 share truth of family with mercy, help those struggling, pope says in exhortation

by cindy wooden

The same mercy and patience that are essential for building a strong family must be shown to those whose families are in trouble or have broken up, Pope Francis said in his highly anticipated postsynodal apostolic exhortation.

The document, “Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love),” released April 8, contains no new rules or norms. However, it encourages careful review of everything related to family ministry and, particularly, much greater attention to the language and attitude used when explaining Church teaching and ministering to those who do not fully live that teaching.

“No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love,” Pope Francis wrote.

People grow in holiness, and the Church must be there to give them a helping hand rather than turn them away because they have not attained some degree of perfection.

The exhortation was Pope Francis’ reflection on the discussion, debate and suggestions raised during the 2014 and 2015 meetings of the Synod of Bishops on the family. Like synod members did, the pope insisted that God’s plan for the family is that it be built on the lifelong union of one man and one woman open to having children.

Synod members, including priests, religious and laypeople serving as experts and observers, talked about everything from varied cultural forms of courtship to marriage preparation and from the impact of migration on families to care for elderly parents.

Pope Francis’ document touches on all the issues raised at the synods and gives practical advice on raising children, urges a revision of sex-education programs and decries the many ways the “disposable culture” has infiltrated family life and sexuality to the point that many people feel free to use and then walk away from others.

“Everyone uses and throws away, takes and breaks, exploits and squeezes to the last drop. Then, goodbye,” he wrote.

More FAMILY, page 5
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Diocese of Harrisburg, along with many of the 195 dioceses and eparchies in the United States, participates in this month as an opportunity to highlight the many activities the diocese is doing to prevent child sexual abuse.

2. Suspected abuse of a minor should be reported to the 24-hour PA Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 932-0313. To report suspected abuse of a minor by a Church official, employee or volunteer please also call the Diocesan toll free hotline at (800) 626-1608. Suspected abuse by a church official, employee or volunteer can also be reported via e-mail to ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org.

3. There is no statute of limitations for removing a cleric who has sexually abused a minor from public ministry in the Catholic Church. Regardless of when the abuse occurred, a cleric against whom there is an established or admitted act of child sexual abuse is permanently removed from active ministry.

4. Since the early 1990s the Diocese of Harrisburg has had a well-established zero tolerance policy for clergy, lay employees and volunteers who engage in misconduct with children, and we take immediate action when an accusation is made. Any allegation of abuse must be reported immediately to law enforcement and any credible or substantiated allegation against a member of the clergy results in immediate removal from ministry.

5. The Youth Protection Program of the Diocese of Harrisburg already meets or exceeds many of the updated Pennsylvania Child Protection Statues. Where needed, our program is updated to fully comply with or exceed all state laws.

6. The Diocese of Harrisburg reports all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor to the civil authorities.

7. The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was established by the United States Bishops (USCCB) in June 2002. It is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. It is revised continually to reflect the ongoing commitment of the bishops.

8. The Charter directs action in all the following matters:
   • Making prompt and effective response to accusations,
   • Cooperating with civil authorities,
   • Disciplining offenders,
   • Creating a safe environment for children and young people,
   • Providing for means of accountability for the future to ensure the problem continues to be effectively dealt with through the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board.

9. Victim Assistance Coordinators are available in all dioceses, including Harrisburg, assuring victims that they will be heard. In 2014, dioceses/parishes provided support to 1,863 victims/survivors. Locally, people should call the diocesan toll free hotline at (800) 626-1608 to reach the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

10. There are over 200 designated Safe Environment Coordinators working in our parishes, schools and youth serving ministries to ensure compliance with laws and policies.

11. The Charter calls for annual audits of dioceses to ascertain compliance with the Charter by the bishop and his diocese. Annual audits have been conducted since 2003. The Diocese of Harrisburg has successfully passed every audit.

12. Safe Environment training is taking place in all audited dioceses of the country. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, over 32,000 clergy, employees and volunteers have been trained to recognize the behavior of offenders and what to do about it.

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13. Background clearances have been conducted on all priests and deacons, educators, parish volunteers, Church personnel and candidates for ordination in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

14. All audited dioceses, including Harrisburg, have Codes of Conduct spelling out what is acceptable behavior. These codes serve to let people know what behaviors are and are not accepted as well as what behavior can be expected.

15. Over 59,000 children in the Diocese of Harrisburg have been given the skills to recognize both a grooming process and to tell parents and other trusted adults about such behavior. Each student will receive at least 3 hours of training during their career.

