roger Burdell McDavitt

November 23, 2024

Mariana Espejo

December 7, 2024

Hezekiah Iris Bishop

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

March 16, 2024

Leighlany Marie Lozano
 Emma Christine McFarland

March 30, 2024

Daniel Edward Buterbaugh
 Cheryl Ann Machi
 Stefanie Jean Marrotti
 Vito Richard Marrotti
 Angelo Stephen Marrotti
 Destiny Rayne Saxon
 Beth Elaine Ubinger
 Nicole Lynn Torrence

May 5, 2024

Andrew Dylen Bakaturski
 Isabella Hope Baldasare
 Kendall Aryan Battung
 Michael Thomas Beresford
 Franco Krick Bonasso
 Leticia Maria Both
 Patrick Connor Both
 Albert Guerric Bruno
 Rocco Angelo Buchanan
 Arden Marie Burgess
 Allison Nicole Cable
 Adria Marcella Calo
 Nina Corinne Canovali
 Josephine Madyson Child
 Everly Katherine Cornell
 Francis Jude Craig
 Emery Grace Dahle
 Ryan Rose Derkach
 Mason Scott Feeney
 Milo Barrett Ferris
 Dominic John Gent
 Evan Frank Glock
 Aubrey Leanna Hamilton

Drew Harrison Higgins
 Walter Franklin Holmes
 William Xavier Jackman
 Evelyn Hollis Joyce
 Gabriel John Kiefer
 Dylan Francesca Kish
 Davis Robert Klesta
 Joseph Anthony Laugelli
 Bailey Butler Lenigan
 Nicole Karen Lesikiewicz
 Jayda Rose Lindahl
 Magdalena Marie Lopez
 Zachary Edward Lucchini
 Rex Christian Machi
 Jack Nicholas Marshall
 Abigail Rose Martin
 Lara May Martin
 Luciano Joel Matasich
 Emilio Reynold Matasich
 Ainsley Grace McDonough
 Ian Joseph McHugh
 Easton Clark McKown
 Olivia Grace Musolin
 Jacob August Nickman
 Nila Mary Nicolotti
 Dominik Bookster Norelli
 Josephine Olson-Meyers
 Olivia Meadow Ott
 Brielle Grace Palastro
 Remi June Pattison
 Alec James Pullet
 Carmella Concetta Perry
 Santino Michael Raffaele
 Luke Dawson Rager
 Anthony Joseph Reiff
 Lorezo Ciummo Romano
 Jillian Rae Rupp
 Allison Paula Sayre

Sophie Grace Seydor
 Savannah Kelly Sibbo
 Luke Elijah Stevens
 Abigail Marie Terhune
 Eric Anthony Thomas
 Sudena Thomas
 Teresa Anne Tittmann
 Genevieve Mae Ubinger
 Dylan Herbert Wadsworth
 Evan Charles Walker
 Luke Richard Watson
 Gavin James Webster
 Jesse William Whitney
 River Lucas Wilson

May 25, 2024

Stephen Myers Brown
 Kaden Jaye Valentine-Brown
 Jeannetta Marie
 Valentine-Brown
 Nixon James
 Valentine-Brown

September 20, 2024

Luca Noam Lelevier

September 30, 2024

Roger Burdell McDavitt
 Mariana Espejo
 Megan Marie Richardson
 Hezekiah Bishop

January 11, 2025

Michael Alexander
 Szoszorek, Jr.
 Nina Alyiana Gillette

February 7, 2025

Alonna Lynn Covato
 Kaelynn Bree Herrle

NEWLY MARRIED

2/16/24 Stephen Joseph Pacacha married
 Alyssa Renee Kozubal
8/17/24 Luke Richard Flaus married
 Brianna Marie Caridi
10/12/24 Jeffrey Nicholas Locke, Jr. married
 Ellen Margaret Lalonde
11/2/24 Jeremy Michael Patterson married
 Alexis Rae Machi
11/9/24 Andrew Michael Wuehler married
 Margaret Mary LaCamera
11/15/24 Gary Allen Stock married
 Brittany Noelle Alessandro
1/25/25 Jonathan William Gibson married
 Megan Renee Swisher

PROFESSION OF FAITH

2/17/24 Kaitlin Eileen (Kaleel) Hudock
2/26/24 Anthony Joseph Reiff
3/30/24 Daniel Edward Buterbaugh
3/30/24 Cheryl Ann Machi
3/30/24 Nicole Lynne Torrence
4/15/24 Jesse William Whitney

Recent Events



Oktoberfest

Our second annual Oktoberfest celebration transformed the parking lot of Saint Anne's church into an authentic Oktoberfest "Festzelt" (or festival tent)! Everyone enjoyed delicious German fare from Atria's, and music provided by Pittsburgh's own German band, The Barons. This has been a very popular event, so mark your calendars now and be sure buy your tickets early! This year's Oktoberfest is scheduled for September 19th, 2025.



