Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation at all times to acclaim you, Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death and by rising restored our life.”

With these words Easter Preface I introduces the reasons why we worship, praise and thank God “yet more gloriously” in the Masses of Easter. Evoking the image of God’s great act of deliverance in the Old Testament, we recognize in Christ the perfect fulfillment of the first exodus. In the Paschal Mystery, Christ, the true Passover lamb, was willingly sacrificed on the cross and on the third day rose in glorious triumph over death. We, the baptized, are the beneficiaries of the new Passover in which death is destroyed and life restored.

At Easter we laud God “yet more gloriously” as we welcome to Eucharistic communion our new brothers and sisters who have been joined to us through the Sacraments of Initiation and those already baptized who have responded to God’s grace and are now or will soon be in full communion with us in the Church.

During the Liturgies of Palm Sunday and the Sacred Triduum, we participate in four processions: the procession with palm, the procession with the Holy Eucharist, the procession of the cross and the procession with the Paschal candle, the light of Christ. These processions represent the journey of life. We are all pilgrims traveling along the road of life to a desired destination. At times we glorify and praise God. At other times we reject God. At times we walk very much aware that Jesus is truly present to us. At other times we walk painfully under the burden of some cross we are called to bear. And, praise God, we walk at other times in darkness but holding firmly to the light of Christ.

During the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis reminded us that Jesus is the face of the Father’s mercy. The mercy of God has become living and visible in Jesus. The Easter Mystery is the ultimate revelation of God’s true face, of God’s mercy for us. May this Easter Season be a time when, overcome with Paschal joy, we grow more fully in love with our merciful, risen Savior.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

By Jen Reed

On Radio Program, Bishop Answers Questions about Catholics Returning to the Church

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

With the Easter season here and families gathering for celebrations, parents often find themselves trying to find the most effective way to encourage a son or daughter to come back to the Church. Those who have stopped practicing might wonder just how they would go about returning. And Catholics who married or remarried outside the Church can have questions about coming back, too.

In an effort to answer some of these burning questions, Bishop Ronald Gainer participated in a live call-in program at Holy Family Radio AM 720, from its studio located in Shiremanstown on March 16.

The purpose of the program was for the bishop to respond to real-life situations of those who are seeking a return to the Catholic Church, and family members and friends who want to encourage them.

“All of us know people or have people in our families who have drifted away from the Church. We have so much to offer. We believe we have the Truth of Jesus here in our Catholic faith, and it is so painful to see family members, neighbors or parishioners drift away,” Bishop Gainer said.

The following is a sample of the questions and the bishop’s responses during the call-in program.

Learn more about Holy Family Radio at http://www.720whyf.com/, about the Diocese of Harrisburg and its parishes and ministries at www.hbgdiocese.org, and resources for returning to the Church at www.catholicscomehome.org.

Q: For divorced Catholics who have remarried, what is the first step for them to come back to the Church?
A: I would say, just do it. We just have to make up our mind that what I
Questions

Continued from 2

need to do is come back home to the Church. Come to Mass. If you see the pastor or one of the priests of the parish, ask him if you can set up an appointment to meet with him to sort out the details. There are so many reasons people leave the Church, and there are so many reasons for coming back. We have to figure out the person’s exact situation, and how the Church can minister to them. With couples who have married outside the Church, maybe one is Catholic and the other is not. Maybe they’re both Catholic and both interested in coming back, or maybe only one is interested. Just make that appointment to speak with a priest or deacon of the parish to sort out what’s necessary.

Q: I have a new grandson that I want to be baptized, but my son has not attended Mass in a number of years. How do I encourage my son without being a pest?

A: The best way that we can encourage is through personal example. St. Paul says that what is read and heard has to be ready to give an explanation for the hope that is in us. By practicing the faith and living it, your son will see that it’s an important value in your life. I would hope your son would want that explanation, “What would give me if I came back to the Church?”

There are some wonderful resources today, particularly the book written for parents and grandparents. It’s full of techniques and ideas of how to make an intro into the lives of your children, grandchildren, sons and daughters-in-law. The book is called, “Return: How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church” by Brandon Vogt. I would also recommend its website, www.returnresources.com.

For you, I would suggest two things: your own personal example of witnessing that the faith is so important for you, and praying that the Spirit will somehow open his eyes and his heart to the Truth he has somehow put aside. We are wired to be in a relationship with God; that’s how he has made us. Pray for him and show him your good example.

Q: I was raised Catholic and received all the sacraments, but stopped going to church when I was 15 to age 24. I am gay, and though I’d like to come back, I’m not sure if I would be welcomed, even though the pope said, “Who am I to judge?”

A: People with same-sex attraction are certainly welcome within the Church. I would like to talk about those words that Pope Francis spoke and we’ve been so used to. He said that in July of 2013. Someone from the media posed a question to him about someone who was gay and their relationship with the Church. That’s the occasion on which Pope Francis said, “Who am I to judge?”

I think the pope, having said those words, has also shown that those words have been stretched and twisted in ways that he never intended. Just in January, a new book came out by Pope Francis, called “The Name of God is Mercy.” In his book, he takes the opportunity to clarify that statement, “Who am I to judge this?” In the book, explaining what he meant, he says, “On that occasion, I said this: ‘If a person is gay and seeks out the Lord and is willing, who am I to judge that person?’” I was paraphrasing by heart the Catechism of the Catholic Church, where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized.”

What the pope said in that interview, many people thought it was discontinuous and we’ve been so used to so much tinged or felt, and he himself is saying here in his book that he was paraphrasing the Catechism. What he was saying was not the part of the Catechism; what he was saying is that every person is a child of God and is a person with God-given dignity. That dignity needs to be respected in each community of the Church and reveredenced.

So, is a person who has same-sex attraction welcome in the Church? Surely. We would hope that that person with same-sex attraction would be trying hard to live according to the morality that we believe Jesus asks of us. Whether one is heterosexual or homosexual, chastity and purity are important virtues, and we would hope that the person would be trying to live according to the intentions that God has for all of us. I think there are many Catholics who do not know about the Courage movement. We have in our diocese Courage and it is especially for people with same-sex attraction. It’s a program that supports its members in living that virtue of chastity according to the teachings of the Bible and the teachings of our Catholic Church. The Courage movement gathers its members in prayer, fellowship and mutual understanding to strengthen their relationship with God, with the Church and to encourage one another to live in chastity. In our own diocese, Father William Weary is the chaplain of our Courage chapter, and he can be contacted at 717-242-2781 or fweary@sacredheartlewisstown.com to find out more about the movement.

Q: I’m new to the area and am looking to connect with my Catholic faith. How do I find a parish? Can I shop around to see which one fits my needs, or do I have to attend the parish in whose boundary I live?

A: Our parishes are, by their very nature, defined by a territory. The truth is that, today, while we still observe those boundaries, people who find themselves more at home or their spirits or in the better enveloped in a parish in whose boundaries they don’t live really are free to attend the church and join the parish where they feel that they’re closer to the Lord and where the ministries and activities are more enriching for you.

If you call the Diocese of Harrisburg (717-654-4804) you find out what parish you live in. I would encourage you strongly to try that parish and see what’s going on there and where your gifts might be used in that parish. If you find after some time that it’s not fulfilling for you, then you could “shop around.” What’s important is that you are encountering Jesus Christ in his Church, both in the sacraments and the liturgy, and not that you’re serving with the ministries and service that par-

ish is offering. If the parish in which you find yourself isn’t fulfilling that need, you should free to look around and find a parish where you feel more at home and more fully enriched.

