

On the Spiritual Side

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

World Meeting, Papal visit topic at Czestochowa

Connie Wrzesniewski

Visit Bucks County and Talley Management, the lead logistics partners for the World Meeting of Families joined together on Tuesday, May 12, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa for an update. They next met to discuss the new steps as Bucks County prepares for the World Meeting of Families and Papal visit, hoping to re-energize the Philadelphia Archdiocese, strengthen family bonds and showcase Philadelphia and the surrounding region.

The Rev. Edwin Volz, director of the shrine and resident of 50 years, welcomed Paul Benvenuto, vice president of Visit Bucks County, Kathy Baumer, senior meeting manager of World Meeting of Families-Philadelphia 2015, and audience members from various local businesses and museums, and regional hotel-motel representatives.

"Philadelphia competes with New York and Washington for such events," said Baumer pointing out the magnitude of the World Meeting and Papal visit.

According to Baumer, The



CONNIE WRZESNIEWSKI

Director of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa the Rev. Edwin Volz, at the podium. He gave a tour of the shrine following the meeting.

World Meeting will begin with a four-day Congress at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Center City Philadelphia and conclude with a Papal Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The 2015 Congress expects to register between 10,000 and 15,000 attendees and will consist of six general, thematic sessions, followed by more targeted break-

out sessions.

Mass will be celebrated daily, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration will be available. Many other activities are being planned for those who attend the Congress.

The Papal Visit will extend from September 26 to 27. The anticipated Papal Mass, once officially confirmed, is expected to attract

between one and two million people.

Through communications with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), it is the understanding that accommodations for U.S. Bishops are being handled directly through the USCCB.

Many dioceses are considering a pilgrimage to participate in the WMOF and the expected visit of Pope Francis. For those hoping to organize a pilgrimage to the WMOF, the Theological-Pastoral Congress dates are Tuesday, Sept. 22, to Friday, Sept. 25, at Pennsylvania Convention Center 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia.

The organizers of the WMOF have developed a comprehensive plan for lodging during the World Meeting that will provide accommodations at the most reasonable prices available.

Hotel rooms and room blocks will be available to individuals, groups and pilgrimage/tour companies. They are committed to working closely with all who wish to attend and will provide a wide variety of lodging options.

The Shrine will offer its Retreat House for lodging and its confer-

ence room for meetings.

Families are expected to host visitors along with bed and breakfast inns, dorms, hostels, campgrounds and RV parks. A "Night at the Museum" will serve those who enjoy a stylish sleeperover.

Visitors will be encouraged to use public transportation such as Amtrak, New Jersey Transit, PATCO, SEPTA and bus companies such as MegaBus and Bolt.

Visitors from approximately 150 countries will visit the U.S. for the event, from as far away as Vietnam, Canada, Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico and Poland.

Family discounts, family specific exhibits and restaurant guides are planned.

Financial support will come from corporations and individual sponsors, as well as traditional donations through the websites, Light a Candle and Amazon Smile.

There are 4,000 registered volunteers, 18 years or older, at the present time, with hopes of more to come, and approximately 8,000 journalists are expected to be on the scene when the Pope comes to wrap up the World Meeting of Families.

Caroline Oakes: Mind and Spirit

Minding the numbers: Fill the pews or fulfill the original call?

The Pew Research Center's most recent study of "America's Changing Religious Landscape" received quite a bit of publicity last week in light of its finding that the percentage of adults who describe themselves as "religiously unaffiliated" — those who check the "None" box when asked what their religious affiliation is — increased more than six points in the past eight years, from 16.1 percent to 22.8 percent.

The percentage of Christians dropped nearly eight points, from 78.4 percent to 70.6 percent.

These demographic shifts have been trending for several years now, and both mainline and evangelical Christian churches are taking notice. As an institutional corrective, some churches are offering "cooler" Sunday worship services, with edgy, concert-style programming, free lattes and good wi-fi.

But these Sunday worship alterations may be missing the point altogether, according to Keith Anderson, pastor of Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, and author of the recently published "The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World."

These approaches, he said, "just reinforce our maddening fixation on matters of worship, to the detriment of extending ministry

beyond our church buildings, deepening faith formation, serving the poor, and helping our neighbors.

To fulfill this original call of the Church, Anderson encourages church leaders (and members) to practice ministry in a more expansive, less exclusive and less "safe" way — to leave the building and "practice theology without a net."

Through his engaged online presence on several social network platforms, Anderson connects with people who are not members of his church and may never be members of his church.

He organizes coffee-shop gatherings, God-on-Tap beer pub meet-ups, even tech-savvy confirmation classes with Instagram homework, to bring people together in meaningful and spiritually formative ways.

