

From Pontiff to Pew (continued):

In this way, for example, when we are sprinkled with holy water, our awareness of the gift received at Baptism and our commitment to new life in Christ is rekindled. Secondly, symbols are essentially practical in nature, being first and foremost actions: some simple and common, such as kneeling and exchanging the sign of peace, or more demanding, such as the constitutive acts of each Sacrament. Above all, symbols have a unique performative and transformative dimension, both in relation to the material elements of which they are composed and to those who come into contact with them, engendering a sense of belonging, touching the heart and mind, and giving rise to authentic ecclesial relationships.

In the Apostolic Letter *Desiderio desideravi*, Pope Francis, echoing a statement by Romano Guardini, identified “the first task of the work of liturgical formation: man must become once again capable of symbols” (no. 44). We need to allow ourselves to be educated by the rites of the liturgy, caring for the beauty of our celebrations with a delicate touch and without arbitrariness, and committing ourselves to an authentic mystagogy. The experience of a living and devout liturgy, accompanied by appropriate mystagogical catechesis, is the best resource for reawakening in everyone that openness to the encounter with God which, in the logic of the Incarnation, can only take place by involving the whole person: spirit, soul and body (cf. 1 Thess 5:23).

**Congratulations – Celebration – Save the Date -NOTE
THE CHANGE OF DATE**

To ALL the members of Visitation Parish,

On Monday, May 11, 2026, Fr. John celebrated his 30-year anniversary of priestly ordination. What a tremendous life of service that he has offered to the Church, and for 12 of those years we have been privileged to have Fr. John serving as the pastor of our parish. Most priests have a huge celebration to mark their 25th anniversary; however, Fr. John did not because of the proximity to the Covid-19 outbreak and the need for him to stay healthy in light of an upcoming liver transplant (which actually did not occur until several years afterward). In any case, we the parish would like to mark the celebration of his 30th anniversary with a party on Saturday, July 25th with a formal dinner here in the parish gymnasium, following the 5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass. Please mark

your calendar and save the date. We would love to see our entire parish family gather for this milestone event marking a life of dedicated service to God, the Church, and our parish family.

Diaconate Ordination et alia...

By the Grace of God, our own John Fontana was ordained to the Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, at 10:00 AM by the Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.L.. As so many of you have played a role in John’s formation, all are invited and encouraged to participate in this Ordination Liturgy, (which is a celebration of Eucharist). Unfortunately, we cannot celebrate this glorious event immediately; however, there will be a reception in John’s honor the following Saturday, June 13 immediately following the 4:00 PM Mass. Please consider being part of the many festivities surrounding this sacramental milestone in John’s life.

CARMELITE COMMUNITY OF THE WORD TO HOLD HAITI CELEBRATION -

We invite you to join us as the Carmelite Community of the Word Hands and Hearts Haiti Ministry sponsors an “Afternoon Festival of Prayer and Fellowship.” Spend an afternoon of prayer for the people of Haiti, creative reflection time, a shared meal, and including the celebration of Sunday Mass. This event will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 2:30 – 7:30 p.m.at the CCW Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin, PA 16641. For more information, or to register, email to CommunityofficeCCW@gmail.com or call 8145-886-4098. Registration is requested by June 19.

2026 FESTIVAL at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish - 608 Main Street Lilly, PA

15938: It will be on Sunday, July 19, 2026 from 11:00am to 5:30pm. There will be food vendors, beverages including beer, craft vendors, games for all ages, a bake sale, and a BASKET RAFFLE! Entertainment includes Charlene's School of Dance from 12:45pm to 1:30pm and Felix and the Hurricanes from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. All are welcome here!

Public Rosary – There will be a public rosary for the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Thursday, June 11th at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church and on Saturday, June 13th at noon at the Vine Street Parklet in Downtown Johnstown.