Q: How do you find the courage to come back to the Church when you’re surrounded by family members who make fun of you for it?

A: I hope you would find, as you partici-

pate in the life of your parish, the encouragement and extra strength that you need to resist the discouragement that surrounds you in your family. It’s tough when the people who matter most to you in your life are not one with you in the desire to be active in practicing the faith. I think you need to make that decision for yourself. In the end, we’re all going to have to stand before the Lord, and you won’t be accountable for what your family did or didn’t do, you’ll be accountable for what you do. When you practice the faith, maybe you become a stimulus for them. Even though they may at first mock you, it may be that you make them feel embarrassed or awkward. The martyrs took a lot more, and yet look at the ef-

fect the martyrs of the Church had on other people. If we as a nation were to go to Mass may have some ripple effect on your immediate family. If you show perseverance and how important the practice of the faith is, you’d think you have a very positive influence. It’s God’s grace that changes people’s hearts, but you can become a means of that actual grace in their lives by mak-

ing the right decision for yourself.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313.

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline at: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect

Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

Conversations on Faith

Would you like to have a sit-down conversation with Bishop Ronald Gainer where you could explore a topic along with its faith dimensions and the teachings of the Church? That is what happens, via videocast, each Lent for the Sent, for the seven Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg. This Lent, the conversations on Faith, and each year four topics are explored.

Now the recordings of these interactive classes, along with question-and-answer sessions, are available for anyone at any time by visiting the website. They are also available on the Diocesan website under the Our Faith tab at www.HbgDiocese.org/conversationsonfaith

This year, the topics included: The Year of Mercy, Happiness, Bullying and Suicide and Staying Catholic on Campus. These sessions, along with those from past years, are available for your viewing.

Some previous topics included: How Can We Say That the Catholic Church is the Church Founded by Christ?, Christianity and Islam: Is There a Connection?, The Big Bang, Genesis: Are Science and Religion Enemies?, The Supernatural and Same Sex Marriage: What the Church Teaches and Why.

Cover Image

The Resurrection of Jesus is depicted in this stained-glass window at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Lancaster. The church is a special pilgrimage site during the Year of Mercy, and the parish is celebrating its 275th anniversary this year.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

• April 2 – Celebrate Mass for the Sisters’ Jubilees, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Invocation at Gift of Smile Event, Clarion Hotel, New Cumberland, 5:30 p.m.

• April 3 – Opening of 40 Hours Devotions and 40th Anniversary of Father John Heisey’s Priesthood at St. Joseph Church, Milton, 3 p.m.

• April 4 – Confirmation at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, Ephrata, 7 p.m.

• April 6 – Confirmation at St. James Church, Lititz, 7 p.m.

• April 8 – Opening of Fresh Expressions National Gathering, Alexandria, VA.

• April 9 – Groundbreaking for new façade and Vigil Mass, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lancaster, 4 p.m.

• April 10 – Confirmation at Church of the Holy Angels, Kulpmont, 2 p.m.

• April 11 – Celebrate Mass for the Convention of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.

• April 12 – Confirmation at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

• April 13 – Confirmation at Corpus Christi Church, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.

• April 14 – National Merit Scholarship Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, Noon.

• April 14 – Confirmation at St. Mark Church, Greencastle, 7 p.m.

• April 17 – Celebrate Diocesan Scouting Mass, Church of the Good Shepherd, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.

April 1, 2016 – 8th CATHOLIC WITNESS - 3

Report Abuse@hbgdiocese.org

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect
Beginning Experience Weekend Planned for Those Who Have Lost a Spouse

The Beginning Experience Team for the Diocese of Harrisburg will host a Beginning Experience Weekend on April 29-May 1.

Beginning Experience Weekends are an approved Roman Catholic program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards success-ful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or di-vorce, and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

The following is a testimonial from a person who attended the Beginning Experience Weekend in the fall of 2014:

“I can tell you that my encounter with the Beginning Experience Weekend has brought me greater peace and given me an extended family of lifelong friends who I quickly grew to love and lean on. If you or someone you know is suffering the isolation and pain that can accompany the loss of a spouse or marriage, I encourage you to seriously consider attending the Beginning Experience Weekend.

Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. Check the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to sign you up. Each Friday that the newspaper is published, you will receive an e-mail Sign Up. Or, send your name, home address and e-mail address to shunstberger@hbgdiocese.org and we’ll sign you up. Each Friday that the newspaper is published, you will receive an e-mail with a direct link to the latest edition. Registration with the e-mail serv-ice will not cancel your mailed subscription, unless you request otherwise.

No Glory without the Cross

By Jim Gontis

Special to The Witness

“Why do you Catholics leave Jesus on the Cross? Don’t you know He is risen?”

Ever heard anything like that? Often the question comes from one of our sepa-rated brethren, often an evangelical Protestant brother or sister, in reference to a Crucifix, or to anyone referring to the sufferings of Christ. Of course, the Catholic Church does indeed know and profess, in fact, she proclaims to the world, that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, 15: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain; you are still in your sins. But, indeed, He is risen! The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the Resurrection of Jesus as the “crowning truth of our faith in Christ.”

But before He received the crown of resurrection, Jesus first had to wear his crown of thorns. There is no Resurrec-tion without the Crucifixion, no glory without the Cross! This is why we Catholics insist on Crucifixes in our churches....or should. It is why Catholic churches prominently have displayed on their walls 14 Stations of the Cross, marking Our Lord’s walk Calvary’s.

And here is a vital point of doctrine. If you know and assimilate this point of doc-trine, you will find that you are deeply imbued in Catholicism down to your bones and the core of your being. This is the difference between being simply an admirer of Jesus Christ, and being His intimate associate in His discipleship.

Here it comes! ALL OF US WHO ARE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS PARTICIPATE WITH HIM IN BRINGING SALVATION TO THE WORLD! Je-sus himself is indeed the One Savior of the world, of us, indeed as He was baptized and confirmed disciples, He requires us to participate in His saving work.

In other words, we are not merely consumers of salvation, we are providers also. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be someone who demeis himself every day and takes up his Cross and follows in His footsteps. We need to be crucified to the old man and imitated of the One Who first trod that road, That Via Crucis. And we learn to walk our own via crucis in the crucible of suffering. To suffer is “to bear under.” The very term speaks of the Cross. Jesus Himself tells us that the carrying of our own crosses is the cost of discipleship. “...Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24).

Jesus is the Redeemer, there is no other Way to the Father. Yet, through grace, He makes us participants in His redemptive work. Analogously, God is the one Creator, who through the company of His friends, makes us participants in His creative work, so that, when man and woman come together in physical union, they may, together with God and as God wills, make a baby. Does this mean that God is not the great Creator? Rather it shows forth God’s power and generosity in allowing us to share in his creative work.

Only one who has authority can give others a share in it. The reason Jesus could make Peter the Rock, the first Pope, in effect, Prime Minister of his Kingdom, the Church, is that Jesus is the King of Calvary’s. He is in charge of this operation we refer to as the Church. The founder and president of a company puts others in positions of authority as he sees fit. It is his company after all. The founder of the Catholic Church, Jesus Christ, is the founder and president, he makes others exercise authority in his name. He calls them to do so with humility, mercy, in truth, and self-giving love... yet it is a share in his authority all the same.

