Hope House: Caring for Adults with HIV/AIDS

One of the four Homes for Healing of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Hope House in Lancaster is a residential program that serves adults living with HIV/AIDS.

Caregivers at Hope House offer residents assistance with medication management, education and adherence, hygiene and nutrition – all in a family-like atmosphere.

This fall, Hope House will celebrate 20 years of providing a safe and supportive environment to the men and women who call it home.

“People don’t come here to die; they come here to live, and we teach them how,” says Rachel Weiss, Program Director at Hope House.

Senator Lloyd Smucker recently visited Hope House to learn about the program and its success stories. When he asked what it would take for the home to continuously put underprivileged, low-income, homeless adults who have become responsible, productive adults back into the community, Mrs. Weiss replied, “Support.”

See page 8 for information on Hope House and ways to support the ministry.
Through Pope’s Embrace, 8-Year-Old Rhode Island Boy Touches the World

By Rick Snizek
Catholic News Service

By Easter Monday, it would be the shot seen around the world.

But a day earlier, Christiana Gondreau could not have imagined that a chance encounter she and her 8-year-old son, Dominic, had with Pope Francis in the middle of St. Peter’s Square following his first Easter Mass would touch the hearts of so many around the globe.

While making his way in the pope-mobile through a sea of faithful estimated at 250,000, the newly elected pontiff smiled and waved as he offered Easter greetings to those gathered. At one point in his second journey around the square, on the way to delivering his Easter message “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world), the white Mercedes transporting the pope stopped. He reached over to greet Dominic after a compassionate Vatican usher named Augustino had reppositioned mother and son at a corner of the path so the pontiff could better see them.

Pope Francis lifted Dominic, who has cerebral palsy, while embracing and kissing him. He also spoke to the boy before gently placing the child back into his mother’s arms.

“The pope definitely was whispering to him, but there’s no way of knowing what he said. Is it a secret?” Ms. Gondreau said in a telephone interview. "I do believe that it was a kiss from heaven, to say this child is loved and I want to leave that spot,” she said, savoring the special moment.

After the papal address she then made her way back across St. Peter’s Square to an encounter with one of the large television screens broadcasting a live feed of the event from Vatican TV.

His elder son Lucas, 12, was the first to notice the loving attention his brother was receiving from the pope, and quickly pointed it out to his father. “I was just speechless. Lucas and I started crying,” Paul Gondreau said. “It seems the pope was captivated by Dominic.”

He likened the tender moment between pope and child to an encounter of a modern Francis with a modern Dominic, referring to an historic encounter tradition holds once occurred between St. Francis and St. Dominick For Lucas, an altar server back home who since arriving in Rome has already experienced the honor of serving Mass at the subterranean tomb of St. Peter beneath the Vatican basilica, witnessing the pope stop to greet his younger brother was something he’ll never forget.

“It was so touching to see my brother being picked up and held by the pope,” he said. “You could see on [Dominic’s] face how happy he was.”

The professor, along with his family of seven, is living in Rome this semester as he teaches a course on the New Testament and the Eternal City.

Together, they’ve been there for momentous events in the life of the Church, from the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI to the election and installation of Pope Francis.

But the kindness shown to Dominic by Pope Francis will be the most enduring part of their experience together. Paul Gondreau believes no one shares in God’s cross more intimately than the disabled, and that he extends his hand over the weak and the vulnerable so that they may serve as models of inspiration.

“Do one plans to have a special needs child,” he said. “They are a tremendous blessing.”

He describes Dominic as “cognitively normal,” meaning he understands what is going on around him and can speak some words and some simple sentences, but that his limitations are purely physical.

“God has touched our family all our lives, now, he has touched the whole world with Dominic,” he added.

The Gondreaus’ eldest child, daughter Aleina Maria, 16, has been using technology to keep family and friends back home up to date on all the exciting events unfolding around them in Vatican City.

“I didn’t think that in being here all this would happen,” Aleina Maria said.

Congratulations to These Religious Sisters Celebrating Special Jubilees this Year!

80 Years
Sister Agnes Petrill, SCC
Sister Mary Gilbert Dluhy, SSCM

75 Years
Sister Dolores McKenna, SCC
Sister Grace Kerekes, SCC

70 Years
Sister Paula Mary Aumen, RSM
Sister Maureen Zuby, ASC
Sister Doris Narvell, SSJ

65 Years
Sister Marietta DiNunzio, SCC
Sister Theresa DiNunzio, SCC
Sister Mary Elizabeth Gehbart, SSJ

Sister Margaret Kob, OCD
Sister Mary Gilbert Dluhy, SSCM

60 Years
Sister John Marie Hickel, SCC
Sister Carmela Wyzjewskowa, SCC
Sister Monica Imgrund, RSM
Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM
Sister Cyrilline Biel, SSCM
Sister Julia Knazik, SSCM

55 Years
Sister Maureen Laura Fox, IIM
Sister Eileen Miriam Barnett, IIM
Sister Mary Carmel Deering, IIM
Sister M. Lydia Benyish, SSCM
Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

50 Years
Sister Georgiana M. Connell, IIM
Sister M. Zoe Zollar, SSCM
Sister Michaelatte Lennartz, SSCM
Sister Margaret Dubas, SSCM
Sister Barbara A. Worley, SSJ

45 Years
Sister Regina Park, OCD
Sister Jeanne Ambre, SSCM
Sister Marie Clare Ricco, OP

35 Years
Sister Faustina Marie David, OP

35 Years
Sister Donna M. Ariente, IIM
Diocesan Youth Protection Standards

The Diocese of Harrisburg takes very seriously the protection of youth in all Church related activities and programs. This is why it has an aggressive safe environment program with a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy and gives guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

Youth Protection efforts in the Diocese of Harrisburg include:

- Zero tolerance for abusers in ministry or employment within the Diocese.
- Multiple background checks on all employees and volunteers who work with youth.
- Passing a required on-line training program on how to recognize and report child abuse.
- Students receive instruction in age-appropriate child abuse awareness programs.
- ID badges for all persons who have completed the requirements of our diocesan Youth Protection Program.
- Outreach efforts to victims and families.
- Prudent and prompt inquiry into each accusation.
- Open communication and due process for all involved.
- Compliance with national standards for youth protection via an extended investigation of a given abuse.
- The Diocese maintains a toll-free telephone number for reporting suspected abuse.
- The Diocese provides a “little weird” even though it may not seem wrong. The ability to articulate what’s happening when someone is doing something that just seems uncomfortable, shows them pornography, or offers them alcohol.
- No to an adult. Children learn when it is appropriate for them to say, “No, stop doing that.” For example, they hear they can say no to someone who makes them uncomfortable, shows them pornography, or offers them alcohol.

If a child has been abused, that child learns they are still innocent and loved by God and their families. The shame of child sexual abuse needs to be put where it belongs: on the abuser.

Messages Children Hear In Safe Environment Programs

From the USCCB

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mary Jane Doerr, associate director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has listed here some of the messages children hear in safe environment programs.

Abuse is never a child’s fault; a point that children need to hear over and over again. Offenders try hard to make children feel complicit in the abuse or to blame them for the abuse. Children learn that is that never true! The blame always belongs to the adult who is taking advantage of a child’s trust and vulnerabilities. God loves children forever and wants them to live holy and happy lives.

You can recognize abuse when it happens. Children learn to trust that feeling that says something isn’t right and to tell a parent or other trusted adult when something happens that makes them feel uneasy. Children learn to question if someone is telling them to do what the child doesn’t like but says it is because he loves the child. Children learn to tell parents or trusted adults if another person makes them sad or confused or tries to get them to break rules. This is why [Diocese] sets up an abuse hotline can be a child toward danger. A child who questions another’s inappropriate behavior can send a message to the offender that this child is not an easy target, but one that will tell what is being done to him/her.

There are ways to spot a grooming process. Offenders are willing to spend a great deal of time grooming the family, the child and even the community so they may be seen as a trusted family friend. Children learn that anyone who lets children break rules, gives them alcohol or shows them pornography needs to be reported to parents and other trusted adults. Children learn not to keep secrets from parents. They learn that they should tell parents when someone gives them special gifts or is always touching them or tickling them and says not to tell anyone.

Parents or other trusted adults will talk about this subject. Children often try to protect their parents from bad news, so they need to learn they can tell their parents anything. This lesson is conveyed when parents stay involved in their children’s activities and talk with them about what is happening in their lives. This is how children learn what can be shared with parents. The more effective safe environment programs include parents in the learning process. This gives the child a clear signal that this subject is not off limits but instead is something to be talked about with family members.