16. Dioceses/parishes require intensive background screening as well as psychological testing for those wishing to enter the seminary. Audit figures for 2014 report that out of 6,602 Candidates for Ordination 6,503 have been trained and 6,568 have had a background check.

17. The Charter requires that all dioceses be open and transparent regarding cases of sexual abuse. Parishes affected by abuse are informed openly, honestly and compassionately of allegations.

18. The Diocese of Harrisburg has a Review Board. It is a lay group appointed by the Bishop to offer its advice on matters of child and youth protection to the Diocese on the protection of children and young people.

19. Bishops communicate with each other on a regular basis to ensure a cleric who committed an act of sexual abuse is not transferred to another diocese.

20. All dioceses have written policies on the sexual abuse of minors by clerics and Church personnel. Ours are located at www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth.
Parish volunteers and employees who work with children know firsthand the measures now in place to protect the children in their care. These measures include background checks and safe environment training about recognizing and reporting signs of abuse.

However, state lawmakers are considering amendments to legislation that could lead to the closure of parishes, schools and charitable institutions, including background checks and safe environment training about recognizing and reporting signs of abuse.

“The proposal would retroactively nullify the statute of limitations for filing a civil lawsuit alleging childhood sexual abuse. It would force parishes, churches, dioceses and charities to defend cases that are 30, 40 or 50 years old, long after the perpetrator and possible witnesses have died or clear evidence is gone.

“Very nonprofit organization is at risk,” says Robert J. O’Hara, Jr., executive director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. The proposed Pennsylvania legislation would send any perpetrators to jail. Rather, it will individual parishes and neighboring schools in the firing line for lawsuits that are nearly impossible to defend against.

O’Hara acknowledged that the Church has learned hard lessons regarding child sexual abuse. In recent years, the prevalence of adult misconduct with children has been revealed in nearly every institution and organization that serves children. He added that the Church has responded accordingly with comprehensive policies, including financial support, for survivors and comprehensive education and training to identify and prevent abuse.

“No other institution has done more in recent years to help survivors of abuse and put in place policies to prevent the alleged abuse from occurring in the first place,” O’Hara said. “And yet, there are some legislators who continue to aim at weakening the protective measures now in place, considering that sexual abuse cases from age 20 to age 50 for criminal prosecutions and age 20 to 30 for civil actions. A task force that was appointed in the wake of the sexual abuse revelations at Penn State reviewed the law and recommended a sweeping overhaul of state child protection statutes. It also addressed Pennsylvania’s statute of limitations and did not recommend any changes. They cited fairness as a major concern and said that the current statute of limitations on sexual abuse cases from age 20 to age 50 to age 20 to 30 as the most generous in the country. The Pennsylvania law is one of the most generous in the country.

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Stateside Event Answers
Challenge to Celebrate WYD at the Domestic Level

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

During a webinar highlighting the latest details about this summer’s World Youth Day Stateside event in Lancaster, officials associated with the pilgrimage remarked that the first-of-its-kind gathering here in the diocese is a direct response to a challenge by the nation’s bishops.

“The United States Bishops have asked us and challenged us as domestic Church to celebrate World Youth Day right here in the United States,” said Deb Waters, Director of Campus Ministry at Lancaster Catholic High School, regarding the April 8 presentation from the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

They’ve seen the international celebration’s impact on evangelization and vocations, she pointed out, noting that one in five priests and one in four religious in 2013 had taken part in some celebration of World Youth Day.

“If we can engage more people here domestically who don’t have the opportunity to go to the international World Youth Day, we can provide a challenge to the local, domestic, regional celebration that feels like the international gathering,” she said of the stateside event for high school youth, young adults and families.

The Papal Mass place at Lancaster Catholic High School and nearby Clipper Magazine Stadium July 30, the overnight, outdoor pilgrimage experience will mirror the events taking place at World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

WYD Stateside will correspond with the vigil and concluding Eucharistic celebration presided over by Pope Francis in Krakow. In Lancaster, pilgrims will be connected to those in Poland—including our own diocesan contingent with Bishop Donald Gainer—through prayer, fellowship, Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, music and celebration to fully experience the spirit of World Youth Day.

It will be headlined by encores Jackie Francez Angel, a traveling speaker, singer, songwriter, and worship leader from Orange County, Calif. Special guests will include Celii Rain, a pop-rock band with Celtic flavor and up-and-coming messages, and local Christian rock and worship musician Sean Patrick Maolly.

The gates to WYD Stateside will open at Lancaster Catholic on Saturday morning, July 30. The opening liturgy will be celebrated at 2 p.m., followed by catechism, the Celii Rain concert and a Holy Hour. Adoration, Confessions and the pilgrimage tent will be available throughout the event.