So God not only allows us, but requires us to help others get to heaven. How? Through regular reception of the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucha-rist, daily prayer, works of mercy, and by embracing our crosses daily.

In Colossians 1:24, the Apostle Paul writes, “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my imprisonment I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church...” Christ is not lacking, what is so? What is often lacking is our participation in, our cooperation with, his suffering. Jesus is the one Redeemer. But he will not force us to accept this redemption won at so great a price. St. Augustine famously wrote, “The same God who made us without our consent will not save us without our consent.” We need to participate in, and cooperate with, his ultimate sacrificial and redemptive act that happened once in history and is re-presented in mystery at every Mass. This is not Jesus being crucified again. It is his one and sufficient sacrifice made present every day on every Catholic altar wherever Mass is celebrated. How can this be? It happened 2,000 years ago. It happens because he is God, the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity Incarnate—the God-Man...and he wills it. He is not bound by space and time, he made space and time. To the great I AM, everything is present.

This embrace of Jesus’ death and Resurrection is embodied in our reception of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, which we should receive often so long as we are unworthy of him in his Church and in the state of grace. The Eucha-rist is Jesus. It is not the crucified or risen Jesus, but the crucified and risen Jesus. It is his pledge of immortality to us. “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.” (John 6:53).

This risen Christ enriches into our bodies and souls in the Eucharist, gives us grace to cooperate with Christ’s suffering in our own sufferings, whether these be cancer, the death of a spouse, child, parent, or sibling, whether our suffering is illness, imprisonment, betrayal, slander, humiliation, abandonment, anxiety, loss of job, even martyrdom. The grace it gives is not made empty of grace.

Let us draw strength from the Eucharist and from our Morning Offering, wherein we offer to Jesus through Mary our daily prayers, works, joys, and sufferings. Let us do this from that most personal act of love of Christ so as to walk the narrow road to glory, that we might hear the Lord say to us at the end of our lives: “Well done, good and faithful servant. Now enter into the joy that I have prepared for you from all eternity.”
Catholic Social Teaching Calls Us to ‘Open Our Eyes’ to Those in the Margins, Catholic Charities USA President Tells Symposium Attendees

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Our treatment of the lonely and the sick, the immigrant, the unborn, the imprisoned and the environment came to the forefront of discussion and calls to action during a diocesan symposium on Catholic social teaching, where the keynote speaker challenged Catholics to live their obligation to be Good Samaritans to those they meet in the margins of society.

“We are all connected to each other, and we encounter the face of God in the lives of the people we touch,” she said.

In her keynote, Sister Donna drew on the parable of the Good Samaritan – who was moved by compassion to bind up the wounds of the man lying stripped and beaten along the roadside – as a model for Catholics today.

“We are called more than ever in this day and age to be Good Samaritans and innkeepers through the personal relationships that we share, and calls us to work tirelessly on behalf of those who are ‘rendered disposable,’” Sister Donna pointed out.

The response of the Good Samaritan, who comes to the aid of his neighbor and takes him to the innkeeper, “is our response as Church in mercy and justice on behalf of those who have been consigned to live life on the margins,” she remarked.

She called Catholics to recognize the people we see who are “left half dead, literally and figuratively” – the ill, the poor, the hungry, the jobless, the elderly, pregnant mothers with no medical care.

“Our neighbors lie on the roadsides, vulnerable persons surviving as best they can on the margins of our communities. If our eyes are open, we need to see them at every turn in the road,” she said.

“The basis of Catholic social teaching is that you have to see,” Sister Donna stressed.

Like the Good Samaritan, we see the face of Jesus in those we encounter, yet we’re also called to be innkeepers, to stabilize the those in need, she said.

“It’s not just enough to get the person to the inn; how do we get them stabilized? Not only do we have service, but we have advocacy – the work we do with our local, state and federal governments to look at the long term solutions. The parable tells us not just to do the Band-Aid work, but to remedy the situation. The Church’s encyclicals across time have called us to serve and to advocate,” Sister Donna remarked.

Sister Donna Markham, OP, Ph.D., President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, calls attendees at the diocesan symposium on Catholic social teaching to consider the ways they might be called to assist the marginalized – in social advocacy and personal ministry.

Margaret Wall, Relationship Manager with the Regional Office for Catholic Relief Services, talks to a symposium attendee about CRS’ Fair Trade Program and how it promotes workers’ dignity. Find information at www.crsfairtrade.org.

“We are called more than ever in this day and age to be counter-cultural. The prevailing culture is one of division, violence, war, disregard for life and dignity. To be counter-cultural, we need to counter that culture, in both big ways and little ways... We are called to be both Good Samaritans and innkeepers through our ministry of love and compassion as believers. That is what the Gospel calls us to,” she said.

For information about the Diocesan Commission on Catholic Social Teaching, or ways you can get involved in such efforts, contact Pete Biasucci, Assistant Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, at 717-657-4804 or pbiasucci@hbgdiocese.org.
John Michael Talbot: Music, Monasticism and Media

Musicians to Perform at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish This Month

By Sandy Oravec

Special to The Witness

The legendary John Michael Talbot—the country-folk guitarist and composer whose conversions to Catholicism led to a series of platinum albums of inspirational contemporary Christian music, as well as to the establishment of a monastic community—has embarked on a new mission of evangelization and healing, hosting the TV show "All Things Are Possible With God," posting daily on Facebook, and visiting parishes throughout the diocese. Talbot spoke with us from his home monastery in Arkansas about music, monasticism, media, and Catholic evangelization.

It is fair to say, because of the prescribed liturgy of the Mass, that Catholics have a kind of complicated relationship with contemporary Christian music?

John Michael Talbot performs on guitar in this submitted photo. The guitarist, composer and evangelist who established the Brothers and Sisters of Charity will bring his music and message to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 310 Hertzler Road in Mechanicsburg, on April 18 at 7 p.m. There is no charge for the show, however a free-will offering will be taken.

How have you, as a musician and composer, addressed this?

The first generation of non-Catholic contemporary Christian musicians went to Catholic musicians like Joe Wise and Ray Repp and Sebastian Ciminelli. They came out of folk music into their services. The Catholics did this first. People forget that. Non-Catholics kind of look at it and run with it. They pulled the early Church out of the train of history. So we have crossed over into only entertainment many, many people at an astounding rate of success. But they have also complicated it because they've taken the brake off.

Liturgy and the authority of the Church serves as a brake. So our development of contemporary music is moderated, it's slower, sometimes it falls behind the curve. So our development of contemporary music is complicated by that.

We, on the other hand, have often gone too slow. We're way behind the curve on really reaching young people; we don't do it well. Deep south of the United States and Latin America and the Philippines and Asia and Africa, conferences which are great. But in the average parish, we do it poorly. But we've kept rooted in historicity and true apostolicity and historicity, and I've maintained a real concern for reverence in our worship. So both positions we do it poorly. But we've kept rooted in historicity and true apostolicity, and I've maintained a real concern for reverence in our worship. So both positions have a blessing and—I wouldn't call it a curse—but we just need to do it differently.