Boundaries exist. Learning about personal boundaries can protect children, and their knowing the boundaries reinforces the teaching to listen to one’s instincts. Children who listen to the voice that says, “This doesn’t feel right,” can protect themselves.

Children can stand up for themselves. Children need to be respectful and obey, yet at the same time need to know there are times when it is okay to say No to an adult. Children learn when it is appropriate for them to say, “No, stop doing that.” For example, they hear they can say no to someone who makes them uncomfortable, shows them pornography, or offers them alcohol.

There are ways to explain inappropriate behavior. Children learn how to describe what’s happening when someone is doing something that just seems “a little weird” even though it may not seem wrong. The ability to articulate what has happened to a child enables a child to more easily confide in a parent or other trusted adult. This can alert the adult to a potentially dangerous situation so it can be avoided. This is ultimately the goal of safe environment education.

Diocese Thanked for Contributions to Collections

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden recently received a letter of thanks from the National Religious Retirement Office acknowledging the $59,013.92 that the people of the diocese contributed to the collection in 2012, for the 25th appeal. The contribution brings the total of $1,365,589.19 donated by the people of the diocese to the appeal for the past 25 years. Currently, there are more than 34,000 religious now over the age of 70 who benefit from this collection.

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden also received a letter of thanks from Most Reverend Dr. A. Neethirathan, Bishop of Chingleput, in South India, for the $19,409.43 given by the people of the Diocese of Harrisburg to the 2012 Missionary Cooperative Program.

“Sincere thanks for your kindness, generosity and the concern you manifest for the well-being and development of the Diocese of Chingleput,” he wrote. “This support is a big blessing for our poor children in rural parishes. The Missionary Cooperative Program, during which missionaries from around the world visit our diocesan parishes, increases awareness of the Church in the Missions and invites us to help missionaries carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth with prayers and financial support.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Catholic Church re-affirms its deep commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. A wide range of information and resources is available online at www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth and at www.usccb.org/ovcp.


Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s Public Calendar

April 13 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Columbia Church, Bloomsburg, 10 a.m.

April 14 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Richard Church, Manheim, 10:30 a.m.

April 15 – Celebrate Mass for the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Annual Conference, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Rose of Lima Church, York, 5:30 p.m.

April 16 – National Merit Scholar Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon.

April 17 – Celebrate Mass for Diocesan Catholic School Principals, Bishop McDevitt High School Chapel, 9 a.m.; Sacrament of Confirmation, Mary, Mother of the Church, Mount Joy, 5:30 p.m.

April 19 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Lancaster, 5:30 p.m.

April 20 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Corpus Christi Church, Chambersburg, 10 a.m.; First pitch at Catholic Schools Night with Harrisburg Senators, Metro Bank Park, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

April 21 – Dedication of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Church, Dauphin, 10:15 a.m.

April 22 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, Danville, 3 p.m.

April 23 – Diocesan Youth Council Appreciation Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.

April 24 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Family Church, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.

April 26 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, Selinsgrove, 5:30 p.m.

April 27 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Celebrate Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.

April 28 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, Mifflinburg, 1 p.m.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal Serves U.S. Dioceses in Need

Throughout the United States, many dioceses cannot offer their people basic pastoral care or provide priestly ministry formation and lay ministry training without outside help. The millions of Catholics who live in these home mission dioceses rely on support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

The appeal, which will be taken up in parishes April 27 and 28, helps to bridge the gap for isolated parishes and missions in the United States and in its territories of the Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

In the United States, 44 percent of all dioceses and parishes currently receive support from the appeal for basic and essential pastoral programs, such as evangelization, catechesis, seminary formation and lay leadership training.

A few examples of how dioceses can benefit from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal:

- Prince of Peace Catholic Church in the Diocese of Lexington is the only Catholic presence in two Kentucky counties. The pastor splits his time between Prince of Peace and St. Julie’s, a parish 25 miles away. Support from the appeal provides well-trained lay ministers and deacons to attend to the spiritual needs of those in the region and allows Prince of Peace Parish to provide a food and clothing bank for those in need.

- In the Diocese of Boise, the Servant School instructs deacon aspirants, their wives, and lay ministers in helping provide for Catholics throughout Idaho. Parish outreach is challenged by the isolating terrain and a large and diverse population that spans over 83,000 square miles. With help from the appeal, the Servant School is able to form and sustain vibrant parishes in Boise despite its challenges.

- The Diocese of Tyler, in east Texas, has grown tremendously since it was established in 1987. Beginning with 40 active priests, there are now 90 priests, 15 seminarians, 40 vowed religious women and more than 100 deacons. The appeal assists the diocese in seminary education and vocation ministries to serve in rural, low-income parishes.

- More information on the Catholic Home Missions Appeal and the project it funds can be found at www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-home-missions-appeal/.

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal

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Revised Diocesan Norms for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

By Father Joshua Brommer, STL

Special to The Witness

At this year’s celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Palm Sunday, the Church proclaimed these beautiful words from the Gospel according to St. Luke: “Take this and share it among yourselves (22:17).”

This scene from the Last Supper begins the proclamation of Jesus’ passion and love for his Church. It culminates with the highest moment of her entire liturgical year: the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Each year, we relive these events with great devotion and reverence. Yet, every time we gather to celebrate the Most Holy Eucharist, these same life-giving events are once again made present to us. “For,” to quote St. Paul as he is proclaimed every Holy Thursday evening, “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes (1 Cor 11:26).” The holy “taking” and “sharing” commanded by Jesus is enacted each time we approach the altar of the Lord to receive Holy Communion. The eating of the Body of Christ and the drinking of His Precious Blood proclaims the Mystery of our Faith—that Christ has died and will rise again, a death and resurrection in which we are brought into communion by His grace.

Appreciating all that this means for us as believers means that we take seriously the responsibility to celebrate every aspect of the Holy Eucharist with care and faithfulness: from the beauty of the music and the worthy proclamation of the Word of God, to the preparation of the altar servers and the role of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Each of these liturgical services and the others not mentioned, demand care and attention, such as we experience by so many in our parishes who give of their time and resources to ensure our liturgies glorify God and sanctify us. Among the various liturgical ministries, great preparation and training has been given to those who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have assumed an increasingly prominent role in our parishes since their introduction in the early 1970s. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are provided the opportunity to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at our Masses, in our nursing homes and hospitals, and in the care of the elderly and sick who are unable to leave their homes. While not replacing the priest or deacon, who is properly called an “Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion,” the Extraordinary Ministers help to see that the precious gift of the Holy Eucharist is truly “taken” and “shared” among the members of the Church as an extension of the command of Christ in the Gospel.

“Extraordinary” not only describes the function of the minister, but also the quality of their Christian witness. Those called to this ministry by the Church “should distinguish themselves by their Christian life, faith and morals. Let them strive to be worthy of this great office; let them cultivate devotion to the Holy Eucharist and show themselves as examples to the other faithful by their piety and reverence for this most holy Sacrament of the altar (c.f. Innimissae Caritatis, July 23, 1973).” These words of the Congregation for the Discipline of the Sacraments raise the bar for those who are appointed to this ministry in the Church. The ministry not only demands the past witness of living out the Christian life with integrity, but invites the individual to grow by virtue of this service even more deeply in his or her relationship with Christ and His Church. In a real sense, the Extraordinary Minister is meant to be more than a mere functionary, but a witness of discipleship and faithfulness. Since the Diocese of Harrisburg introduced Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, many faithful men and women have lived out this quality of “extraordinariness.” And, even today, many continue to exemplify this call in their local communities. The policy which governs the training and implementation has developed throughout the years to our own time. Each bishop assumes the responsibility for these norms, and adjustments are made from time to time. In September 2012, in consultation with the Commission on the Sacred Liturgy and the Presbyteral Council, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden revised the “Norms and Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.” While much of the policy has not changed, several key adjustments have been made to bring the Diocesan norms into closer conformity with instructions given from the Holy See and also to better assist the current ministers in developing the spirituality of their important role.