World Marriage Day

On February 8, couples from the church took part in **World Marriage Day** to celebrate their union in the Sacrament of Marriage. They attended Mass, then gathered at Anthos restaurant in Castle Shannon to enjoy a wonderful Greek meal, play "HEART" bingo, and win some fabulous prizes. Our theme this year was **"Shining your Light Into the World."** Consider joining us next year on February 14th, when we hope to gather together in our beautifully renovated church hall!



Epiphany Concert

The Epiphany Concert was a collaboration between current Music Director Brendan Lowery and former Music Director Luke Mayernik. It featured numerous original compositions by Lowery and Mayernik, including the world premiere of four pieces. Also included was Jonathan Dove's *Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars*. The choir featured some of Pittsburgh's finest vocalists. Brendan conducted the choir, while Luke served as organ accompanist for the concert.



40 Hours Devotion

Reflecting on Catholic tradition that Christ's body rested in the tomb for 40 hours before being raised, our parishioners celebrated 40 hours of continuous prayer in front of Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament from June 1-3. A Corpus Christi Vigil Mass followed by a Procession and Exposition on June 1st opened the three-day Devotion. Fr. Joe Freedy was the homilist for the Solemn Closing on June 3rd that concluded the Devotion.



Pet Blessing

Every October, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, our parish invites everyone to gather with their pets for a special pet blessing. This past October, parishioners and pets enjoyed a beautiful day gathered around the St. Anne shrine for the celebration. It was lovely to see so many fine furry friends in attendance. St. Francis would approve!



Women's Guild

Last spring, the Women's Guild rented a bus and traveled to the Ohio Amish Country. They shopped at the Walnut Creek Cheese and Marketplace and enjoyed lunch at Dutch Valley Restaurant before visiting the Ohio Star Theater. There they saw the musical RUTH and posed for a picture. The Women's Guild hosts fundraising, religious and other social events throughout the year and is always happy to welcome new members.

JOIN A PILGRIMAGE

Learn more and book at: www.APilgrimsJourney.com

LAST CALL



PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND: MARCH 1-11, 2025

- Visit Dublin, Knock and more with **Bishop William Waltersheid**.
- Cost is \$4,899. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/IRELAND2025

LAST CALL



JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH BISHOP MARK ECKMAN: MAR. 10-20, 2025

- Honor Saint Francis in Assisi and Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo.
- **Bishop David Zubik** and **Fr. Tom Sparacino** will join **Bishop Eckman** and the pilgrims in Rome. Walk through the Holy Doors with them.
- Cost is \$4,999. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/holy2025



JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: AUG. 24 - SEPT 4, 2025

- Visit Rome, Milan, Lake Como, Florence, Siena, Assisi. Attend a Papal Audience. Led by **Fr. Joseph Mele**.
- Cost: \$5,599. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/MELE2025



GREECE AND TURKEY PILGRIMAGE: SEPT 6-16, 2025

- Visit Athens, Corinth, and Meteora. Cruise to Ephesus, Santorini, Patmos, and more on a pilgrimage led by **Fr. Will Wuenschel**.
- Cost is \$5,499. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/Paul2025



CAMINO PILGRIMAGE: SEPT. 16-26, 2025

- Walk the Camino from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela with **Fr. Rich Jones**. Includes visits to Fátima, Fatima, and Lisbon.
- Informational meeting: Feb. 16 after the 11 a.m. Mass at Saint James Church, Divine Redeemer Parish.
- Cost: \$4,499. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/CAMINO25



MARIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE: OCT. 29-NOV. 9, 2025

- See Lourdes, Fatima and much more with **Fr. Brendan Dawson**.
- Cost is \$4,799. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/Dawson25
- Informational meeting: Feb. 23 after the 9 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Saint Jude Parish.

Zoom meeting options available. For all meetings, RSVP to Belinda: info@APilgrimsJourney.com.

For additional information, contact: Belinda@APilgrimsJourney.com; 724-679-7450 or 724-481-1700.

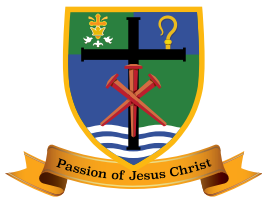
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Official tour group of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

These pilgrimages are not sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh or Pittsburgh Catholic magazine.





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The Madonna of the Magnificat

Sandro Botticelli, 1481

The painting by Botticelli portrays The Blessed Mother as she composes her Magnificat – her great prayer of thanksgiving and praise of God. (Luke 1:46-55)