With many Nones describing themselves as "spiritual not religious," Anderson's digital age

approach makes sense and, ironically, seems more in line with the original purpose of Christian gatherings.

William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury once pointed out that, "The Church is a unique institution in that it exists primarily to serve those people who are not its members."

As Anderson said, "The true challenge for us to figure out is not how to spruce up the altar dressings, but how to walk with grace out the church door, into the world where Nones of every generation — Millennials and their Boomer parents, GenXers and their Gen Z kids — are often pursuing spiritual lives of great depth and complexity."

Caroline Oakes, a Bucks County resident, has a master's degree in Practical Theology and leads spiritual practice seminars and workshops in the Philadelphia region. oakes.caroline@gmail.com



JUDY DINGLER

Psychic gallery and meditation offered by New Hope Metaphysical Society

The New Hope Metaphysical Society holds its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at Pebble Hill Church, 320 Edison-Furlong Road, Doylestown.

Featured will be three psychic readings from the South Jersey area. Spiritual Intuitive and Reiki Master Judy Dingler, also a Universal Life Church minister, and two of her associates, Dianne Bivins and Roseanne Stittler, who will offer a "Psychic Gallery" for the

evening. Dingler will first offer a guided healing meditation to relax and center the audience. Then, there will be an hour of intuitive messages and readings given by and three women to members of the audience.

Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$10. For information, call NHMS at 215-242-0185 or Pebble Hill Church at 215-348-3428, or visit Spirits Vision or Pebble Hill Church online.

HAPPENINGS

Temple Judea celebrates Shavout

Temple Judea of Bucks County, 38 Rogers Road, Furlong, celebrates Shavout, the holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people, by honoring its Confirmation class of 10th graders at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 23. For information, call 215-348-5022.

Harp recital set for Carversville Church

"Sounds of Spring, Harp Recital," takes place from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 24, at Carversville Christian Church, 3736 Aquetong Road, Carversville. A \$10 donation is suggested.

For information, call 215-297-5166.

Bucks Friends host Camp Weekend

Family Camp Weekend at Camp Onas will be held May 23 to 25. Meals are prepared by camp staff and served family style and families stay in shared bunks with one other family.

Activities include archery, canoeing, zip-lining, high ropes, sports, swimming, drama, nature, rock wall climbing, arts and crafts, hiking and games.

The cost is \$100 per adult, \$65 for children 3 to 14 and free for children under 3.

For information, contact 610-847-5858 or friends@camp-onas.org.



Helping area women

The Rev. Michael Ruk, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, left, the Rev. Ribbons Harris, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Don Griffin, Solebury Friends Meeting, at Trinity Episcopal Solebury, May 17, take part in the Delaware Valley Interfaith Council's effort to assemble personal hygiene kits for distribution to nearby women's shelters in Bucks and Hunterdon counties.

Two of seven new Catholic priests served in Bucks County

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. ordained seven men to the Priesthood for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on Saturday, May 16, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Those being ordained were the Rev. Daniel J. Arechabala, the Rev. James Cardosi, the Rev. Alexander R. Gibbs, the Rev. Steven W. Kiernan, the Rev. Addisalem T. Mekonnen, the Rev. Kevin Mulligan, and the Rev. Joseph S. Zaleski.

Each of the newly ordained priests will be assigned to a parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where they will serve as parochial vicars. A parochial vicar is a priest appointed by the Archbishop to assist the pastor of a parish.

Arechabala, son of Miguel and Mary Beth Arechabala, was born in Philadelphia. He has been serving as a deacon at Saint Bede the Venerable in Holland Parish in Bucks County.

He attended Mother of Divine Providence Parish Elementary School in Montgomery County, and Archbishop John Carroll



THE REV. DANIEL J. ARECHABALA

High School in Delaware County.

He received his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology Degrees at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Arechabala celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 17, at Mother of the Divine Providence Parish in King of Prussia.

Zaleski, son of Deacon Stanley and Sandra Zaleski, was born in Philadelphia. He has been serving as a deacon at Saint John the



THE REV. JOSEPH S. ZALESKI

Evangelist Parish in Bucks County.

He attended Saint Martin of Tours Elementary School and Father Judge High School in Philadelphia.

He received his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology Degrees at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Zaleski celebrated his First Mass on Sunday, May 17, at Saint Martin of Tours Church in Philadelphia.

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, May 24, 2015
The Rev. Dr. Tyson L. Frey

9:30 am Pentecost Worship / Communion / Sunday School
 10:30 am Fellowship and Refreshments
 Nursery Service available

186 E. Court St., Doylestown • www.DoylestownSalemUCC.org
 215.348.9860

GOD'S LOVE EXPERIENCED AND EXPRESSED

To advertise here,
 contact Susan Rose
 at 215-794-1097