An important change to the norms is the introduction of a three-year term. Every minister is mandated to serve for a term of three years. The term is renewable at the discretion of the pastor and the Extraordinary Minister. Like the formal training session that is needed to begin the service as an Extraordinary Minister, a new “Ongoing Formation Session” will be required for those who seek to renew their mandate. These sessions will be offered throughout the Diocese in local parishes. The content and focus of these sessions will be different than the sessions for new Extraordinary Ministers. The Ongoing Formation Sessions will seek to provide resources for the deepening of devotion and understanding of the Holy Eucharist, so that each minister is helped to grow more fully into the spirituality of this ministry. Over the next three years, all of the current Extraordinary Ministers in the Diocese of Harrisburg will be asked to attend one of the Ongoing Formation Sessions.

At the sessions, the revised Norms and Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers will be discussed, a review of the theology and spirituality of the Holy Eucharist will be presented, and a period for questions and answers will be provided. To sign up for one of these sessions, please consult your pastor or parish ministers coordinator. Registrations forms are provided on the Diocesan website for both New Extraordinary Minister Training Sessions and the Ongoing Formation Sessions. Dates are provided for the spring, summer, and fall. (Father Brommer is the Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Liturgy Coordinator for the Diocese of Harrisburg.)

Session Schedule

More sessions are being offered. For more sessions, please consult the registration forms on the diocesan web site.

FOR NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

4/20/2013 • Saturday • 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM • Mary, Mother of the Church • 625 Union School Road • Mount Joy
4/22/2013 • Monday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. John Neumann • 601 East Delhi Road • Lancaster
4/25/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Joseph • 5055 Grandview Road • Hanover
5/2/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Joan of Arc • 359 West Areba Avenue • Hershey
5/7/2013 • Tuesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • Mary, Mother of the Church • 625 Union School Road • Mount Joy
5/10/2013 • Friday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • Cardinal Keeler Center • 4800 Union Deposit Road • Harrisburg
5/12/2013 • Sunday • 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM • Our Lady of Mount Carmel • 47 South Market Street • Mount Carmel
5/16/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Joseph • 5055 Grandview Road • Hanover
5/19/2013 • Saturday • 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM • St. Patrick • 67 Marsh Drive • Carlisle
5/20/2013 • Monday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. John Neumann • 601 East Delhi Road • Lancaster
5/23/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • Good Shepherd • 3435 Tindale Road • Camp Hill
5/26/2013 • Sunday • 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM • St. Andrew • 12 North Broad Street • Waynesboro

FOR ONGOING FORMATION SESSIONS FOR CURRENT MINISTERS

4/20/2013 • Saturday • 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM • St. Joseph • 2935 Kingston Road • York
5/8/2013 • Wednesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. John • 81 East Center Street • Danville
5/14/2013 • Tuesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Joseph • 5055 Grandview Road • Hanover
5/15/2013 • Wednesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • Assumption BVM • 2 North 8th Street • Lebanon
5/18/2013 • Saturday • 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM • Assumption BVM • 2 North 8th Street • Lebanon
5/22/2013 • Wednesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • Sacred Heart • 814 St Louis Street • Lewistown
5/23/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. John • 18 East Center Street • Danville
5/23/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Patrick • 212 State Street • Harrisburg
5/25/2013 • Saturday • 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM • St. Columbia • Third and Iron Streets • Bloomsburg
5/28/2013 • Tuesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Joseph • 251 East Main Street • Dallastown
5/28/2013 • Tuesday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Paul • 300 North Race Street • Middletown
5/30/2013 • Thursday • 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM • St. Peter • 121 South Second Street • Columbia
Lancaster Catholic Teens
Staff Safe Haven for Troubled Peers

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Imagine being thrown out of your house at 16, bullied to the point of wanting to stay inside forever at 14, having a parent incarcerated, or a sibling School who is in a world of trouble. These are just some situations that make being a young adult feel like being an adult in a 16-year-old’s body.

Where do you turn when your parents are consumed with a rebellious sibling? Where do you turn when your mother, father or both are working three jobs to keep the home together and you don’t want to tell them you are afraid to go to school? Where do you turn when you are so depressed that the only feeling of relief and being alive comes from cutting yourself? It’s not easy to admit there is a problem, let alone to an adult or even a friend. Many youth are embarrassed or scared to say they are having a problem. Or some just don’t have a trusting person to turn to.

These are real issues, that happen to real teens, RIGHT HERE. And this is why Lancaster Catholic High School students and teacher Anne Schober have opened a safe haven for teens, called Building Hope.

Building Hope evolved from a classroom assignment that asked the question, “If you could change the world, what would you do?” Students came to class and commented Mrs. Schober, “We are here to supervise, but they rarely need us.” And that’s ok, because, as the program’s brochures and posters say, Building Hope is “a safe place run by teens.”

“Building Hope is here for teens, it doesn’t matter the issue. We have group projects where we ask questions, and if someone is ready to share they can, but it is never forced,” said Lancaster Catholic students Bridgette Barrett and Gira Rodriguez as they prepared a recent dinner for the teens.

The group meets every Tuesday evening from 5-8 p.m. Youth from around the Lancaster area can enjoy dinner together, down time to talk, play games, or just relax and group time for sharing. “The hardest part is knowing that we have to send these teens back out at five to eight. Five to eight isn’t the only time of day that teens need us [especially those without a home]. We are looking for a place that can provide help 24/7,” commented Mrs. Schober.

The night the Catholic Witness visited Building Hope, two new faces arrived. An excited Lancaster Catholic student said, “I’m so excited that we can offer our help to two more people!” This student knows all too well what it is like to be alone and have nowhere to turn. Her enthusiasm and kindness spread through the room as she made sure everyone in attendance had enough to eat or a friend to talk to. “I watch as the first hour or so is used for socialization, games, or one-on-one conversation as the two new teens get to know each other and the rest of the group. Soon dinner is served and everyone is raving about the homemade enchiladas and rice and beans. Laughter and friendly voices are heard throughout the room, and no one sits alone. It is such an inviting environment that I feel myself wanting to be a part of Mrs. Schober’s class.

After plates have been cleared and all stomachs are full, the group prepares to play the line game. Everyone stands near a line, myself included, and is instructed to step to the line when they can answer yes to the question that is given. The first question is easy. “Who is ready for summer?” Almost everyone steps up to the line. Next question, “Who is going to the beach this summer?” Again, nearly the entire room steps to the line. A couple more “easy” questions and then it gets serious. “Who knows where to buy drugs?” Students step to the line. “Who knows someone who cuts themselves?” Students step to the line. “Who knows someone who has been kicked out of their home?” Students step to the line.

My heart sinks. I catch eyes with Mrs. Schober and I realize this is the reason these kids really need Building Hope.

The group exercise continues with time for writing. They receive a sheet of paper with a face on it. On the outside, the teens are instructed to write words that others would use to describe them, what people see on the outside. Then on the inside of the face, they are to write their own feelings and perspectives of themselves. Three more sheets of paper are used to answer: I am...; I remember...; and I wish... The students write for ten minutes to fill each page, then they may share it if they like. One young man shares his story “I am...; I remember...; and I wish...” He is 16. He is living with both his mother, by the time he has finished reading, I swallow hard, trying to fight back tears. I scan the room, and again my eyes lock with Mrs. Schober’s. Both of us blink back tears. I look around further, and a young girl holds her paper in front of her while she wipes the tears running down her check. No one speaks for a moment, and then, as though the Holy Spirit has just swooped into the room, the teens around him begin to offer confidence and sympathy. This continues for another half hour or so, teens sharing and others listening, encouraging, and relating all too easily to each other.

At the end, someone comments how good it felt to write down their feelings, and Mrs. Schober and I realize the teenagers were gifted a monetary donation that day and perhaps they could get journals for writing. The students are given permission to come back next week, and before leaving, hugs are shared around the room.

Building Hope started as one student’s answer to an assignment. It could have stopped there, with a grade. But with an inspiring teacher and exhilerating youth, this assignment has turned into a life changing experience for not only those who come to the safe haven, but for the students working hard day in and day out to keep the program running. They have made all their own business proposals and have created brochures and posters to hand out at train stations, school guidance offices and through the streets of Lancaster.

The students will be meeting with city commissioners to propose a 24/7 facility to be run by a third party, but they will always be there to work at it. Two girls even said this has inspired them to study counseling and social work in college.

Too often we see on the news what wrong our youth are doing, but the Holy Spirit is strong at Lancaster Catholic, where one class answered, “If I could change the world, what would I do?”

