

# PITTSBURGH PROPHET

NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH PRIESTS

March, 2022



## New APP Website

Check out APP's new website. It will enable us to promote our efforts better: to coordinate our Speaker Series, and to connect with our Members and Contacts.

You can update your Contact profile by logging on. If the password poses a problem, email [jimruck88@gmail.com](mailto:jimruck88@gmail.com) for a new one, so you can re-set your own.

Two points of interest:

Under **Who We Are**, check "**What's in a Name?**" There you will find one of our core values, that every one of the Faithful share in the priestly, prophetic, and servant leadership role of Jesus.

A bit further down, click on "**Our Cloud of Witnesses.**" See some of the men and women who built APP into the powerful voice that it is today. We stand on their shoulders, confident of their prayers and continued support, now resting in the Lord.



## Winter Speakers Highlight APP's Three goals

To promote personal renewal, to work for renewal in our Church, and to advocate of a more just and peaceful world – these impel us.

Fr. Dan Horan, OFM spoke about how Franciscan Spirituality flows from St. Francis' passion to see the whole world as his monastery, affirming its God-given value. Francis' outreach to the marginalized, to find points of convergence with all outsiders, to foster relationships and a non-judgmental attitude, and to live poverty as a means of renouncing power were a forceful prophetic challenge to the Church of his day. These same values can resonate today with the many people seeking spirituality who do not find these values in today's institutionalized Churches.

He also cited the Franciscan theological style of Duns Scotus which emphasizes God's personalized creation of each person as unique, blessed, and loved. This approach varies from our status coming from human nature in Aquinas' thinking. And it undercuts how presumed standards have in popular thought undermined persons with racial and sexual differences.

To experience Fr. Dan's full presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWtSZsrosUI>

Or on our website, **Resources** Menu, **More Archives** button. Fr. Dan is the first listing.

## YOU ARE INVITED!

### APP's Synodal Session

Monday, March 14, 7 PM.

In answer to Pope Francis' call, participate with us as we work for a Church with all of the Faithful fully engaged.

### Olga Segura

The Catholic Call to End White Supremacy

Tuesday, March 16, 7 PM

We had hoped for an in-person presentation, but lingering Covid concerns prevent this.

**Register for Zoom links to both opportunities on the APP Home Page.**



## APP's Charitable Funding

APP through the years has supported allied organizations which are working for a renewed Church and for a more just and peaceful world.

This year's recipients, to date:

- Partners in Progress (Haiti)
- Casa San José (Pittsburgh's Latino community)
- Future Church
- Association of U.S. Priests
- Voice of the Faithful
- Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
- Pax Christi
- Just Harvest
- Jewish Community Center for Loving Kindness
- Sierra Club
- PIIN (PA Interfaith Impact Network)
- New Ways Ministry

[www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com](http://www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com)

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April, 2022



## Creative Insights from Green Congregations To Care for our Common Home

Last week Cybelle Shattuck shared her findings from studying congregations across America, including Villa Maria, a parish in CA, religious orders, a Jewish congregation and numerous Protestant Churches. Many of them developed creative ways to involve children.

To add local perspectives, Sr. Lyn Szymkiewicz shared some of the practices of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden. Tony Kerzman of St. John Newmann added what his parish has done.



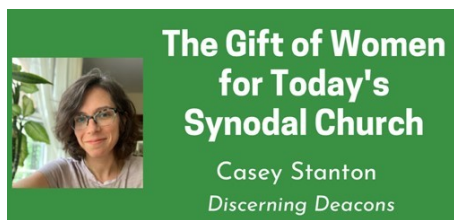
To experience Cybelle Shattuck's full, spirited presentation:  
[www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com](http://www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com).

Home Page, click the **Previous Speakers** bar.  
Dr. Shattuck is the first listing.

For a **rich list of resources** left in the chat . . .and/or

**To join a local network to promote environmental efforts in our parishes:**

email request to [assocpghpriests@gmail.com](mailto:assocpghpriests@gmail.com)



Tuesday, May 24, Zoom

Register today on  
our website.

## Follow-up to Pittsburgh's Synodality activities

APP, together with Catholics Concerned for Our Church (CCOC) and the Synod Ad Hoc Working Group hosted sessions for over 50 people. The results have been sent to both the Diocese and the Vatican. The Working Group is exploring ways to try to make the Synod live in our formal parish structures and, more importantly, in our less formal practices as we learn to pray together, listen to each other, discern more deeply, and minister more effectively to each other. If you want to join us:

[assocpghpriests@gmail.com](mailto:assocpghpriests@gmail.com).



