

For some Clarification: Pope Leo and the War with Iran (continued)

temporal authority come together in the pope. Catholicism by its sacramental authority is where heaven and earth meet in a special way.” The exchange “doesn’t bode well for improving relations with the Trump administration, which tends to have an overly exalted view of its leader,” Orsi said.

Leo has been a vocal opponent of the Iran war. In April, he said he would ask “all people of good will to search always for peace and not violence, to reject war, especially a war which many people have said is an unjust war.” “We have a worldwide economic crisis, energy crisis, a situation in the Middle East of great instability which is only provoking more hatred throughout the world,” he said, urging authorities to “look for solutions in a peaceful way.” Their relationship took a turn in April after Trump remarks that “a whole civilization will die tonight” if Iran failed to meet a U.S. deadline tied to the war. “Today, as we all know, there was this threat against all the people of Iran,” the pope said. “This is truly unacceptable.”

Trump has hit back at the pope’s Iran war criticism, writing in an April 14 post to Truth Social, “Will someone please tell Pope Leo that Iran has killed at least 42,000 innocent, completely unarmed, protesters in the last two months, and that for Iran to have a Nuclear Bomb is absolutely unacceptable.” **The Vatican, however, has noted that the Church has long opposed nuclear weapons.**

Pope Pius XII warned that nuclear war would bring “no cry of victory, but only the inconsolable weeping of humanity;” Pope St. John XXIII (Pacem in Terris) recognized the constant fear of nuclear war and called for a complete ban; Pope Paul VI called for a “total ban on nuclear weapons” and “general and complete disarmament;” Pope St. John Paul II acknowledged that nuclear deterrence, if based on balance, could be morally acceptable only as a temporary step toward disarmament; Pope Benedict XVI warned that peace cannot be founded on the threat of mutual destruction; Pope Francis declared that not only the use but also the possession of nuclear weapons is immoral, calling them “a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home; Pope Leo XIV has renewed the call for the elimination of nuclear weapons, urging dialogue and the laying down of such arms. (Added by Fr. John)

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several groups for volunteering their time and talent to help to keep our parish the lively community of faith that it truly is. Several weeks ago, a group gathered to help to keep our parish facility looking its best best by doing some necessary yardwork on the parish grounds. Your hard work is truly appreciated. Also, a few weeks ago I issued a call to see if some individuals could come forward to help to clean the school building for an upcoming walk through for potential rental of the facility. More than half a dozen faithful parishioners (and others) came forward to clean all of the classrooms as well as other parts of the school in record time. The job was outstanding and I was duly impressed. The many hours that you spent and the results that you achieved in such a short time really made me proud. My heart is always moved when people give of their time for the well-being of our parish. It brings me great joy when anyone volunteers for anything to help out the Visitation community of faith. You truly take on the spirit of Mary, who reached out to help her elderly (*by the day's standards*) cousin Elizabeth when she was expecting John the Baptist which is at the heart of the gospel narrative of the Visitation. Again, a thousand thanks to one and all who come out to support our parish family.

PLEASE NOTE THE FRONT OF THE BULLETIN THIS WEEK FOR THE SCHEDULE OF MASSES WHICH HAS CHANGED DUE TO VARIOUS MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS THAT FR. JOHN HAS THIS WEEK.

Ethnic Fest 2026 - Now that **July 4th** has passed, **Labor Day** weekend will be fast upon us and with it our participation in the **Annual Johnstown Ethnic Fest**. As you know, this is one of our major fundraisers throughout the year, and our success allows us to meet our annual budgetary needs. Although it is early, we are beginning to request some essential items for this activity; in particular we are in need of Jello and Spirits for our main source of income, our Jello shots. Our supply of sprits is **VERY, VERY LOW** and we are in desperate need of donations. While items such as vodka (both regular and flavored), rum and tequila are **ALWAYS A GREAT NEED FOR US**, other forms of spirits are always appreciated. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Lay Ministry and Adult Enrichment Classes 2026 - JOIN US FOR THESE AUGUST CLASSES! The following classes are open to all! The cost of each class is \$40.00 per person and payment for the classes **MUST** accompany your registration form. The deadline to register for classes is **Monday, July 27th**. No registration forms will be accepted after the deadline.

New Testament will be taught by Fr. Brian Norris, Mondays from 6:30-9:00 PM (8 weeks) with one (Wednesday class scheduled in September) via **ZOOM**. Classes are set to begin on August 3. Two books are required for this class please reference registration form for title and where books can be purchased.

Heart of Faith will be taught by Deacon Wally Zapotoczny, Tuesdays from 6:00–8:30 PM (6 Weeks) beginning August 11 via **ZOOM**. One book is required please reference registration form for title and where it can be purchased.

Old Testament will be taught by Fr. Brian Saylor, Thursdays from 6:45 pm-9:15 pm (8) Weeks beginning August 13 via **ZOOM**. One book is required please reference registration form for title and where it can be purchased.

The next two classes will be taught either by ZOOM or in-person class. The cost of each class is \$40.00 per person and payment for the classes **MUST** accompany your registration form. The deadline to register for classes is **Thursday, July 30th**. No registration forms will be accepted after the deadline. Wisdom Literature and Psalms will be taught by Deacon Michael Russo via **ZOOM**. Thursdays from 6:00 PM-8:30 PM (Running for 6 Weeks) and one Tuesday class beginning August 20th. One book is required for this class.

Moral Theology will be taught by Fr. James Crookston, Thursdays from 6:30 PM-9:00 PM (7 weeks) at **St. Rose of Lima, Altoona**. Classes are set to begin on August 27. One book is required for this class.

To register for any of these classes, please visit dioceseaj.org/diocesan-offices/adult-enrichment or see your parish priest or secretary for a registration form or contact Jessica, Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000 or jgramling@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome!

Just a gentle reminder, if you have **NOT** responded in regard to Fr. John's 30th anniversary of his Ordination, please do so **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, JULY 23RD** so that we will have an accurate count of who will all be attending. You can send the response cards mailed out to you or by calling the rectory between 9:00 AM to 2:50 PM Monday to Thursday next week.

ChristLife-Discovering Christ- Registration NOW OPEN!

Discovering Christ, part of the ChristLife program will be held Thursdays 6PM at the Saint John Gualbert Activity Center from August 27 to October 15th, including a Saturday weekend retreat in October. Discovering Christ is a seven-week experience that invites guests to hear the Good News and personally encounter Jesus Christ. A typical session includes a meal, video teaching, and small group discussion. Register by visiting the St. John Gualbert Cathedral Website (stjohngualbert.org) or call the parish office 814-536-0117!

Walk-Thru Basket Party - Mom's House is holding a Walk-Thru Basket Party at 1325 Franklin St. on Saturday July 18, 10-4, and Sunday, July 19, 11-3. \$10 per sheet of tickets. Winners drawn via Facebook Live on July 19 @ 3:15. Plenty of parking is available! For information, call 814-535-4848.

Journey Through Loss - Journey Through Loss will be offered at Holy Family Parish, Portage from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM on Wednesdays, beginning on Wednesday, July 29. Journey Through Loss is a 9-week Christian based Bereavement Support Program for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. Friends and family members from other parishes and denominations are most welcome. We will meet in the Parish Hall, the space below the Church.

For more information or to register contact Mary Petrak, 814 502-6076, mfpetrak@hotmail.com.