For information on Building Hope, visit www.facebook.com/buildingHo- pephase1 or contact Michelle Schober at Lancaster Catholic at 717-509-0313.
Seven score and ten years ago, the largest battle ever fought in the western hemisphere erupted on the uniquely rocky landscape surrounding Gettysburg. There seems to be more experts on the battle than there are stars in the sky these days, which is not a bad thing. What is a bad thing is the immense tragedy the battle was, and just how many lives were impacted by the savagery of war. Evelyn Reynolds, a Confederate soldier, retreated from Gettysburg, leaving behind most of the dead and dying, historians have focused on the command decisions that ultimately decided the battle. Every buff, if they are honest, enjoys a little Monday morning quarterbacking when it comes to studying the world’s most famous battle. Let us forget, many of these decisions were made in a split second, and caused great heartache for many years that followed July 1863.

Several of the most important decisions occurred on the morning of July 1 as the battle commenced. Those who believe the Battle of Gettysburg occurred by some exacting plan, as the movie Gettysburg falsely depicts, should reconsider this truth. Confederate forces were spread out all over southern Pennsylvania days prior to the battle, not looking for battle or Yankees, but for supplies and livestock. From York to Carlisle to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania farmers were looted for crops and stock. Ordered not to bring on a “general engagement” by Confederate Commanding General Robert Lee, until the Union could concentrate their scattered forces, it was nearly pure chance that parts of the Confederate Third Corps struck out for Gettysburg from Cashtown in the early morning haze of July 1. Blindly they marched for Gettysburg, not looking for shoes as the lore goes, but for food and livestock.

Waiting in Gettysburg was Union General John Buford’s seasoned cavalry, who knew heavy forces of Rebels were west of town. Here was the first decision that shaped the ensuing battle, as Buford recognized the high ground south of town and formed a defensive line in front of the town to protect the rocky ridges. Not only did Buford fight a brilliant delaying action against the advancing gray-clad hordes, he summoned for Union infantry support which was camped around the environs of Emmitsburg. Maj. “Good God, if the enemy gets Gettysburg, we are lost,” Union Commanding General George Meade supposedly said upon hearing that Confederate forces were pushing toward the town, though Union high command saw no advantage to securing the town before Confederate forces set-off on their fateful march for supplies. On the stage rode Major General John Reynolds with his First Corps – arguably the best fighting unit of the Army of the Potomac that featured the famed Iron Brigade which was cast of midwestern boys of hardy, courageous stock. Confederate forces were spread out all over southern Pennsylvania days prior to the battle, not looking for battle or Yankees, but for supplies and livestock. From York to Carlisle to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania farmers were looted for crops and stock. Ordered not to bring on a “general engagement” by Confederate Commanding General Robert Lee, until the Union could concentrate their scattered forces, it was nearly pure chance that parts of the Confederate Third Corps struck out for Gettysburg from Cashtown in the early morning haze of July 1. Blindly they marched for Gettysburg, not looking for shoes as the lore goes, but for food and livestock.

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Hope House Approaches 20 Years of Serving Adults with HIV/AIDS

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In a residential neighborhood on the edge of the city of Lancaster, there is a place dedicated to the dignity and care of adults living with HIV/AIDS.

For nearly 20 years, Hope House has been providing a safe and supportive environment for the men and women in need of its specialized residential care.

Caregivers offer assistance in the areas of medication management, education and adherence, hygiene, nutrition, and work to link residents to health care, pastoral care, counseling, financial assistance with budgeting education, and transportation. Between those services and the education they receive about their disease process and how to prevent further infection, the goal is to aid the residents in the progression of becoming self-sufficient, productive members of society when they walk out of Hope House’s doors.

The one-story home on Crescent Avenue – with its tall trees, front porch and green back yard – is just like any other home on the quiet street.

There is no Hope House sign in the front yard. No clinical façade. Nothing that would indicate the home to be anything out of the ordinary.

But a visit inside shows that Hope House in any but ordinary. “We’re a family here. The reason we’re in a house is because we want this place to be a home for those we care for,” said Rachel Weiss, a Licensed Practical Nurse and Program Director at Hope House.

Residents and staff members share meals, and often seek volunteer efforts to give back to the community. “Our staff is very close to the residents, and we try to give them the family support that they might not get anywhere else,” Mrs. Weiss said.

Standing at a counter from which residents receive their medication, Caregiver Sally Hillegas smiles as she talks about the men and women who have lived at Hope House during her nearly 16 years working there.

A staff of nine part-time and two full-time Caregivers, and the Program Director provide round-the-clock support and assistance. The program, which is one of Catholic Charities’ four Homes for Healing, is licensed by the Department of Public Welfare to house up to eight adults at one time.

“If you come here to die, you don’t come here to die; they come and go as they please – to work, for a walk, to the local stores nearby. This place is their house, and that makes them so much happier. It’s a relaxing place for them.”

The fully furnished house includes a spacious kitchen, dining room, living room, several bedrooms, office space, a private area for the Caregivers, a basement, and a private back yard.

Walking through the open living room – complete with cozy furniture, bookshelves and media entertainment – Mrs. Hillegas stops to talk with Jimmy, a resident known for his artistic abilities and 20+ years of barbering. Several of his framed pieces of art are displayed in the house. The two talk about Jimmy’s upcoming licencing as a barber school teacher.

On the other end of the house, Mrs. Weiss catches up with Monica, a resident who loves animals and feeds the neighborhood squirrels daily. Her room is colorfully decorated with butterflies and flowers.

There are single and double bed-rooms at Hope House, where five residents currently live. During the first week of April, one resident moved on from Hope House into his own apartment.

“We’re really happy when things like that happen, when they can go out on their own,” Mrs. Weiss said.

Twenty years ago, when Hope House first opened its doors, those types of success stories were unheard of.

“When Hope House first started, this was people’s last stop in life. They came here to be cared for until they died,” Mrs. Weiss said.

“Happily, with the advances in medications, treatments and therapies, we’re not that kind of house anymore. Now, people don’t come here to die; they come here to live,” she said, “and we teach them how.”

Hope House is a non-profit program, and, like other Catholic Charities programs, serves people regardless of their ability to pay. Many of its residents lack medical insurance, and receive services at no cost to them. Without Hope House, they would be homeless and without access to health care.

As Hope House approaches its 20th anniversary this fall, Mrs. Weiss is looking for ways to continue to share its presence with the community. Not many people are aware of its critical ministry.

“We want to get our name out there, both to reach people who might need our help, and gain more support to continue our ministry,” she said.

“This is where I want to be,” she said of her role as Program Director. “We have staff members who have served here for 10, 15 years, and one who has been here since Hope House opened. It’s our passion, and it truly contributes to the sense of family here.”

Hope House’s Wish List

Contact Hope House at 717-293-9089

Financial Donations
Gift Cards to Retail Stores
Paper Products
Cleaning Products
Nonperishable Foods
Volunteer Hours

Items for Entertainment (DVDs, Games, Books)
Caregivers Day

Continued from 1

“Getting a break as a caregiver doesn’t happen often, and even when you do have a break, you’re still wondering, ‘How is my son doing?’ ‘Are things ok at home?’ ‘When I get home, what am I going to have to do?’

“We’ll always have that concern and worry for our loved ones, and so to take some time to put the worry aside and have a reprieve is wonderful,” said Mrs. Drum, a member of St. James Parish in Lititz.

The program was modeled on a similar event offered each year by Manor Church in Lancaster. Disabilities advocates in Lancaster-area parishes elected to host a day for caregivers to offer validation and honor.

“Respite time is critical for caregivers,” said Maria Hayes, parish advocate at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster, and a special education teacher with Penn Manor. “They offer care around the clock, and so this day gives them a chance for some relaxation and spirituality.”

Following a morning of prayer, praise and worship music, the blessing of hands and Sister Geralyn’s presentation on the gift of hands, the caregivers were treated to lunch and an afternoon of pampering prior to a closing Mass to which their families were invited.

Special offerings included counseling, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and time for prayer in the school chapel. Local businesses volunteered staff members to offer health consultation, dessert and wine tasting, massages, manicures, facials, fashion consultation, beauty and hair salon services, and tips for decorating cakes, arranging flowers and creating arts and crafts.

The Prayer and Care Day was the first of its kind in the diocese, and the Lancaster-area parish advocates are hoping that other areas of the diocese will duplicate the program for caregivers in their area.

“We want caregivers to know that they are so special, and that their care of others has not gone unnoticed,” Mrs. Hayes said. “We want them to feel refreshed, and to know that they have people who are here to support them.”