How has your approach to music changed over the years, or has it changed?

Well, it changed enormously when I became a Catholic. I took a huge step of faith going outside of the American and secular culture and moving into something that was both more ancient and more new. And I've stayed there. The music that I make—I think most people like me for my meditational music. In meditational music, it's important to hear the space between the notes as it is to hear the notes. It's important to hear the silence as it is to hear the lyre.

We're at a very critical juncture in society in which all of the character of the ancient world. We've forgotten the "dynamite" in parishes!

The Church is due for a huge shake-up. The Church needs to bring revival. We need an authentic Catholic revival happening in parishes.

We have lost the sense that the monastic life is the heart of the Church. It's unseen; you don't see it on the surface of the body, but it's pumping blood out to all of the members of the Church—to the theologians in the halls of power—and monasticism and the contemplative life because they are rightly concerned about the revival of their parishes. I have a position that I'll share with you. I don't think monasticism will be renewed until families are renewed, because out of the revival of the family, great vocations are going to rise up. And the revival of the family happens through the renewal of the parishes, authentic Catholic revival happening in parishes.

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I used to believe that we need to have on-fire monasteries from which we bring revival to the United States. I've evolved on that. I actually believe that we need to revive our parishes first, and that's why I'm out in parishes as often as I am.

That doesn't change the fact that monasteries are still the place where you get the Catholic Christian orthodoxy experience—on steroids. It is the place where the radical—not the fanatical but the radical, like a radish—that the radical Catholic Christian life is lived with great intentionality and great intensity. Exter- nal intensity. Where everything you do throughout your whole day is structured towards giving glory to God.

So yes, I think monasteries can be those real powerhouses that send out electric power, as it were, to the domestic life and also to the parish church. I haven't lost that love.

Monastic life, just like Catholic life in America, is struggling, and we need to bring revival. We need an authent- ic Catholic revival in history.

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Social media is a good evangelizing tool, it's a good initial contact, but you need to go deeper. You've got to go face-to-face, human person to human person, in a tangible way. We've got to stop operating at only about 20% of the fullness of our membership and 40% of our institutions will be closed. So monasticism is dwindling in the United States. It's not gone, but it's dwindling. I think people have lost a sense of the importance of monasticism and the contemplative life because they are rightly concerned about the revival of their parishes. I have a position that I'll share with you. I don't think monasticism will be renewed until families are renewed, because out of the revival of the family, great vocations are going to rise up. And the revival of the family happens through the renewal of the parishes, authentic Catholic revival happening in parishes.

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That doesn't change the fact that monasteries are still to be the place where you get the Catholic Christian orthodoxy experience—on steroids. It is the place where the radical—not the fanatical but the radical, like a radish—that the radical Catholic Christian life is lived with great intentionality and great intensity. External intensity. Where everything you do throughout your whole day is structured towards giving glory to God.

So yes, I think monasteries can be those real power- houses that send out electric power, as it were, to the domestic life and also to the parish church. I haven't lost that love.

Let's move on to the use of media in evangelization. In addition to being very active on social media, you have a TV show on the Church Channel (Trinity Broadcasting Network) titled "All Things Are Possible With God." Why did you choose that title? Why is that the message that people need to hear.

I think people are discouraged. I think they are depressed. I think many of them are in despair. We've forgotten how to pray for miracles. The word miracle and what the New Testament is dynamis, and it's similar to the word dynamite. We've forgotten the "dynamite" that comes from monasticism, and it's very much in our lives. I think many of us have a very weak faith.

We need to rediscover what faith is. Hebrews 11:1—"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, things not seen." The Greek word for faith was theos, which means person, so faith personifies in the now the things that we only hope for in the future. And we need to learn how to live in faith, how to operate in faith. We've got to step out of the boat of our safety zones. We've got to learn how to walk on the water with Jesus. We may have to take our eyes off of Jesus and onto the storm, and we sink once we get out there on the water. But you know what? All the teachings of the prophetic Word of Jesus will always pull us up. We may lose hold on Him, but He will never lose hold on us. I'm challenging Catholics in America: We have to start stepping out of the boat of faith. I'm challenging the people to go and to say, "Well, this is the way we've always done it in our parish. This is the way it's always been." And I'm kind of on my own "Pilgrim's Progress." Oh, yeah, how's that wor- kin' for ya?" The statistics indicate that it's not working very well.

We've got to step out of the boat. And we have to re- discover what it is to be fully Catholic again. Most of us are operating at only about 20% of the fullness of our membership and 40% of our institutions will be closed. So we have to fire up our faith again. We have to step out of the boat of our mediocrity, that we feel safe in but really we're not working for us, and we have to learn how to walk on water with Jesus.

Mary had to believe—me, I think about it. She was given a message from the angel Gabriel that was medi- cally and scientifically impossible, that she was going to have a baby without there being a human father. Huh! It's supernatural! And maybe what happens in our lives today, we have to believe that all things are possible with God—that the call that He gives us to be holy and to evangelize all the world isn't impossible for us. It is possible.

It's time for the Church to get fired up. We're at a Nineveh moment, bringing the Gospel of Jesus and prosper or we can not repent, and we will perish. And time is not 10 years from now or 20 years from now; the time is now. And many of the great parishes in the world, those that's what parishes preaching. That's what I do through spoken word. And then, of course, I bring people into hearing through the music, and we just see miracles in every parish where we go.

How does a person move from a virtual connection through media to personal evangelization?

Another step is to join a community like ours, the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. We have a monastic ex- pression for monks and nuns, singles who can marry, and families. We have two monasteries in America, one in Ar- kansas, one down in Houston, Texas. And then we have a domestic expression of men and women all across the United States and beyond the United States, to the need to plug in to folks who are like-minded regarding authentic Catholic revival, regarding a message of hope, regarding a message of healing, and the need to bring that monastic call not only in the monastery, but bringing it out into the secular world in each one of our hearts. And when we use the dynamic expression to be "pockets of power" in parishes!

Saint John Chrysostom said you are serious about living the Gospel of Jesus, you’re a monk and you just don’t know it. So all of us who are serious about the Gospel have a little monk inside of us.

(Sandy Oravec is Communications Coordinator at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg.)
Palm Sunday Gathering Highlights for Youth the Face of the Father’s Mercy

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The annual Diocesan World Youth Day celebration on Palm Sunday highlighted the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy for the several hundred high school teens who gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg March 20. Carrying palms and joining in spirited praise and worship music, the youth filled the cathedral for pre-liturgy festivities, held entirely indoors this year instead of on the steps of the state Capitol due to the inclement weather that day.

As they arrived, they passed through the special Holy Door of the cathedral, which has been designated as one of five special pilgrimage sites during this Year of Mercy. A number of priests were available to hear the teens’ confessions and offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and the reception of the sacraments and the pilgrimage afforded the youth, families and ministers present to receive a Plenary Indulgence for the Year of Mercy. Still others found themselves drawn to the images of the Divine Mercy and those associated with the attempted assassination of St. John Paul II in St. Peter’s Square in 1981. The images are enclosed in a display case near the altar rail for visitors to contemplate.