## OUR HOLY WEEK STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

The Association of Pittsburgh Priests is appalled by the unjustified Russian invasion of Ukraine and the senseless death and destruction that has accompanied it.



We call for the immediate cessation of armed aggression and strongly affirm all ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis and strive for a peaceful resolution based on justice and the tenets of international law.

We implore the U.S. government, as well as governments of other nations, to open their borders and provide a place of refuge to Ukrainians fleeing war. And we encourage them to provide humanitarian assistance to those who remain in their homeland. In this vein, the APP is leading an effort to aid victims of the war through Catholic Relief Services.

Moreover, we ask all people of good will to support the courageous people of Ukraine through their prayers and by giving generously to charitable institutions assisting refugees and the displaced.

Finally, may this unwarranted act of Russian aggression perpetrated on a peaceful people cause us as Americans to examine our own conduct in regard to military interventions in Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf region, and Afghanistan.

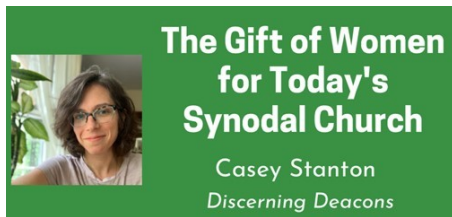


*APP Board of Directors and members contributed \$2,500 to date for relief efforts in the Ukraine through Catholic Relief Services and Caritas International.*

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MAY, 2022



## The Gift of Women for Today's Synodal Church

Casey Stanton  
Discerning Deacons

Tuesday, May 24, 7 pm, Zoom

Register today on  
our website.

## Action Against Nuclear Weapons

For years Stop Banking the Bomb has challenged PNC Bank to divest from investments that support the nuclear arms industry. In addition to demonstrations at local banks, SBTB wants to alert shareholders to end this practice. **For information on the campaign, contact**

You might write your own congratulations!

Rev. Carmen D'Amico  
St. Oscar Romero Rectory  
300 Pike Street, P.O. Box 366  
Meadowlands, PA 15347



Dear Fr. Carmen,

Please accept both our gratitude and our congratulations for your recent statement presented at the 2022 PNC shareholders meeting on April 27, 2022. Your presence at the meeting and the clarity of the content and delivery of your statement in support of the resolution initiated by the Stop Banking the Bomb (SBTB) campaign were a meaningful witness for peace and the imminent importance of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The church's social teaching articulated by Pope Francis stating that even the possession of nuclear weapons, let alone their use, is immoral inspires us all to do what we can to help our world be rid of them. The Stop Banking the Bomb campaign has given us here in the Pittsburgh area especially, a way to be involved. Your witness at the shareholders' meeting inspires us to deepen our support of the SBTB campaign and to play a greater role in educating ourselves and others about this life and planet threatening issue and what we can do.

This summer, we plan to have a study on Archbishop John Wester's recent pastoral letter, "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation toward Nuclear Disarmament". We hope you will encourage others to participate.

Again, thank you and congratulations for your witness for peace!

With prayers for good health and deep peace,

Rev. Regis Ryan for APP

## Celebrate the work of three Black orders of Sisters

APP has long worked to overcome racism, even in our Church. Come to this special evening that includes reflections from author, Dr. Shannen Dee Williams, on

- Oblate Sisters of Providence,
- Sisters of the Holy Family
- Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary)
- & the National Black Sisters Conference,

Plus a local story of racial reconciliation.



*Join Us for the Book Launch!*

*Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle*

An Evening with the Author  
Dr. Shannen Dee Williams

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM**  
**Duquesne University Power Center**

*Presentation followed by Book Signing*  
*Registration Opens May 1*

Sponsored by  
the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA, and Duquesne University

Register at: <https://www.stjoseph-baden.org/vip/>

APP will help the Sisters of St. Joseph to offset costs of this important event for racial justice. We ask your help to bolster our gift.

Your on-line donation or check of \$25 or \$50 (before June 1) payable to "Association of Pittsburgh Priests," with "Subversive Habits" on the memo line or designating the on-line gift.

➔ Thank you for your special help. ⬅