Christian Charity Sister Geralyn Schmidt talks to caregivers about the gift of hands. “Hands are a profound gift, not only to the person that you take care of, but also to the Church,” she said. “You are the Church’s heart, because you show what God’s love is all about.”
**Sports Commentary**

**It’s a Blessing**

By Chris Heisey

The Catholic Witness

So wonderful is spring that it makes me almost forget the harsh reality of winter’s death grip. It’s not that I hate winter, because death, after all, must be dealt with, and we as Christians know that death has been conquered forever. And every spring we rejoice and realize that life goes on – eternally. We live in the present knowing the future will always be there, no matter what you believe.

Baseball is what makes spring so special for me. It takes a certain amount of belief to see why it is such the connecting metaphor. Many believe it’s a boring and fake practice to see baseball as a game of soulful play. I believe it connects more than any other game. “People ask me what I do in winter when there is no baseball,” Hall of Fame Cardinals’ shortstop from the 1920s Rogers Hornsby once said. “I’ll tell you what I do: I stare out the window and wait for spring.”

I was reminded again, as winter left me empty this year, what a joy baseball can be. I just finished reading a wonderful book entitled: Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game by John Sexton, who was helped with the book by Thomas Oliphant and Peter Schwartz. Each is a baseball junkie and each is an educator and writer who teaches baseball as a way of connecting spiritually to life. Professor Sexton, a Catholic, is bold enough to say that the game connects us to the faith more fully. He makes a compelling case in this smart book by relating stories of the past to tie baseball to life in very real ways.

When the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers won the World Series against those hated Yankees after years of futility, Sexton and his eighth grade buddy, Bobby “Dougie” Douglas, raced home from Catholic school early as Sister Saint James had let them go early to catch the last innings of Game 7 on the radio. Never underestimates kindness.

Able to catch the last few innings, the two fixed themselves to the radio and had been in a nursing home for years. I rolled over twice into the back of my mitt. As I tug him out, he crushed me and I remember that he had been diagnosed with ALS – he had been taught to me by baseball. This winter I saw an old friend who means a great deal to me. He taught me photography when I did not even know how to load a camera with film. He’s a good teacher and a good man. When I saw him, I noticed that his right arm was limp and that something was seriously wrong. When we spoke, he told me that he has Lou Gehrig’s Disease – ALS. To know the cross that he must soon bear is unbearable at times.

To be honest, this awful disease makes you question God’s ability to overcome doubt, and that truth is taught to me by baseball.

Though I never saw Lou Gehrig play baseball – he retired on July 4, 1939, just a few weeks after he had been diagnosed with ALS – he has long been one of my favorite ballplayers. The disease took his name because he was so beloved as a Yankee. Humble and kind, he was a true fan’s ball player. He was dubbed The Iron Horse – since he played in more than 2,100 consecutive games and he swatted 23 grand slams hitting behind Babe Ruth.

In seventh grade, I had a wonderful English teacher who taught me the real life value of life. I will never be rich, but I am rich having been taught that reading is one of the single most transforming acts of life. I read that year, Lou Gehrig – Boy of the Sandlots by Guernsey Van Riper Jr. It was a wonderful, smelly, ripe, old library book written in 1949, and I will never be overwhelmed. The Iron Horse was before also saying what a great baseball player he was. How many athletes can we say that about?

In his farewell address to a packed Yankee Stadium on that long ago April 7, a once powerful Gehrig was barely able to tell the fans that “he was the luckiest man on the face of the earth.” When you have a father and mother who worked all their lives, I have an education and build your body, it’s a blessing. I do not forget that I may have had a tough break, but I have an awful lot to live for.

This image of Lou Gehrig was taken on June 21, 1939, two weeks before his farewell address on July 4.

"It’s a Blessing" is bold enough to say that the game connects us to the faith more fully. He makes a compelling case in this smart book by relating stories of the past to tie baseball to life in very real ways.
Resurrection Girls,
St. Theresa Boys Capture Diocesan CYO Basketball Championships

Congratulations to Resurrection Catholic School’s girls’ basketball team for winning their first diocesan CYO championship, and to St. Theresa’s boys’ basketball team for winning their second diocesan CYO title in the last three years.

Members of the girls’ team from Resurrection School in Lancaster are: Erynn Albright, Allison Keck, Jordan Talbert, Roslyn Talbert, Lillian Fritz, Corina Rivera, Lauren Mills, Helena Ramos, Shantali Cosme, Fayra Molina, Maximina Laporte and Ayanna Cannon. After winning the diocesan tournament, the girls moved on to the statewide tournament, where they finished in fourth place.

Members of the boys’ team from St. Theresa School in New Cumberland are: Christopher Dare, Victor Barbush, Donovan Okes, Sean Scott, Austin Gilbertson, Sean Good, Adam Boussatta, Michael Scarpelli, Patrick Duggan and Patrick Conolly. After capturing the diocesan tournament, the boys competed in the statewide tournament.

Safeguarding Creation Expected to Be Major Theme at WYD in Rio

When hundreds of thousands of young Catholics gather with Pope Francis in Rio de Janeiro in the summer, reflections on safeguarding the environment will be a part of the program.

Like earlier editions of World Youth Day, the July celebration in Rio de Janeiro will include morning catechetical sessions and afternoon cultural events.

“As the beginning of the planning — under Pope Benedict XVI — we thought that a major theme in Brazil, known as ‘the lungs of the world,’ would have to be the environment,” said Marcello Bedeschi, president of the John Paul II Foundation for Youth, a Rome-based organization that assists with World Youth Day planning.

“We did not know that there would be a new pope and that in his first three major addresses, he would speak about safeguarding creation, not in political or ideological terms, but as a Christian obligation,” Bedeschi said.

Corrado Clini, Italy’s environment minister, has been working with the foundation, the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the Brazilian government and the Rio Church’s World Youth Day organizing team to promote the reflection of young people on the importance of biodiversity and protecting the environment.

He also is working to encourage cooperation between several Italian and Brazilian companies to reduce the energy and water used at WYD and to recycle as much of the refuse they produce as possible.

At an April 4 news conference at the Vatican, Clini said the fact that the youth gathering will take place one year after the international community gathered for Rio +20 — a U.N. sponsored conference on sustainable development — is a great opportunity to rally the passion Catholic youths have for protecting the world God created.

As the United Nations attempts to draft and build consensus around a set of “Sustainable Development Goals” as a follow-up to the conference, “grassroots support and participation is essential,” Clini said.

“World Youth Day is the best context for expanding this vision of global solidarity,” which includes a commitment by industrialized nations to moderate their consumption habits, promote development in poor countries and share with them the knowledge and technology they need to build their economies without threatening the environment.

The Catholic Church can have a big impact on promoting the goals because it has an ability to bring moral teachings — including those about safeguarding creation — into the hearts, minds and daily lives of its faithful, the minister said.

WYD 2013 is scheduled for July 23-28. The special reflection on the environment is scheduled for the second day of the gathering. Clini, his Brazilian counterpart, scientists, theologians, U.N. officials and members of Catholic groups devoted to safeguarding creation will lead the reflection with young people.

At the end of the gathering, the youths are expected to issue a “manifesto for safeguarding creation,” which will be drafted with assistance from Conventual Franciscan friars from Assisi, Italy.

Bernadette Soubirous

1844-1879
April 16

As a child in a poor French family in the Hautes-Pyrenees town of Lourdes, Bernadette suffered both asthma and cholera. Uneducated, she had not made her first Communion by 1858, the year she experienced 18 visions of a beautiful lady calling herself the Immaculate Conception and calling for penance and pilgrimage. Bernadette was unchanged by this extraordinary experience, and in 1866 became a member of the Sisters of Charity, taking the name Maria-Bernarda. Chronically ill after 1875 with worsening asthma and tuberculosis of the bones, she died at age 35. When she was canonized in 1933, it was not for being the Lourdes visionary, but for her simple life of prayer, devotion and obedience.

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Catholic Social Teaching: On Rights and Responsibilities

By Dennis B. Downey

In the 15th Chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus says to His disciples: “You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

In this simple but direct statement offered on the eve of His Crucifixion, Jesus speaks both to the “cost of discipleship” that is the essence of the Christian encounter and Catholic social doctrine. The cost at issue is not in a sense a moral or rational sense, but active love based on an affective embrace and radical commitment to the human existence and the dignity of each individual human being. By self-example, Jesus says to His friends, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.”