The pilgrimage tent will immerse pilgrims in Krakow. They will learn about the life of St. John Paul II, and experience exhibits like walking paths of the luminous Mysteries of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Here, pilgrims can also connect to their diocesan counterparts at international World Youth Day in Poland via photos, videos and messages from the local event.

During an overnight, overnight vigil, attendees will sleep on the field at Lancaster Catholic’s stadium. On the morning on July 31, they will make a 1.5 mile walk, escorted by the Lancaster City Mounted Police, to Clipper Magazine Stadium. Here, they will witness the Stations of the Cross presented around the baseball field’s warning track, and enjoy a concert by Jackie Francez Angel prior to the closing liturgy celebrated by Bishop Edward Malesic of Greensburg at 2 p.m.

Plans are currently underway to share Pope Francis’ World Youth Day message in Krakow to the pilgrims in Lancaster.

High school youth must register with a youth group for the stateside event. Young adults and families can register independent of a youth group.

Registration is $175 per person through April 30; $190 per person thereafter or the day before the event.

Two-day tickets include access to all of the weekend’s events, four meal vouchers (two lunches, one breakfast and one dinner), and a pilgrimage pack with a souvenir bottle, as well as a t-shirt, souvenir cup and prayer resources.

For more information, to register, and to learn about policies regarding security, medical staffing, inclement weather and dress codes, visit http://www.hbgdiocese.org/world-youth-day-stateside.

A video of the webinar is available at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Questions about World Youth Day Stateside can be directed to Deb Waters at dwaters@lchsyes.org or Virginia Pereira at vperereiap@lhgdioce.org.

This event will last approximately 36 hours of prayer, praise, and pilgrimage right here in the Diocese of Harrisburg,” said Mrs. Waters, “to bring our domestic Church together to celebrate with the international Church!”

Correction

The caption for the place winners of the Diocesan Spelling Bee in the April 1, 2016, edition of The Catholic Witness incorrectly identified the grade of third-place finisher Daniel Siahaan. Daniel is a fourth-grader at Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg. We apologize for the error.
Family

Continued from 1

Much of the document is tied to the theme of God’s mercy, including Pope Francis’ discussion of welcoming the vulnerable.

“Charity is often the first concern shown to migrants and to persons with special needs alike is a sign of the Spirit,” he wrote. Both are “a test of our commitment to show mercy in welcoming others and to help the vulnerable to be fully a part of our communities.”

The synod issues that garnered the most headlines revolved around the question of Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried, as well as Catholic attitudes toward homosexuality.

“In no way must the Church desist from proposing the full ideal of marriage, God’s plan in all its grandeur,” Pope Francis said.

He repeated his and the synod’s insistence that the Church cannot consider same-sex unions to be a marriage, but also insisted, “every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity.”

On the question of families experiencing difficulties, separation or even divorce and remarriage, Pope Francis said responses to the questionnaires sent around the world before the synod “showed that most people in difficult or critical situations do not seek pastoral assistance, since they do not find it sympathetic, realistic or concerned for individual cases.”

The responses, he wrote, call on the Church “to try to approach marriage crises with greater sensitivity to their burden of hurt and anxiety.”

Particularly in ministry to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, Pope Francis said, pastors must help each couple look at their actions and circumstances, recognize their share of responsibility for the breakup of their marriage, acknowledge Church teaching that marriage is indissoluble and prayerfully discern what God is calling them to.

Pope Francis said it would be a “grave danger” to give people the impression that “any priest can quickly grant ‘exceptions’ or that some people can obtain sacramental privileges in exchange for favors.”

At the same time, he insisted, “the way of the Church is not to condemn anyone forever; it is to pour out the balm of God’s mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart.”

Divorced and civilly remarried couples, especially those with children, must be welcomed in Catholic parishes and supported in efforts to raise their children in the faith.

Generally, without an annulment of their sacramental marriage, such a couple would not be able to receive Communion or absolution of their sins unless they promised to live as “brother and sister.” But every situation is different, the pope said, which is why the Church does not need new rules, but a new commitment on the part of pastors to provide spiritual guidance and assistance with discernment.

The diversity of situations — for example, that of a spouse who was abandoned versus being the one who left — makes it unwise to issue “a new set of general rules, canonical in nature and applicable to all cases,” the pope wrote. Quoting St. John Paul II, he said, “since the degree of responsibility is not equal in all cases, the consequences or effects of a rule need not necessarily always be the same.”