During the liturgy, an annual activity planned by the Diocesan Youth Council, Bishop Ronald Gainer blessed the palms that the teens carried. The procession included a large wooden cross and colorful banners from various youth groups. The Offertory Collection of $1,312 raised funds for scholarships for the Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald for adults with intellectual disabilities. This annual weeklong camp serves upwards of 45 campers, ranging in age from 18 to 75.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer encouraged the teens to reflect in this Extraordinary Jubilee on one particular person in the Passion: the “good thief” who is crucified alongside Jesus. Two criminals were executed alongside of Jesus – one who cursed and reviled him, and one who asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his Kingdom. This was the good thief, St. Dismas.

“Those two men represent two possible responses to the suffering that comes along in our lives,” the bishop remarked. “One criminal was absolutely bitter to the end. The other criminal prayed. It had to be the last prayer he ever spoke when he spoke to the Son of God, ‘Remember me.’ And Jesus, in his mercy, makes that promise.”

“During this Year of Mercy, think a little more about that good thief, the one that chose not to be bitter,” Bishop Gainer said. Dismas acknowledged the punishment that he and the other criminal had received because of their crimes, and called Jesus’ crucifixion “the perfect injustice.”

“Jesus promised Dismas that on that day he would be with him in Paradise, and then on the third day, Jesus showed him and showed us that there was a future beyond this world for all of us,” the bishop said. The good thief’s last prayer recognized the kingship of Jesus and only asked to be remembered. The Lord gave him much more than he could have ever hoped for. That is the face of the Father’s mercy. That is God’s mercy made visible and tangible in the person of Jesus Christ,” he said. “Let us never hesitate to turn to Jesus to experience the profound mercy of our God.”

(For information on the activities of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, visit www.bhgdiocese.org/youngchurch. For information on how to contribute towards the “camperships” for Camp Kirchenwald, contact Ginny Duncan, Director of the Diocesan Office for Ministry with People with Disabilities, at vduncan@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 322.)
The holy oils consecrated during the Chrism Mass are a tangible sign of Christ in our lives and a celebration of our vocations in the Church, Bishop Ronald Gainer told the clergy, religious and laity gathered at the solemn Mass on March 21 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

In ancient times, olive oil was used to soothe and heal wounds, burned in lamps to light the darkness, and presented on tables at meal time.

Yet, as he prepared to consecrate the olive oil for use in the celebration of the Church’s sacraments, Bishop Gainer remarked that today “we recognize with the eyes of faith something much greater than what the ancients could ever see or appreciate – this wonderful, useful, natural gift of creation becomes a tangible, external sign of the supernatural gift of our life in Christ.”

Celebrated in many dioceses on the Monday of Holy Week, the Chrism Mass offers faithful a solemn occasion to witness the blessing of the oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the coming year.

It is also during this Mass that the priests of the diocese stand before the bishop and the congregation to renew the commitment to priestly service that they made on their day of their ordination.

The bishop and the priests concelebrate the Mass to express their communion with one another, as it commemorates the anniversary of Christ conferring the priesthood on the apostles during the Last Supper.

The Chrism Mass, Bishop Gainer said in his homily, “is really a celebration for all the Christian faithful. Every member of God’s priestly people is consecrated to sacramental life in baptism, and anointed for mission in confirmation.”

The Chrism Mass: “O God, who anointed your only begotten Son, grant graciously that, being made sharers in this consecration, we may bear witness to your redemption in the world.”

“That’s the job description of all of us. That’s the vocation of each member of the Church,” the bishop remarked.

“We gather today as the baptized and confirmed and ordained, who share in Christ’s mission and are sent to proclaim the Gospel to a world that hungers so much for healing, wholeness, salvation – human longings that can only be satisfied in, through and by Christ Jesus.”

In this Year of Mercy, the faithful can consider how each of the three holy oils is truly a gift of God’s mercy, and how, in each oil, we “encounter the living Jesus, the face of the Father’s mercy,” he said.

The Oil of the Sick is a reminder of the healing and forgiveness that are the “hallmarks of Christ’s public ministry in the Gospel” and the fundamental tasks he has entrusted to his Church, Bishop Gainer said. This oil is also a tangible expression of the Church’s ministry to comfort, heal and strengthen.

The Oil of the Catechumens “indicates the first touch by Christ and the Holy Spirit, by which the Lord draws us close to himself,” the bishop said. “In his extravagant mercy, the Lord constantly reaches out to draw everyone to himself and to eternal life.”

The Sacred Chrism is for confirmations and holy orders. In confirmation, “the royal priesthood – or the priesthood of all the faithful – is conferred through baptism, strengthening us, moving Christ’s disciples to minister to the material and spiritual needs of all humanity,” he explained.

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In the ordination of priests and bishops, “the anointing with Chrism complements the laying on of hands, conferring a true participation in Christ’s own ministry, which allows the priest to stand in the person of Christ – head, shepherd and bridegroom of the Church,” the bishop said.

Bishop Ronald Gainer and Father Joshua Brommer, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, are reflected in a vessel of the Oil of the Sick.
The Chrism Mass, celebrated on Monday of Holy Week, offers the faithful a solemn occasion to witness the blessing of the oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the coming year.

Historically, bishops have blessed oil since the early Church, and, for more than 1,000 years, blessed the oils at the cathedral during Holy Thursday liturgy. In 1955, the Church added a separate Mass earlier in the day for the blessing of the oils, the Chrism Mass. Today, many dioceses, including our own, celebrate the Chrism Mass a few days before Holy Thursday.

At the conclusion of the Chrism Mass, the oils are distributed into smaller vessels so that the priests of the diocese can carry them back to their communities for the administration of the sacraments.

Each oil is made from olive oil. Balsam is added to the Chrism to make it more fragrant.

Here is a look at the oils, and how they are used.

The Oils of the Chrism Mass

The Oil of the Catechumens

The Oil of the Catechumens, identified with a green ribbon, is used for those who are preparing for baptism. Before they go to the font of life to be reborn, candidates for baptism are strengthened by the anointing with this oil to renounce sin and the devil.

The Oil of the Sick

Shown with a purple ribbon, the Oil of the Sick is used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This oil offers to those who are ill a remedy for the illness of mind and body, so that they may have strength to bear their suffering, resist evil and receive the forgiveness of sins.

The Oil for the Sacred Chrism

Adorned with a white ribbon, Chrism takes its name from Christ, “the anointed one of the Lord.” It is a mixture of olive oil and fragrant balsam, and is used in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the anointing of priests and bishops during ordination, and in the dedication of new churches and altars. In Confirmation, Christians receive the spiritual anointing of the Holy Spirit as Chrism is placed on their foreheads. Priests, through the anointing of their hands during ordination, are consecrated to offer sacrifice; bishops are anointed on their heads as a sign of their share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. The bishop breathes over the vessel of Chrism, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the oil, and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used.
During the celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Bishop Ronald Gainer washed the feet of 12 members of the Cathedral parish. The rite of the washing of feet, restored by Pope Pius XII in 1955, calls the faithful to imitate Christ’s example of humble service to one another as reflected in this passage from the day’s Gospel reading (Jn. 13:1-15): “So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, ‘Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.’”

