WEEKLY MAILING
April 7, 2017
weekly.mailing@portlanddiocese.org

There will be no Weekly Mailing issued on April 14 (Good Friday). The next Weekly Mailing will be issued on Friday, April 21.

Office of Communications
- “Three Beliefs” About End-of-Life Care: Bishop Deeley Reflects on the Threat of Physician-Assisted Suicide
- Holy Week Section on Diocesan Website
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Office of Campus Ministry
- Theology on Tap (April 20 in Portland)

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation
- “Save the Dates” for 2017

Office of Human Resources
- Current Openings

From the Catholic Community
- Events and Announcements

For updated news and features from the diocese, visit: www.portlanddiocese.org.
For Adobe Reader, visit get.adobe.com/reader.
Below you will find a reflection, written by Bishop Deeley, providing information on end-of-life care for Catholics and the Church’s perspective on physician-assisted suicide, an issue currently being discussed by the Maine Legislature. Several parish representatives have asked for a PDF version of this reflection that they can print out and give to those asking for guidance. To access a PDF of the reflection, visit: www.portlanddiocese.org/sites/default/files/files/ThreeBeliefsEndofLifeCare.pdf.

“Three Beliefs” About End-of-Life Care: Bishop Deeley Reflects on the Threat of Physician-Assisted Suicide

In the midst of the joy of Easter, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus which the Catechism tells us is the “the crowning truth of our faith in Christ” (#638). It is indeed true and a cause for joy. Jesus’ death on Good Friday is answered by our loving Father in His resurrection at Easter. And in Jesus’ resurrection is our promise of eternal life. Death, for us, is not the end; it is the pathway to eternal life. Death is inevitable for all of us, but as believers, we are consoled by the promise Jesus gives us of immortality. “Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven” (Preface of the Funeral Mass).

This past January, on the feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, I promulgated a guide for Maine Catholics on end-of-life care entitled “Three Beliefs.” It offers helpful assistance and guidance to Catholics on this difficult subject. As the document teaches, there are three basic Catholic beliefs that are the foundation for making those determinations which confront us when we deal with end-of-life care.

The first belief is that each one of us has been created in the image and likeness of God. Being created by God gives each human being a priceless dignity, value, and purpose in life. This is why we are called to respect and protect human life and to be good stewards of this gift for ourselves. While it is entrusted to us, we are called to care for it, preserve it, and use it for the glory of God.

The second belief is that stewardship of life should avoid the opposite extremes of the deliberate hastening of death and the overzealous use of treatment or care to extend life artificially and prolong the dying process. All those who are sick have the right to expect, accept, and be provided with appropriate food, water, pain control, bed rest, suitable room temperature, personal hygiene measures, and comfort care.
These are not medical treatments but the basic care that is owed by one human being to another.

The third belief is that for the Christian, illness and death, with the suffering that so often accompanies them, become a way of being deeply united with the death and resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even though palliative care offers us significant ways to alleviate pain, confronting our own mortality in death brings its own difficulties.

My hope is that all Catholics, not just the elderly and the infirm, will take the time to read “Three Beliefs” carefully and prayerfully and then use the Advanced Health Care Directive form to memorialize your wishes. Fill out the form in conversation with family members or friends who would be affected and/or authorized to make decisions on your behalf. Oftentimes, simply having the discussion ahead of time can avoid difficult and often painful deliberations by next of kin. Your own expressed wishes will be able to guide their decisions. The document can be found at www.portlanddiocese.org/ThreeBeliefs as well as by calling your local parish for copies.

As we engage this discussion, I think it is also important to tell you that this spring, the Maine State Legislature will decide whether or not to legalize physician-assisted suicide in our state. It is the seventh legislative attempt to normalize and legalize a practice which would have long-term devastating effects on the common good. Suicide should always be seen as a tragedy. Allowing doctors to prescribe deadly prescriptions to hasten a person’s death would be a horrendous wound to the dignity of the human person. The unintended consequences would include the elderly feeling undue pressure to view this as an option to prevent being a burden to others, a desensitization of the value of human life, as well as teaching young adults that people can be disposable. All people should have palliative and hospice care available to them when it is needed so that everyone can truly die “with dignity.”