In selfless love and obedience, He died for their sins. He was “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” A “harsh and dreadful love,” Dorothy Day called it, one that connects the spiritual and the social realms of human experience, and in a web of mutuality, solidarity, and shared relationship in union with God.

It is by love that we become not strangers but friends, to use Jesus’ words, bound in a shared sense of community, and to a Catholic and Christian understanding of the just social order and the common good. These virtues, neatly summed up in the old expression the Corporal Works of Mercy, have been discussed here in parallel with the great social documents and in its centuries-long tradition of apostolic and lay pastoral and prophetic efforts to the Church.

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), The Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine, the Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of People Living with Disabilities, and the Encyclical on the Family, to mention a few, all show how Catholic social doctrine has shaped lives in the field of social justice.

During this Year of Faith, The Catho-
lic Witness presents a series of articles examining the various documents, phe-

Now in his mid-80’s, Jean Vanier has longed to see the dream of his life fulfilled. “A deep spirituality from the heart; a personal faith.”

In words that had sweeping social implications, John XXIII continued, “The social character of human beings indicates that the advancement of the human person and the growth of society are dependent on each other.” Consequently, everything should be rendered to a person which is required to lead a truly human life, as food, clothing, shelter, the rights to free choice of one’s state in life and to find a family, to education, to work, to marriage, and to a just freedom, including religious freedom.” Noting a universal responsibility to oppose “any social and political slavery and [to] safeguarding the basic rights of all people.”

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ciation in the public sphere, John XXIII continued: “Any well-regulated and productive association in the public sphere, whether trade unions or professional associations, whether Catholic or not, can and must play a critical role in the internal struggle to secure each individual’s fundamental rights.

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thers concluded their deliberations in 1965, far beyond the Vatican Catholic social teaching on rights and responsibilities resonated in lay and episcopal efforts to remake the social order. Perhaps the most well-known example is the Latin American region with the emergence of Liberation Theology. Implicitly and explicitly, priests, nuns, and the laity gathered in intentional communities and developed a critique of poverty, injustice, and human suffering.

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“I would like to conclude on a personal note by acknowledging one of the least well known of all the global Catholic movements established through prophetic witness to the least among us. Outside Paris in 1964, Jean Vanier established a community known as L’Arche (French for the Ark). L’Arche is now an international and ecumenical federation with more than 100 communities in 30-plus countries. Its members, who are all people with physical or intellectual disabilities, whom Vanier has often remarked are the “most wounded and dis- criminated against.”

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The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their families.

**ABBOTTSVILLE** – Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**ANNVILLE** – St. Paul the Apostle: James Badger, Joyce Campenella (Naminger).

**CAMPHILL** – Good Shepherd: Edward W. Conard, Rosemary Resetar, William Sheppard, Margaret Skotnicki.

**CARLISLE** – St. Patrick: Stefano Alfeno.

**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Sheppard, Margaret Skotnicki.

**COLENSO** – Mary, Mother of the May, Ursula Murray, Robert Pekera.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – Apostles: Charles Gallagher, Kathryn Miller.

**MILLERSVILLE** – St. Philip the Apostle: Charles Gallagher, Kathryn Miller.

**MCSHERYSTOWN** – Robert Ribic; St. Francis of Assisi:

**HARRISBURG** – St. Catherine Laboure: Clare Cassel, Esther Zeles Grubb, John McGarrity, Rosemary Morely, Robert Ribic; St. Francis of Assisi: Olevon Anderson; St. Margaret Mary: Eugene Burger, Gorrude M. Jones, Anna Tull.

**KULPMONT** – Holy Angels: Valeria Evans.

**Lancaster** – St. Anne: Helen Porto.

**MECHANICSBURG** – Nicholas Pantalone, Tom Perry.

**MCHEHRYSTOWN** – Annunciation BVM: Patricia Borowick.


**MILLSERVILLE** – St. Philip the Apostle: Charles Gallagher, Kathryn Miller.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Our Lady: Regina May, Ursula Murray, Robert Pekera.

**New Oxford** – Immaculate Conception: BVM: Christopher Yeuly.

**Palmerton** – Holy Spirit: Erminio Zumbo.

**SELERSGROVE** – St. Pius X: Dr. John Gallagher.

**WYNESBORO** – St. Andrew: Shirley Flagle, Wanda Lutz.

**Williamstown** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: John J. Wilbrad, Jr.

**York** – St. Rose of Lima: Florence Burkholder (Irvin), Maria G. DesSomeone (Scicchitano), Harry E. Hamilton, Sr., Larry R. Heif, Joseph G. Palmieri, Charlene A. Vaught (Holghrewn).

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**Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit Health System’s Spirit of Women program is hosting Spirit Girls’ Night Out April 19 from 6-9 p.m. This free event will be held at the St. Patrick’s Parish Community Center, Carlisle.

Spirit Girls’ Night Out is a free event open to women age 18 and older. Bring your mother, your sister, your daughter, and your friends for an evening where you can shop, learn, and be active while networking with other women and the Holy Spirit staff and volunteers.

Girls’ Night Out features a “Main Street” retail shopping area with vendors displaying the newest in fashion, jewelry, cosmetics, and body care, plus the latest in cookware, food products, and more. In our “Fitness Corner,” take part in the dance workouts, including Zumba® and belly dancing, offered throughout the evening. In our “Spa Zone,” we will offer free chair massages, make-up makeovers, and free samples. In our “Education Row” where several presentations led by Holy Spirit physicians will be featured, including how glands and hormones play a role in diabetes, Lap-Band® surgical weight loss options and breast cancer awareness.

Our “Health Screening Pavilion” will house nurses, doctors and other healthcare providers from Holy Spirit who will perform free health screenings. The free screenings include: blood pressure, body mass index, glucose and cholesterol, as well as assessments for breast cancer risk and peripheral artery disease.

The numbers of appointment times for the chair massages, makeovers and health screenings are limited. Please call 717-763-2100 to pre-register. You will get a return call to schedule your appointment time. Appointments are limited to two per person.

**National Shrine to Hold Educational Event on St. Kateri**

On May 4 and 5, The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will host a two-day educational event sponsored by the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions about the courageous and inspirational life and legacy of newly proclaimed St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

On both days, Father Wayne Paysse, Executive Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, will present St. Kateri’s: Lily of the Mohawks, Lily of the Church, an educational session. Following the sessions Father Paysse will celebrate Mass in the Basilica of StElizabethAnnSeton.

The educational sessions will discuss St. Kateri’s life and legacy from the childhood losses of her family to adulthood. The program summary is as follows:

- **Friday, May 3, 2013** – Program for School Groups 9:30 a.m. session, presentation by Father Paysse 11 a.m. session, presentation by Father Paysse 1:30 p.m. Mass, celebrated by Father Paysse 5 p.m. tour of the shrine with Father Paysse

- **Saturday, May 4, 2013** – For Individuals, Socialites & Prayer Groups 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. A showing of the film- “Saint of Light TV Film: “In Her Footsteps: The Story of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha”, Mass, a presentation by Father Paysse, Veneration of the Relic & Lunch Lunch will be available for $12 per person – please RSVP by April 19. Please note that children under the age of 12 are free to attend. Donations will be collected to benefit the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

For more information or to register, contact Erica Coliflower, pilgrimage coordinator, at 844-476-0981 or ecolliflower@setonheritage.org.

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**Sylvan Chorale to Perform John Rutter’s ‘The Requiem’**

The Requiem by John Rutter will be performed by the Sylvan Chorale April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church in Harrisburg and on April 28 at 3:30 p.m. at the new Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg. The 90-voice chorus, accompanied by the John Eakin Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Smith, and joined by soloist, Laurie Simmons Kennel, the Children’s Choir of Lancaster, Bishop McDevitt Concert Choir, and The Traveling Troubadours from the State Street Academy of Music, will provide an evening and afternoon of music that will fill your soul with joy. A free will be offered to take each performance to the Ecumenical Food Pantry and the State Street Academy of Music Scholarship Fund. For more information, call 717-545-1666, call catharchoir.org.

Rutter’s Requiem is a musical setting of an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Requiem Mass, completed in 1985. The setting utilizes a choir with an orchestral accompaniment, along with a separate organ. The Sylvan Chorale, Sacred Concerts for Contemporary Listeners, is a group of vocalists and instrumentalists of various community ensembles, churches and schools. The conductor, Joseph Smith from the Church’s “Empire” with no strings attached to the choir, was the lead in Rigoletto at the Capitol Opera last fall. Laurie Simmons Kennel from Opera Delaware is a popular soloist throughout the Philadelphia area. Choir members represent St.Mary Margaret Church, Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren, Cunningham Singers, Bishop McDevitt High School Concert Choir, Croupoint United Methodist, Hershey Community Chorus, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Market Square Prebyterian, St. Ann’s, St. Anthony, St. Lawrence, St. Mary’s Lancaster, and Trinity Presbyterian.