The Stations of the Cross came to life in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg on Good Friday during the Way of the Cross presented by the parish community of St. Francis of Assisi. Interspersed with prayer and reflection by Capuchin Franciscan Father Orlando Reyes, pastor, the re-enactment of the Stations ushered in prayers for peace throughout the city and drew onlookers who joined in the Way of the Cross, which culminated at St. Francis of Assisi Church. The Way of the Cross on Good Friday is an annual Lenten activity of the parish.
Gear Up for WYD Stateside with a Virtual Presentation

The Diocese of Harrisburg and Lancaster Catholic High School are gearing up for World Youth Day Stateside in Lancaster this July, and are preparing a virtual question-and-answer period about the most current arrangements for World Youth Day Stateside.

The virtual presentation will be held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on Monday, August 8 at 11 a.m. This will be an opportunity for priests, sisters, high school and college campus ministers, parish youth ministry directors and any other lay ministry leaders to gather in person or virtually for a presentation and question-and-answer period about the most current arrangements for World Youth Day Stateside.

Those who wish to participate virtually will be provided with a link to enter the session, which should last approximately 45 minutes. Those who attend the session in person at the Cardinal Keeler Center will have the opportunity to gather for noon Mass and then lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Those who plan to participate virtually or gather in person should contact Rob Williams, Director of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at 717-657-4804, ext. 328, or rwilliams@hbgdiocese.org.

Registration is open for WYD Stateside. Cost is $175 for the two-day event, and Sunday-only tickets are also available. High school youth must register with a youth group or with their family. Young adults can register individually or as a group. Sign up today! Registration deadline is May 31. Visit www.hbgdiocese.org/wydstateside for all the details.

Compassionate Caregiving: Caring Nurse-Patient Relationships

St. Cyril’s Spiritual Center
Danville PA 17821
Saturday, April 23, 2016
9:45 am - 3:00 pm

This program will address compassionate caregiving and its relationship to prayer and reflection. It will address ways a nurse can discern God’s will through prayerful listening to the Holy Spirit. The program will also examine literature addressing the relationship between religion/spirituality and health across the age spectrum. This program is open to everyone in Health Care Settings, but to nurses in particular, and will include a full dinner, and for those who wish, the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3-4 PM, and a 4:00 Mass for Sunday.

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Arrival: 9:45 am - Departure: 3:00 or 5:30 pm
Donation: $40-$50 as you are able. Full payment by the registration deadline: April 15, 2016
Register online at www.sscm.org/click current events
Or call 717-737-0927 or joynbob1@aol.com.

Presenter: Joan Miller, PhD
Dr. Miller is Professor Emeritus Bloomsburg University. She serves on the Geisinger Health System Spiritual Care Committee and the Bioethics Research and Advisory Committee.

Father Leo Patalinghug to Speak at Pregnancy Center Banquet

Father Leo Patalinghug, popular EWTN host and founder of Grace Before Meals, will be the keynote speaker at the Celebrate Life Banquet on April 26 benefiting the Carlisle Area Family Life Center, a crisis pregnancy and family resource and support center.

Father Leo will also conduct a cooking demonstration as part of the night’s “Cooking For Life” theme. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg in Camp Hill, followed by Father Leo’s presentation and dinner. Copies of his cookbooks will be available for purchase.

Dinner is complimentary but registration is required. To register, go to https://calcbanquet2016.eventbrite.com. A free-will offering will be taken to support the center’s Ultrasound Program due to launch January 1. The program will provide free ultrasounds to help women choose life and access medical insurance for vital prenatal care.

Since 1979, the Carlisle Area Family Life Center has offered counseling, education, referrals and baby/maternity clothing, food and supplies to anyone in a crisis situation regardless of background or life circumstance. All services are offered free of charge due to the generous support of the community.

Special sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about sponsorships or registration, call Lori Peters or Carol Culbertson at 717-243-6544.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Seeks Applicants for Scholarship

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Scholarship will be awarded to a Catholic senior high school girl for her freshman year at an accredited college, university, or trade school. The amount of the academic scholarship is $1,000.

Applicants must be sponsored by a mother, grandmother or guardian who is a member of a Parish Council of Catholic Women. The applicant and her sponsor must be residents of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Applicants must meet all conditions established by the Scholarship committee as set forth in its rules and regulations, which are included in the application packet.

Applications are available from parish Council of Catholic Women presidents. More information can be obtained by contacting Joyce Scott, Scholarship Chair, 717-737-0927 or joyntobob10@aol.com. The application deadline is May 1, 2016.

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Special sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about sponsorships or registration, call Lori Peters or Carol Culbertson at 717-243-6544.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their families. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

**ABBOYTSTOWN** – Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mary Ann Figas.

**BERWICK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Stephanie Baron, Leonard Spaide.

**BLOOMSBURG** – St. Columba: Barry J. Haupt, Kathleen Omit.

**BUCHANAN VALLEY** – St. Ignatius Loyola: Dona Staccone.

**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Mary Brown, Wanda M. Kardos, Thomas Shriver, Michael Whitehan.

**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Our Lady of Hope: Catherine Sumbury.

**GETTYSBURG** – St. Francis Xavier: James Kilmer.

**HANOVER** – St. Vincent de Paul: Bernard Cole.

**HARRISBURG** – St. Catherine Laboure: Angie Intieri, Lee West; St. Francis of Assisi: Yvonne McLamb, Mercedes Salto, Jose Vega; St. Margaret Mary: Patricia Longenbach, Armanda C. Salazar.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Donna Boova.

**KULPMONT** – Holy Angels: Stanley Sylko.

**LANCASTER** – Assumption BVM: Marion Jones, Charles R. Westcott.

**LEBANON** – St. Cecilia: Edward J. Chabanoff, Sr.


**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows: Robert Travitz.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Mary R. Tamecki, Dorothy I. Wydila.

**QUARRYVILLE** – St. Catherine of Sienna: Barb Chilitti.

**SHAMOKIN** – Mother Cabrini: John Fabrizio, Donald Hughes, Emily Laczkowski, Mary Mirack, Felicia Reed, Lawrence Robson, Frank Waldron.

**ST. Francis of Assisi** – Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Stephen Logue.

**TERRE HAUTE** – St. Mary Des Voeux: Robert Travitz.

**THE CATHOLIC** – Assumption BVM: April 1, 2016

**UNIVERSITY PARK** – St. John Neumann: Thomas Shriver, Michael Whitehan.

These recently departed souls and ceased persons have been submitted to the Archdiocese of Harrisburg for inclusion in future editions of Catholic Witness. These names are not intended to indicate any judgment of sin, but rather a plea for prayers on their behalf.

**GENERAL OBITUARY INFORMATION**

Getting your obituary published

Please contact the Catholic Witness office at least two weeks before the date of death to ensure that your obituary is published. The obituary should be no more than one paragraph in length and should include the name of the deceased person, date and place of death, and a brief note about their life and achievements. All obituaries are subject to the discretion of the editor. To submit an obituary, please contact the Catholic Witness office at 717-394-2231 or via email at jbritsky@hldgdiocese.org.

**Online Obituaries**

To submit an obituary online, please visit our website at www.hldgdiocese.org/obituaries.

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**Seminarian Stephen Logue receives Ministry of Acolyte**

On March 13, Cardinal James Michael Harvey, Archbishop of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, conferred the Ministry of Acolyte to 42 seminarians from the Pontifical North American College in Rome, including Stephen Logue, a seminarian of the Diocese of Harrisburg, in the college’s chapel.

Logue, shown in the center of the submitted photo, is pictured with Father John Bateman, Secretary to the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, left, and Deacon John Kuchinski, right, a diocesan seminarian who is completing his holy priesthood formation at the Pontifical North American College.