As the U.S. Bishops wrote in “To Live Each Day with Dignity,” “To live in a manner worthy of our human dignity, and to spend our final days on this earth in peace and comfort, surrounded by loved ones—that is the hope of each of us. In particular, Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny.”

I ask all Catholics to pray for their legislators and reach out to them to express constituent opposition to this bill. Communication from constituents via letter or phone call can be very effective. You can find your legislators’ contact info though the Diocese’s Office of Public Policy website: www.faithfulcitizenme.org.

Let us all pray for an increase in the appreciation of the value and dignity of human life from conception to natural death.
Holy Week Section on the Diocese of Portland Website

A special Holy Week section has been created on the Diocese of Portland website that includes listings of Masses and services at parishes, special events, prayers and reflections, Scripture readings, schedules for Holy Week and Easter television and radio programs, Bishop Deeley’s Holy Week schedule, and many other resources. To access the section, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/content/holy-week-2017.

Divine Mercy Sunday Section on the Diocese of Portland Website

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave of Easter, which this year is April 23. A special Divine Mercy Sunday section has been created on the Diocese of Portland website featuring a list of celebrations taking place in parishes and Divine Mercy Sunday resources, including its origins and the plenary indulgence that may be received on that day. If your parish event is not listed, please email dave.guthro@portlanddiocese.org with the details. To access the Divine Mercy Sunday section, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/divine-mercy-celebrations-2017.
The next “Theology on Tap” will be held at Pat’s Pizza, located at 30 Market Street in Portland, on Thursday, April 20, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will be held upstairs in the group room. This month, Frank Daggett, a candidate for the diaconate, will present “Theology of Ecology: A Catholic Perspective on the Environment.” Daggett will share how we can all draw closer to the Lord by caring for his creation. “Theology on Tap” is a gathering of college students and young adults (ages 18-39) featuring food, drinks, conversation, and engaging discussions! For further information about “Theology on Tap” or to learn more about opportunities for Catholic college students and young adults, contact Joy Segovia at joy.segovia@portlanddiocese.org or Josh Houde at joshua.houde@portlanddiocese.org. You can also visit www.portlanddiocese.org/theology-on-tap.
“Save the Dates” in 2017
For more details on these events, click on the links next to the titles.

**Catholic Youth Ministry Convention**
([www.portlanddiocese.org/olff/catholic-youth-ministry-convention](http://www.portlanddiocese.org/olff/catholic-youth-ministry-convention))

It’s a weekend experience you’ll never forget! The 30th annual Catholic Youth Ministry Convention is set for **April 21-23** at the Samoset Resort in Rockport. The convention is filled with teen energy, fun, large group activities, music, prayer, workshops, adult and youth keynote addresses, and a Mass with Bishop Deeley. Register through your parish’s youth ministry coordinator. For general inquiries, contact Maureen Provencher in the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation at (207) 321-7813 or maureen.provencher@portlanddiocese.org, or visit the special section of the diocesan website listed above.

**Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat in Southern Maine**
([www.portlanddiocese.org/projectrachel](http://www.portlanddiocese.org/projectrachel))

The Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat weekend on **April 21-23** (ending on Divine Mercy Sunday) offers a supportive, non-judgmental process for those personally wounded because of an abortion. The grief and pain that you or a loved one has carried for years will be unburdened. The retreat will transform the hurt through Scripture meditations, opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, a memorial service, Mass, and sharing with others personally affected by abortion. Rachel’s Vineyard provides a safe place to grieve the loss and to understand the effects of abortion and how to grow beyond it. **Preregistration is needed, and the deadline to register is Friday, April 14.** To discuss registration, contact Annette Rioux in the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation at (207) 321-7885 or annette.rioux@portlanddiocese.org.