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**Challenges Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic**

The 11th annual Catholic Charities Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic will take place on Monday, May 13 at Blue Ridge Country Club in Harrisburg. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $65 per person and includes: 18 holes of golf, cart, powercart, lunch, dinner, door prize, and awards. There will be free chair massages and free make-ups, as well as a wine and beer tent. Registration deadline is May 3. For more information, contact Christopher Meghan, Catholic Charities Director of Development, at 717-657-4804, ext. 248, or cmeehan@ccwic.org.

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**Pam Tebow to Speak at A Woman’s Concern Annual Dinner**

A Woman’s Concern is pleased to announce their annual fundraising dinner on April 25 at 6 p.m. The event, which is themed Keeping Our Eyes On The Promise, will be held at Calvary Church (1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster). Seating begins at 5:30 p.m., and the dinner and program begins at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge for the banquet. An opportunity to make a financial contribution to the center will be extended.

Pam Tebow, Mother of NFL player Tim Tebow, will be the evening’s speaker. Mrs. Tebow is most known for her refrain about the Gospel: “When it is no stranger to us, it is no stranger to Him.” She is passionate about encouraging women to trust in the Lord with all their hearts for all their lives and to use the incredible influence God has given them to externally impact the world.

A Woman’s Concern provides pregnancy testing, material assistance, counseling, and support to women and their families facing a challenging pregnancy. The center also provides free non-diagnostic OB ultrasound services to qualified pregnant clients. A Woman’s Concern delivers free STD testing services by a fully licensed and professional staff. The center is funded primarily by private donors.

Reservations are required. Please reserve by April 13, 2013. Call 717-394-1136 or visit http://www.pregnancylancastermw.org.

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**Obituaries**

**Sister M. Pauline Posedly**

Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy Sister M. Pauline Posedly died April 4 at Missionary Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary in Dallas, Pa. She was 81.

Ms. Posedly entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy in Newfield, N.J., in 1953. She earned a degree in education from N.D. College Missionier in Dallas, Pa.

During her years in education ministry, Sister Posedly taught at schools in N.J. and Pennsylvania. In 1964, she entered the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught at St. John of Arc School in Hershey, St. Ann School in Steelton, and St. Joseph School in Berwick. From 1966 until the retirement in 2005, she served as a Coordinator of Religious Education at Hazleton, Pa.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated in the chapel at Villa Rosello, Newfield, N.J., on April 8. Burial was in the Pieta Cemetery on the grounds of Villa Rosello.

**Sister Lucille Turville**

Christian Sister Charity Christian Sister Lucille Turville died April 3 at Holy Family Convent in Damascus, 11 in the convent chapel. Burial was in St. Hubert’s Cemetery, Danville.

**Memorial Obituary**

REMEMBERED OUT

**Deceased Clergy**

Please pray for the following clergy who died in April during the past 10 years.

Deacon Alphonse Formica, 1991
Mgr. Joseph Layton, 1992
Mgr. Bernard Mantem, 1992
Deacon Darnell Banks, Sr., 1993
Sister Delores Adams, 1996
Father Patrick D’Alessandro, 1996
Deacon Arthur Cobol, 1996
Father Anthony Warakowski, 2000
Father Curtis Delam, 2005
Father Mark Matthew Casey, OMI, 2007
Father Gerald Lytle, 2012
Deacon Charles Clark, 2012.
Much has changed in health care over the past half century, from rising costs to incred-
ible advancements in technology and treat-
ments. Throughout these changes, the Penn-
sylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA) has never wavered in its mission to continue Jesus’ healing ministry and advocate for the sanctity of life, access to health care for all and the common good.

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, the PCHA has 60 members, including hospitals, long-term care and other related health care facili-
ties, and individuals involved in Catholic health care in Pennsylvania.

A guiding force for much of PCHA’s 50 years has been the association’s president of 30 years, Sister Clare Christi Schiefer, O.S.F.

Sister Clare has worked in health care most of her life, starting at a local hospital in Hazleton, Pa., as a sophomore in high school. After attending nurs-
ing school, she entered the Congregation of the Sis-
ters of St. Francis of Philadelphia while working at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pa. Sister Clare worked at hospitals in several different states before landing in Philadelphia, where she was asked by her provincial to consider serving as president of the PCHA.

“When I was approached [to interview for the position] I knew absolutely nothing about public policy or lobbying. I initially said I wasn’t the right person for the job, but my provincial wouldn’t take no for an answer,” said Sister Clare, smiling. “I ac-
tually bought a high school civics book just to start learning about public policy.”

Sister Clare explained that, before going to her in-
terview, she said a prayer used by St. Francis of Ass-
isi to discern God’s will and then heard the hymn “Hine I am Lord, I Come to do Your Will” while she was in her car. “After that, I just knew I was going to be offered the position,” she said.

Since becoming president in 1982, Sister Clare has come a long way from that high school civics book. She has led the organization in lobbying both for or against legislation and regulations that have an impact on Catholic healthcare ministries – in-
cluding protecting the sanctity of life and preserving religious liberty.

PCHA provides support for Pennsylvania’s Catho-
lic health care community through advocacy, com-
munication, education and united action; putting special emphasis on recognizing the needs of chil-
dren, the elderly, the poor and the underserved.

“I consider myself to be an ambassador for Christ in the public square,” says Sister Clare of her unique position as a nun who is also a lobbyist. “Many times when I go to talk to a legislator, we end up talking about more than just policy. They often want to discuss other matters, ask my advice, and ask if I will say a prayer for them or their family.”

Over the past 50 years, PCHA has been involved in dozens of major health care debates and legisla-
tive changes. Among those, Sister Clare considers the state’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), legislation to address end-of-life issues, creation of the adult Basic Coverage program, and channeling tobacco settlement funds for health care initiatives as several of the greatest successes in which PCHA was involved.

Sister Clare explained that many of PCHA’s issues have resurfaced several times throughout the asso-
ciation’s existence. Universal access to health care, challenges to tax exemption status and charitable ac-
countability, end-of-life concerns, and protection of religious conscience are a few recurring issues that are again at the forefront.

Looking ahead, the PCHA’s goals include expanding health care coverage and reducing the number of uninsured, especially for low-
income working adults and immigrants; im-
proving availability of and funding for mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse services; opposing taxpayer funded abortions in the health care exchange; and pursuing op-
sions for aging in place for the elderly and those with disabilities.

When advocating on federal issues, the PCHA works alongside Catholic health associ-
ations from other states and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA).

“Sister Clare is a tireless advocate for Cath-
olic health care in Pennsylvania,” said Julie Trocchio, senior director of community benefit and continuing care at the CHA. “She has been espe-
cially effective in her advocacy on behalf of persons who are economically poor, and the value of non-
profit, tax-exempt health care.”

Sister Clare believes Catholic health institutions will always have different characteristics than their secular counterparts: instead of treating only a pa-
tient’s presenting symptoms, Catholic health care focuses on providing a continuum of care through-
out a person’s entire life.

“I hope that someone would choose Catholic health care because of our values,” Sister Clare ex-
plained. “We work to provide compassionate quality care, which focuses on treating the whole person – not just the physical problems, but also their social, emotional and spiritual needs.”

As Sister Clare recognizes, Catholic health institu-
tions will always face challenges that underscore the need for PCHA, such as threats to religious liberty, increasing competition and the ability to act consis-
tently with faith values and Church teachings.

“The Church can come together, to preach and to heal,” she said. “Without the healing ministry, the Church’s mission would not be complete.”

Mass in the Czech language will be celebrated April 21 at 9:30 a.m. at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill for some gospel reflection, discussion and prayer. We'll take a look at the upcoming Sunday readings and open together an in-depth Bible study. This is an in-depth Bible study, but rather a great way to just dig in and spend some quality time together. It's a great way to learn and be fan and insightful. We'll also spend some time talking about future events you would like to see happen before we wrap things up and head home to end the day with prayer. Feel free to bring a friend! For additional information and/or check out our Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/westshore-pastoralsyncatholics.