During his homily, Father Lawrence Robson, O.S.B., full-time chaplain at the College, fully embraced the cross with which they process as acolytes into the Mass, and to remember that just as the incense rises from the thurible to the heavens, so too do the servers’ prayers for the sanctification of the people they have been called to serve.

The seminarians who received the Ministry of Acolyte are in their second year of formation for the priesthood and have two additional years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood.

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**Waynesboro Parishioner Earns Full-Tuition Scholarship to St. Vincent’s**

Tessa Skehan, a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro and a senior at St. Maria Goretti Catholic High School, Hagerstown, Md., was presented with a check by St. Vincent College President Fr. Nor- man W. Hippy, O.S.B., on Academic Spotlight Day Feb. 15, for $126,000 for a full-tuition scholarship as a finalist in St. Vincent College’s 35th annual Wimmer Scholarship Competition.

Tessa is shown in the submitted photo receiving the check from Brother Hipps, left, with her father, Peter Skehan.

A top student at St. Maria Goretti, Tessa is currently enrolled in four advanced placement courses in English literature and composition, calculus AB, United States history and statistics and in human physics. A National Merit Commended Scholar, Tessa has achieved distinguished honors for three years and is a National Advanced Placement Scholar for the past two years. She is undecided on her choice of academic major at St. Vincent College, located in Latrobe, Pa.

Active in extracurricular activities, she served as class vice president during her sophomore and junior years and as president during her senior year. A two-year member of National Honor Society, she has completed more than 200 hours of volunteer service during the past four years.

A participant in the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Conference, she has also served as president of the Student Government Executive Council. A member of her school’s senior honor committee, she is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society and a Gavel Ambassador.

The daughter of Peter and Lisa Skehan, Tessa is a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, where she serves as a lector and has volunteered at their vacation Bible school and school events. She also participated in a mission trip to Virginia Beach. She has participated in youth activities at the parish where she was president of the youth group and represented the parish at the Diocesan Youth Council. She is also a member of the Ladies of Vocations Excellence (L.O.V.E.), a religious group for young women. As a member of the 200 Service Club, she has volunteered more than 200 hours during her high school years.

She has participated in junior varsity and varsity volleyball for four years and was the captain of the team during her senior year. She has also participated in varsity lacrosse for two years and is now a starter for the varsity team. Tessa is a member of the Saint Maria Goretti Thespian Troupe.

The Wimmer Scholarship Program is named in honor of Archbishop Boniface Wimmer, who founded St. Vincent College in 1846 as the first Benedictine college in the United States.

JBT’s Investment in Tax Credit Program Yields Dividends for Lebanon Catholic School

Lebanon Catholic School is extending its gratitude and appreciation to Jonestown Bank & Trust Company for designating the school as the recipient of a Pre-K Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donation in the amount of $2,580. The restricted gift will provide scholarships for pre-K students for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Ann Decker, Business Development and Treasury Management Officer at Jonestown Bank & Trust Company, presented the check to Jean Coleman and Nicole Schneider and their pre-K students.

Other Lebanon County businesses at the forefront of EITC contributions awarded to the school include the McShane Allstate Agency and Amerman, Ginder and Company.

“The impact of the investment made by this collective group of businesses is tremendous,” said Lori Kostow, Director of Advancement at Lebanon Catholic School. “When we think of investments, we often think of stocks and bonds. Investing in the EITC Neumann Scholarship Foundation Program is a very unique investment. It is an investment in people, in partnerships and in our local community. The dividends of scholarship are significant. The investment’s returns may be a better career with better pay, a better life for a family raising children, or a dream fulfilled. The value of education definitely has dividends that last for a lifetime. Lebanon Catholic School is very pleased to continue its relationship with these businesses who are Neumann Scholarship Foundation contributors to the school.”
**Compiled by Emily M. Albert**

**Spiritual Offerings**

- Cæsarea at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey will be held on April 6 at 7 p.m. Join us in celebrating Christ's Resurrection.
- Eucharistic Adoration is held on the 5th of each month at 7 p.m. at our Parish Center.
- A Parish Feast will be held on April 9 from 1-7 p.m. at the Castleview Community Center.
- The St. Louis Retreat in Shippensburg will be held on April 22 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Sunbury. The retreat is open to all women.
- The Lenten Care Program at Holy Spirit Hospital, a Geisinger Affiliate is offering a Bereavement Support series beginning on Wednesday, April 13. This is a six-week series focusing on the grief process and the journey through the pain of loss. It will begin on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. and end on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Spirit Hospital, 200 Championship Boulevard. Registration fee is $25 per person ($15 if you are a Geisinger Employee). Contact Gabrielle Haber at 717-274-4723 or gabrielle.haber@geisinger.edu.

**Funds and Events**

- The Oblates of St. Benilde, Holy Spirit Deanship, are hosting a Sunrise 5K Run on Sunday, April 16, 2017. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the church. The race begins at 8 a.m. The proceeds will benefit the Oblates of St. Benilde who are committed to a life of fruitful prayer and vocational service. The Oblates of St. Benilde are committed to providing service and a ministry of compassion to people in need.
- St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Sunbury will host a 5K Run/Walk on April 29. The registration fee is $20 per person with a $10 discount for seniors (ages 60 and over). The race begins at 9 a.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Contact the church office at 717-282-6944.

**Parish, School & Organization News**

- Find out what Saint Patrick School in Carlisle can offer your family. The school, at 87 Marsh Drive, is hosting an open house on Thursday, April 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Visit the school to see what it’s like to be a student at our National Blue Ribbon School. Our open house is the week of April 11-17. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday are open houses from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. Saint Patrick offers a quality religious education for students from preK to 8th grade. We strive to enrich students in mind, body and soul. To learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.spscarlisle.org.
- Our next Breakfast with Belle will be held on April 29. Breakfast with Belle will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Valentino’s Restaurant at 132 Rider Ave., Lancaster, PA. Tickets are $20 per person and includes transportation, breakfast and souvenirs. The morning will be spent in special prayer, reading and songs about the saints. The proceeds will benefit the Office of Divine Child Protection in Lancaster.

**Funfacts**

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**Job Opportunities**

- St. Richard Church is seeking a paid part-time Director of Music. The position requires a mature, professional, responsible, committed individual with excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills. Must be a Catholic in good standing. Should be accomplished in one or more of the following areas: organ, piano, voice or choral direction. This person will maintain a professional relationship with the pastor, the members of the choir, parishioners, and members of the Music Ministry. The person will be expected to maintain their commitment to choral singing and canting in the church, the person needs to be outgoing, enthusiastic and energetic, and have experience teaching and directing choirs. Consideration is required for this position. Contact Father Stephen Weitzel at 717-665-2485 or send resume to webmaster@strichard.org.

- Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church is looking for a music teacher as a long-term substitute for the remainder of the school year. This part-time position will teach one music class per week. The person will work under the direction of the music director to maintain the interpersonal skills. Must be a Catholic in good standing. Should be accomplished in one or more of the following areas: organ, piano, voice or choral direction. Consideration is required for this position. Contact Father Stephen Weitzel at 717-665-2485 or send resume to webmaster@strichard.org.
Reconcile with God, Resurrect Hope in Others, Pope Urges at Easter

By Cindy Wooden and Junno Arocho Esteves

Easter is a feast of hope, a celebration of God’s mercy and a call to pray for and assist all who suffer, Pope Francis said before giving his solemn blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

Easter in Rome dawned bright and sunny, with the sun streaming into the square. The pope skipped his homily to address the Holy Father to the world, the concept of reconciling individuals and the church with God, and encouraging love and mercy.