**Silver & Gold Mass** ([www.portlanddiocese.org/olff/silver-gold-mass](http://www.portlanddiocese.org/olff/silver-gold-mass))

**Sat., June 24**
St. John Church, 217 York Street, Bangor (4 p.m.)
All couples celebrating milestone anniversaries invited. RSVP by June 16 at (207) 321-7884 or judy.michaud@portlanddiocese.org. You can also register at the link above.
Employment Opportunities

For job descriptions, requirements, and details on how to apply for any opening, visit: www.portlanddiocese.org/human-resources/job-openings.

Current Openings (9)

**Family Life Ministry and Programming Coordinator**
Diocese of Portland

**Pastoral Life Coordinator**
Parishes of Cluster 22 (Scarborough, Cape Elizabeth, South Portland)

**Principal**
St. John’s Catholic School, Brunswick

**Lay Hospital Chaplain**
Central Maine Medical Center, Lewiston

**Afterschool Helper**
Saint Dominic Academy, Lewiston

**Theology Teacher**
Saint Dominic Academy, Auburn

**Business Coordinator**
Parish of the Precious Blood, Caribou

**Organist/Pianist/Choir Director**
St. Rose of Lima Parish, Jay

**Pre-Kindergarten Teacher’s Aide**
St. Brigid School, Portland
Tenebrae Services Set for Augusta, Windham, Greenville, and Biddeford

All are welcome to attend Tenebrae services scheduled for Augusta, Windham, Greenville, and Biddeford. Tenebrae, which is Latin for "darkness" or "shadows," is a service that has been held during Holy Week since Medieval times, originally by monastic communities. It is a meditation on Christ’s suffering conducted by candlelight. During the service, the candles are extinguished until just one remains, representing the light of Christ. The services will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (919 Roosevelt Trail in Windham) on Monday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.; St. Mary of the Assumption Church (41 Western Avenue in Augusta) on Monday, April 10, at 7 p.m.; Union Evangelical Church*** (2 Moosehead Lake Road in Greenville) on Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m.; and Ste. Anne Chapel, located at St. Joseph Church (178 Elm Street in Biddeford) on Holy Thursday, April 13, at 10 p.m.

***Weekend Masses and services are being held at Union Evangelical Church while the Holy Family Parish’s new church is built in Greenville.

Holy Week Programming on The Presence Radio Network

Holy Week will bring special live Masses and services, programs, and events to The Presence Radio Network, Maine’s only Catholic radio network. The full schedule of special programming, starting on Holy Thursday, can be found at www.portlanddiocese.org/sites/default/files/files/PRNHolyWeek2017.xlsx. The Presence Radio Network can be heard on 106.7 FM in Portland; 105.7 FM in Springvale/Sanford; 97.5 FM in Fort Kent; 90.3 FM in Bangor; 89.7 FM in Bath/Brunswick; 89.5 FM in Augusta; and 1390 AM in northern Maine. It is also available online at www.thepresenceradio.org, on smartphones by downloading the Presence Radio app, or by calling (605) 475-8037 to listen on your cell phone.

Living Stations of the Cross in Three Languages in Portland on Good Friday, April 14

The Living Stations of the Cross will be presented in three languages on Good Friday at Sacred Heart/Saint Dominic Parish in Portland. The presentation will begin at 3 p.m. inside the church, located on 65 Mellen Street, and then, the procession will move to the street outside, before concluding in the parish hall with the crucifixion of Jesus and the placement of his body in the tomb. The Living Stations of the Cross will be spoken by actors in Spanish, with readings and prayers after each station presented in Spanish, French, and English. Songs will alternate among the three languages. For more information, call (207) 773-7746.