High School Talent Show: April 17 will meet at the Abbey of the Mater Dei Community, May 4 at 8 a.m. at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisburg.

Events & Fund-Raisers

Trinity High School Boys’ Lacrosse will welcome all youth lacrosse players to the Open House for the 2013-14 season at CDOS Field beginning at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free from ages 1-13 with a lacrosse team jersey or shirt. Free: Breakfast was held on April 20 from 10 a.m.-noon at the school. This event is recommended for children ages 4 and up. Tickets are available for purchase in the main office of the school from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily.

Little girls can dress like princesses and come for tea with the cast members of LC’s “Cinderella” at the York Catholic High School Theater on April 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $8 and will be available for pre-sale at this event, and at the door on the days of the performances. For more information, call Lebanon Catholic School at 717-273-3731.

The Shining Light Thrift Shop in Harrisburg needs sum- mer items: including clothes, shoes, books, games, puzzles, electronics, DVDs, VHS tapes, etc. Also looking for people who will organize a drive for some of the items. Drop off at the thrift shop or request a pick-up. Call 717-541-0745 to reserve your spot.

Lebanon Catholic School will host a bus trip to the entertainment variety show of King Henry the Seventh May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Dubul of Jim Carson Catholic School in York. The impressive cast includes an exploration of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The trip includes transportation, a continental breakfast on the bus, Mass at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America and Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and lunch at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The trip is $35. Call 717-273-3731 or visit www.sscm.org and click current events.

Principles for Catholic Scripture Study. Copies of his book will be on display throughout the day. Free admission: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., followed by Dr. Smith’s presentation.

St. Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville will host a silent directed retreat. The retreat will run from 6-9 p.m. The registration deadline of April 28, or stay for the silent directed weekend May 3-5 with an offering of $150 by April 26. The retreat is silent, and will be held in a serene setting, where enhanced focus on Christ, prayer, direction and quiet reflection. Retreatants can also participate in a private retreat, and there is no formal schedule, except for adoration, silence and prayer but is self-directed. To register, call 707-250-0910 or visit www.socm.org and check current events.

The Interact Club of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown will hold its annual “Sleepout for the Homeless” April 26-27. Students will collect donations from motorists and students. The club will participate in the Interfaith Council of York’s annual “Snow Down for the Homeless” day on April 26 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Myrrha Catholic Church in Rockville. Chicken BBQ, Spanish dishes, baked goods and lots of other food is available for suppliers. All proceeds from this event will go to support the shelter. The Interfaith Council of York is a non-profit organization that supports the local homeless and runs guest houses,an annual “Night in the City” fundraiser, music, food, center, baking, live music, child care, games, food and beverages will be available. Tickets are $8 per person, cash bars $10-$12. For more information, call 717-273-3731.

Sacred Heart Parish in Lewistown will hold its annual “Bake Sale for the Homeless” May 3 from 9-3 p.m. This Second Chance To Give fundraiser will benefit the Homeless Shelter at Sacred Heart Parish. Proceeds will be used for the “Sleepout for the Homeless” on April 26-27. Students will collect donations from motorists and community members for the Operation Ground Zero’s 19th Annual Sleepout.

York Catholic High School’s Athletic Association is hosting Bingo April 28 at the high school. Doors open at noon and games begin at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase in the main office of the school. Package includes 15 paper cards. Additional strips of 3 are $3 for cash. There are two jackpots of $500 and one at $2,500. Admission is $3. For more information, call York Catholic High School high schools will present “Sacred Sounds,” a concert of all Sacred repertoire May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. at the school auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the CHS & LMS Bands and Combined Bands & Orchestras. A free-will donation will be taken to help fund the Fine Arts Scholarship programs for both schools.

Strike it rich at Lebanon Catholic School’s $10,000 gold rush! Lebanon Catholic School will be participating in the National Thrift Shop Day event on sale. There will be two jackpots of $500 and one at $2,500. Admission is $3. For more information, call Lebanon Catholic High School high schools will present “Sacred Sounds,” a concert of all Sacred repertoire May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. at the school auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the CHS & LMS Bands and Combined Bands & Orchestras. A free-will donation will be taken to help fund the Fine Arts Scholarship programs for both schools.

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With Jesus’ resurrection “love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious,” Pope Francis said in his first Easter message “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

“Let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish,” the pope said after celebrating Easter morning Mass.

Pope Francis offered special prayers for peace in Syria and the rest of the Middle East, for an end to violence in Africa – especially in Mali, Nigeria, Congo and the Central African Republic – and in Asia, particularly on the Korean peninsula.

He prayed for “peace in the whole world, still divided by greed looking for easy gain, wounded by selfishness which threatens human life and the family, selfishness that continues in human trafficking, the most extensive form of slavery in this 21st century.”

Pope Francis said he would like to bring the good news of Christ’s resurrection to each person on earth, “to every house and every family, especially where suffering is greatest: in hospitals, in prisons.”

Easter, he said, “means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; it means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom.”

He told people, “Jesus is risen, there is hope for you; you are no longer in the power of sin, evil.”

Easter, the pope said, “is the exodus, the passage of human beings from slavery to sin and evil to the freedom of love and goodness.”

However, he said, that passage must be renewed in every age and in every human heart.

“How many deserts, even today, do humans beings need to cross – above all, the desert within, when we have no love for God or neighbor, when we fail to realize that we are guardians of all that the Creator has given us and continues to give us,” Pope Francis said.

“God’s mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones,” he said.

Pope Francis urged people to join him in praying to be transformed by the power of God’s love and mercy and to help “change hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, war into peace.”

The morning Mass began less than 12 hours after Pope Francis had finished presiding over the nighttime Easter Vigil, lighting the Easter candle and processing into a St. Peter’s Basilica lit mainly by the flashes of the cameras that people had been asked not to use.

During the Mass, he welcomed into the Catholic Church four men between the ages of 17 and 30. The men from Albania, Italy, Russia and the United States were baptized, confirmed and received their first Communion at the Mass. The 17-year-old from the United States was identified as Anthony Dinh Tran.

In his homily for the vigil, Pope Francis spoke about how the women had gone to Jesus’ tomb with sorrow and love to anoint his body.

But, he said, “something completely new and unexpected happens.”

They find the tomb empty, and they are confused and afraid, the pope said.

“Doesn’t the same thing also happen to us when something completely new occurs in our everyday life? We stop short, we don’t understand, we don’t know what to do,” he said. “Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us.”

Like the women at the tomb, he said, often “we are afraid of God’s surprises,” yet, “he always surprises us.”

“Dear brothers and sisters,” he said, “let us not be closed to the newness that God wants to bring into our lives. Are we often weary, disheartened and sad? Do we feel weighed down by our sins? Do we think that we won’t be able to cope? Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up.”

The risen Jesus is risen for all time, he said, meaning that his is forever victorious “over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human.”

Pope Francis said he knows there are many times in life when it is difficult to believe in the power of God to bring forth new life. It’s easier, he said, to be like the women in the Gospel and “look for the living among the dead.”

The women in the Gospel are told to remember their life with Jesus and the things he had said and done. Only then do they conquer their fear and share the news of the Resurrection with the other disciples.

“Try to remember what God has done and continues to do for me, for us, to remember the road we have traveled: this is what opens our hearts to hope for the future,” he said. “May we learn to remember everything that God has done in our lives.”

“Channels of Mercy, Justice, Peace”

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

April 12, 2013

Quo Vadis Days

June 23-27, 2013

Mount St. Mary’s Seminary

Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25: Our Lord has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg’s eighth annual Quo Vadis Days vocation camp to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord’s call in your life while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, great food, talks and more. Quo Vadis Days is staffed by the diocese’s priests and seminarians. There is no charge to attend, due to the generosity of anonymous donors. Registration forms are available at www.hbgdiocese.org, or contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282.

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Fiat Days

July 7-9, 2013

Mount St. Mary’s University and Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

Attention all Catholic young women ages 15-25: Our Lord has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg’s sixth annual Fiat Days vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other women your age as you listen to the Lord’s call in your life while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more. There is no charge to attend, due to the generosity of anonymous donors. Contact the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282, for information or a registration packet.

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July 7-9, 2013

Mount St. Mary’s University and Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

Attention all Catholic young women ages 15-25: Our Lord has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg’s sixth annual Fiat Days vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other women your age as you listen to the Lord’s call in your life while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more. There is no charge to attend, due to the generosity of anonymous donors. Contact the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282, for information or a registration packet.