The risen Jesus “makes us sharers of his immortal life,” he said, and so we have the eyes of love and compassion, those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence, the pope said.

Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to work to make the world a better place, to reject violence and to foster peace. He urged people to reflect on the crosses we bear in life and offer them as a sacrifice to God.

On Easter morning, the pope did not give a homily. Instead, with hands clasped in prayer and head bowed, he led the tens of thousands of people in the square in silent reflection.

After Mass, before giving his solemn blessing, Pope Francis said Easter should help people “to grasp the trials of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters.”

Speaking about Christ’s power over death and sin, the pope prayed that the Lord would touch places in the globe scarred by war, terrorism, poverty and environmental destruction.

“The risen Christ points out paths of hope to beloved Syria, a country torn by a lengthy conflict, with its sad wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law and the breaking of the earth,” the pope said.

He prayed that the power of the risen Lord would “enlarge our hearts to be a joyful and powerful encounter of peoples and cultures,” particularly in Yemen, Libya and the Holy Land.

“May the Lord of life also accompany us in our efforts to attain a definitive solution to the war in Ukraine, inspiring and sustaining initiatives of humanitarian aid, including the liberation of those who are detained,” he prayed.
Coach Michael Klembara smiled as he greeted reporters after the Girls’ A state basketball championship, though his Lady Red Raiders had missed the golden trophy in a 56-33 loss to Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic.

“They’ve really been a pleasure to coach,” he said of the Our Lady of Lourdes Regional team, runners-up in the District IV finals this season. “They worked hard. They faced every challenge that I presented to them. Our Schuylkill League presented some big opportunities for them. We were challenged all the way through the league and the tournament, and I thought our girls performed to the best of their abilities.”

In the locker room after their PIAA state championship game at the Giant Center in Hershey March 19, Klembara told his team, “We want to be back here next year.” And with a freshmen-and-sophomore-laden team that graduates two seniors this year, it wouldn’t be an unheard of feat.

Lourdes faced a seasoned and decidedly size-advantaged Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic team seeking its first state title in three tries. The Trojanettes of the WPIAL League will move up to AAAA action next season.

Finding themselves down 25-18 to start the third quarter, Lourdes found trouble in matching up man-to-man, and their junior guard Carmella Bickel struggled to drive the lane against the Trojanette’s sizable defense. She finished the game as Lourdes’ leading scorer with 11 points.

“Carmella plays with great heart,” Klembara said after the game. She’s 5’3” but she plays like she’s six foot.”

While Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic went on a 16-2 run to open the second half, Lourdes went cold in their shots. The Trojanettes cruised to the 56-33 win, outrebounding Lourdes 50-28.

Klembara envisions another run at the state title next year.

“We graduate two seniors, we have very solid forwards, we have two people coming off the bench.”

“Told the girls before the game and I tell this to my classes: A lot of young people don’t understand really what it takes to be good, whether it be good in the classroom or good in football or good in basketball,” Klembara said. “These girls have set a rung on the ladder that people are beginning to understand what it takes to be good.”
BUCHTER BOUNCES OFF BOARD TO FOURTH STATE GOLD

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

When their son was around the ages of 5 and 6, Bradley Buchter’s parents – Brad, Sr. and Shelly – who were both former college athletes at the University of Pittsburgh, his father a diver and his mother in gymnastics, coached diving and would often have young Bradley in tow.

“They didn’t really know what to do with me, so they had me jump off the board,” said Bradley, a senior at Trinity High School in Camp Hill.

And he really enjoyed it. “They started to realize I was pretty good at it and I enjoyed it, so they kept me in it, and it went from there.”

Around the same time, he was also participating in gymnastics, which he said helped with spatial awareness and also kept his strength up for diving. But the time commitment for both sports and school led to a decision when Bradley was in eighth-grade to focus on diving.

“Diving was always my main focus. I always enjoyed diving more. I find it really exciting to jump off the board, to do something that not many people can do. Flips and tricks like that, it’s just a lot of fun,” he said.

Not only does Bradley participate in a sport that “not many people can do,” he does it so well that he has become a four-time PIAA State Champion, besting his own state record again this year.

“I came to practice, worked hard, did a lot of reps. I went into it like any other meet, I focused on myself and not the other competition,” Bradley explained about his preparation for the state meet.

“I did more numbers than normal of my dives, so I was more comfortable in the competition since I was more used to [the routine].”

Bradley also knew that in order to beat his previous year’s record, he would need to increase his level of difficulty. After winning Districts, he learned and practiced a new dive that was added tenth on his routine: a reverse ½ with a 2 ½ twist.

“It went well,” he calmly commented.

His future plans include leaving this June for college and to dive on the DI Naval Academy team. “I’ve always known I wanted to serve and give back to people. I always thought that was cool, but I didn’t know exactly how I wanted to do that when I was younger. But then around tenth grade, my parents started bringing up college to me and I told them what I wanted to do with my life and they recommended looking into the Service Academy. The more I researched it and found out about it, the more I fell in love with it. And I’m extremely grateful I get the opportunity to go there.”

As a student and athlete at the Academy, Bradley will have to divide his time between not just athletics and academics but also as military training. “It will be interesting, but hopefully I will still get the opportunity to potentially go into the Olympic trial one day.”

His recommendation and advice to a new and young diver is, “just work on it. When I was little going into competition, I got 4th and 5th in a lot of my competitions. If you keep at it and really work on it, as long as you love what you do, you’re going to prevail.”

Bradley and his family have prevailed with diving, and when asked what he might do one day if diving becomes second in life, he sighed and gently replied, “I don’t know. I hope diving is always a major part of my life because it definitely has gotten me to where I am today and has taught me a lot of life lessons.”

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

All the way to the PIAA Class 3A state final four, the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt made it before falling to District 7 and WPIAL foe the Fighting Planets of Mars High School, 80-62. The game, played at Altoona High School, was the second trip to Altoona during the state playoffs for the Crusaders. And the game against Mars, who play high tempo pushing the break type of attack, wore down the Crusaders in the second half. The District 3 champ Crusaders finished their terrific season at 23-7. After the game, Coach Mike Gaffey praised his team: “They have created so many wonderful memories. In my 29 years of coaching, they have been a great group to coach. Their maturity made it fun to come to the office every day.”

The Catholic Witness

The 14th Annual Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic will benefit the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, the only emergency shelter in the tri-county region that provides services to homeless families. The shelter is one of the three “Homes for Healing” of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. with golf beginning at 12:30 p.m. The day includes a registration gift, a boxed lunch, practice area and putting green, 18 holes of golf (scramble format) with cart, and a buffet dinner. Various team and individual skill prizes are available as well as a fantastic sports memorabilia auction and other door prizes.

Golfers of all skills and abilities are welcome. Registration is $100 per player, and various sponsorships with additional benefits are available. Visit www.cchbg.org to get more information, to download an event brochure, or to register online.