

Father Gallitzin, Taneytown's first pastor, up for sainthood

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK, JR.
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The Catholic Review

Father Demetrius Gallitzin, a Russian prince who became known as the "Apostle of the Alleghenies" for his ministry in Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, has been recognized as a "servant of God" by the Congregation for Saints of the Holy See. The announcement was made by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, June 6.

"In effect, the Congregation states that it sees no obstacle at this time to proceed with the process that could result in a possible declaration of sainthood," said Bishop Adamec.

Born in the Netherlands the son of a Russian prince and a German countess, Father Gallitzin converted to Catholicism from the Russian Orthodox Church

in 1787. Five years later, after meeting Archbishop John Carroll of Baltimore, the prince entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Carroll in 1795 – the first to receive all his holy orders in the United States.

Father Gallitzin's first ministry involved celebrating Mass for German immigrants in Baltimore. He later served in the western part of Maryland as a horseback-riding priest.

Father Gallitzin was the first pastor of St. Joseph, Taneytown, and he was also the pastor of St. Patrick, Cumberland.

While pastor of St. Joseph, Father Gallitzin was at odds with the trustees of the church over who was in charge of the parish. Parishioners petitioned Bishop Carroll for Father Gallitzin's removal. Father Gallitzin himself requested a change so he could

serve in an even more remote area in western Pennsylvania known as McGuire's Settlement.

Father Gallitzin is known for a book he wrote in 1816 called "A Defense of Catholic Principles," published in response to anti-Catholic rhetoric of the time.

Father Martin Feild, current pastor of St. Joseph, said parishioners are delighted with the news of their former pastor. They created a display with photographs showing where Father Gallitzin, who died in 1840, is buried in Pennsylvania.

"I think it's a tremendous honor to the parish to have its first pastor put up for canonization," said Father Feild, noting St. Joseph will likely include special prayers for Father Gallitzin in the general intercessions at Mass.

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RELIGION



RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / EMMITSBURG DISPATCH FILE PHOTO

Vested in period clerics, Father Martin Feild (R), current pastor at St. Joseph's in Taneytown, participates with parishioners on a float in a August 2004 parade celebrating Taneytown's 250th Anniversary. The float recalled the marriage of Roger Brooke Taney and Anne Phoebe Charlton Key on January 7, 1806.

TO THE COMMUNITY OF EMMITSBURG:

The Public Message of Our Lady of Emmitsburg March 23, 2000



*My dear little children,
praised be Jesus!
Little ones, there is not just one event that will identify you as a true child of God, because to be a true child of God is outlined in your way of life. There is no quick remedy to change the effects of history. The only authentic proof of being a child of God is in the fruitful actions of Love in your life. You cannot convince skeptics to believe in your ways or that you are from Heaven. The most profound undeniable proof of being from Heaven is portrayed in your continuity, humility, simplicity, purity of heart and actions of Love. It is revealed in the way you live your daily gift of life.*

The world today seeks a quick resolution to problems which took generations to surface. Change takes time because it must first commence with the change of heart. This is why I have urged you to begin now and not to delay any longer or wait until the end to act upon the areas which are preventing you from being called a child of God. God has given to you signs and proof, but you fail to even recognize His gifts, just as people failed to recognize Him as He walked on this earth.

Turn your attention to those who are not looking for power, prestige, notoriety, fame, attention or material empires. Look at those who live daily by serving others and who have continuity in their actions of love and service. Look at the fruits which are ongoing. Look at those people whose actions of "littleness" challenge you, even if those actions make you feel uncomfortable. Look at those people whose ways are simple.

Look and you will find here in this small town where I have come, the Center of my Immaculate Heart, authentic children of God. This is a community which rises together in hardships and joins in helping one another, as recorded throughout history when sisterhood and brotherhood laid the foundation of Love. This community will continue to rise together and assist in helping all the many people who will come to this, my Center of my Immaculate Heart, because they are humble, simple loving children of God; and their actions of Love will embrace and heal those seeking refuge.

*I bless you, little children, with the Peace of Jesus and I take your petitions to Him. Thank you for your response to my call.
AD DEUM.*

Paid Advertisement: In the spring of 2000, six messages were given publicly by the Blessed Virgin Mary to mystic Gianna Sullivan, specifically directed toward the community of Emmitsburg. The advertising patron feels it is **now** important that the community again be made aware of these *Words from Heaven*. This series will appear in the next six issues of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. The Editor has verified that the messages are accurate in their presentation.

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Aug 13th - World renowned author **Wayne Weible** whose personal witness and books on the alleged apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Medjugorje have led many to a change of heart and brought them a new relationship with God will speak of his conversion story, and how Medjugorje has affected his life. His new book "A Child Shall Lead Them" is due out very soon.

Aug 19th & 20th - Author, journalist, and international Catholic speaker **Thomas Rutkoski**, founder of Gospa Missions will share the amazing story of his conversion and how he was miraculously healed of rheumatoid arthritis, as the Lord drew him back into the Church after 27 years. Tom will speak to us about his life changing conversion story and about the responsibility of being Catholic. Free-will offering. There will be religious articles available for sale.

For Information Contact: Brian Fleming at 301-447-1901 or 717-334-4529

DETAILS:

WAYNE WEIBLE MEDJUGORJE TALK

Booksigning!
Saturday August 13
11AM-2PM
at St. Peter's Books
& Gifts Café

Medjugorje Talk
Saturday August 13
7:00 PM
at Liberty Mountain Resort
Alpine Room
(\$7 admission Fee)

TOM RUTKOSKI OF GOSPA MISSIONS

TALK
Friday August 19
6:00 PM Pro-Life Rosary
6:30 PM Benediction
St. Mary's Church
Fairfield, PA
(Free will offering)

Meet the Author!
Saturday August 20
11AM-2PM
St. Peter's Books
& Gifts Café
Emmitsburg, MD

TALK
Saturday August 20
5:30 PM Vigil Mass
6:30 PM Presentation
& Healing Blessing
St. Mary's Church Fairfield
(Free will offering)

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