Children’s Liturgy and Easter Egg Hunt in Portland on Easter Sunday, April 16

All area children are welcome to participate in a special children’s liturgy and Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 16, at St. Joseph Church, located on 673 Stevens Avenue in Portland. After gathering as a community in the main sanctuary at 10 a.m., the young people will listen to a children’s reading of the Easter story and take part in an Easter activity. Following the Mass, an Easter egg hunt will be held in the Father Hayes Center. For more information, contact Mary King at king@cheverus.org.
Memorial Mass for Fr. Carpentier in Bath on April 22

All are invited to a Memorial Mass to celebrate the life of Fr. Normand E. Carpentier at St. Mary Church, located on 144 Lincoln Road in Bath, on Saturday, April 22, at noon. A luncheon will immediately follow the Mass in the parish hall. For more information, call (207) 443-3423 or email dorothy.peters@portlanddiocese.org.

“Praying with Hearts and Hands” Prayer Shawl Retreat in Biddeford on April 28-30

Join the Holy Knitters Prayer Shawl Ministry for “Praying with Hearts and Hands” on April 28-30 at the Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford. The participants, led by Connie Bartelson and Marsha Hafferty, will joyfully share in the care of God's people by using the gifts of their hands to knit or crochet sacred prayer shawls. Prayers and blessings are woven into the shawls, which will then be given to people for comfort, healing, or in celebration. Basic knitting or crocheting skills a prerequisite. The registration fee is $200. For more information or to register, call (207) 284-5671 or visit www.mariejosephspiritual.org.

“Role of the Church in Welcoming New Neighbors” in Bangor on April 29

You can help refugees build new lives here in Maine! Come learn about refugee resettlement at “The Role of the Church in Welcoming New Neighbors” on Saturday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Mary Church on 768 Ohio Street in Bangor. For more information, contact Ed French at (207) 217-6740.

Sixth Annual Maine Catholic Women’s Conference in Portland on April 29

Join Catholic women from around the diocese at the Maine Catholic Women’s Conference, set for Saturday, April 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. The conference will feature Leah Darrow, a former professional model who now teaches other women an appreciation of the true meaning of beauty and God’s design. She will reflect on the virtue of modesty with inspiration from Scripture. The event will begin with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop Robert P. Deeley at 9 a.m. The mission of the conference is to gather for a day to nurture and strengthen the faith of the Catholic women of Maine, so they may share the abundance of God’s mercy and love. The cost of the conference is $60 (student rate of $30). The fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, call (207) 321-7898 or visit www.portlanddiocese.org/olff/womensconference. To view a flyer for the conference, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/sites/default/files/files/WomensConference.pdf.
“Fatima: The 100th Anniversary Conference” Set for Kennebunk on May 13-14

“Fatima: The 100th Anniversary Conference” will be held at St. Anthony Monastery, located on 28 Beach Avenue in Kennebunk, on Saturday, May 13, and Sunday, May 14. All are encouraged to attend! During the conference, several keynote speakers will offer presentations on topics connected to the centennial including Fr. John Bacevicius, Fr. D. Joseph Manship, Deacon Darrell Blackwell, and Dr. Peter J. McNelis. Masses will be offered in both the ordinary and extraordinary form, there will be recitation of the rosary, a May “Crowning of Mary” procession, the sacrament of reconciliation, eucharistic adoration, and the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence opportunity for the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, the conditions for which could be met at the conference in Kennebunk. The registration fee is $25. Overnight options are available. To register, call (207) 274-0247 or email Fatima100conference@gmail.com. To view a complete schedule of the conference, visit www.holyspiritme.com/fatima.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter “Weekend” in Lewiston on July 30-August 1

Worldwide Marriage Encounter will run a midweek “weekend” from Sunday, July 30, to Tuesday, August 1, at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston. The midweek experience is intended to accommodate couples who work weekend jobs, but all are welcome. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed as a private experience for husbands and wives to enrich and renew the sacrament of marriage. The application fee is $50, and a freewill donation will be accepted at the end of the weekend. For more information, contact Bill & Coco Watkin at (207) 668-4885 or visit www.wwmemaine.org to apply online.