Pope Francis used the document’s footnotes to specify that the consequences include whether or not the couple might eventually be able to receive Communion: “This is also the case with regard to sacramental discipline, since discernment can recognize that in a particular situation no grave fault exists,” he wrote. Those who are in a state of serious sin are not to receive Communion.

Another footnote commented on the Church’s request that remarried couples who had not received an annulment and who want to receive the sacraments forgo sexual relations. “In such situations, many people, knowing and accepting the possibility of living ‘as brothers and sisters’ which the Church offers them, point out that if certain expressions of intimacy are lacking, ‘it often happens that faithfulness is endangered and the good of the children suffers,’” he wrote.

Pope Francis wrote that he understood those “who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no room for confusion. But I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, always does what good she can, even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street.”

Turning to those who believe allowing divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Communion waters down Church teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, the pope said, “we put so many conditions on mercy that we empty it of its concrete meaning and real significance. That is the worst way of watering down the Gospel.”

In many respects, Pope Francis wrote, Church members themselves have presented and promoted such a dreary picture of married life that many people want nothing to do with it even though they dream of a love that will last a lifetime and be faithful.

“We have long thought that simply by stressing doctrinal, bioethical and moral issues, without encouraging openness to grace, we were providing sufficient support to families, strengthening the marriage bond and giving meaning to marital life,” he wrote.

“We find it difficult to present marriage more as a dynamic path to personal development and fulfillment than as a lifelong burden.

“We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations,” the pope wrote. Yet, “we have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.”

“The role of an individual’s conscience made frequent appearances in the document, not only regarding the situation of those who may determine their new union is best for their family, but also regarding decisions over how many children to have.”

Pope Francis praised Blessed Paul VI’s encyclical Humanae Vitae, which insisted every sexual act in a marriage must be open to the possibility of pregnancy, and included a large section reiterating what has become known as St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body.”

The saintly pope definitively opposed an old idea that considered “the erotic dimension of love simply as a permissible evil or a burden to be tolerated for the good of the family,” Pope Francis said. “Rather, it must be seen as gift from God that enriches the relationship of the spouses.”

Pope Francis called for Church leaders to ensure more married couples are involved in leaders in designing and carrying out pastoral programs for families. Their witness is key, he said.

“Marital love is not defended primarily by presenting indissolubility as a duty, or by repeating doctrine, but by helping it to grow ever stronger under the impulse of grace,” he said. “A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God’s grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful.”
As Earth Day Approaches, Let’s Pause on Pope Francis’ Concern for the Environment

By Emily M. Albert

The Catholic Witness

I went through several awkward stages as a child. One that I recall most was wanting to save the Earth. Some of you may recall a television program called Captain Planet, not to be confused with Captain America. Captain Planet was a super hero of the early to mid 90s that would appear after four kids placed magic rings together: earth, fire, wind, and water. I often pretended the magic ring from the bubble-gum machine was my magic ring, secretly wishing I too had powers to save the Earth. I’ve watched through the years as convenience and laziness have made us a consumable and disposable society. We consume and throw out to-go coffee cups, fast food wrappers, batteries for all our electronics, plastic grocery bags, plastic water bottles, plastic covers – almost everything we purchase. I’m amazed by how much packaging it takes to sell a toothbrush or a razor.

Some try their best to separate the recyclables from garbage, others even compost food scraps. But even with our greatest efforts we are still polluting our oceans with plastic, we are still destroying natural habitats, we are over-consuming the Earth.

In his encyclical Laudato Si’ On Care For Our Common Home, Pope Francis explains, “In some countries, there are positive examples of environmental improvement: rivers, polluted for decades, have been restored; landscapes have been beautified thanks to environmental renewal projects; beautiful buildings have been erected; advances have been made in the production of non-polluting energy and in the improvement of public transportation. These achievements do not solve global problems, but they do show that men and women are still capable of intervening positively.”

Pope Francis continues in this chapter of his encyclical, explaining man’s lack of interest or dedication to what is a real problem in need of years of change from our lifestyles.

“As often occurs in periods of deep crisis which require bold decisions, we are tempted to think that what is happening is not entirely clear.” In this line, Pope Francis caused me to pause and reflect on our Holy Father’s plea for environmental change. Small sacrifices in our daily routine can make a lasting difference. Carpool to work, use a reusable water bottle, bring your own cloth reusable bag to the grocery store, and if you forget it in the car, walk back out for it. Bring plastic bags to the grocery store for recycling. Separate your trash and consider composting food scraps. Rain barrels are a great solution for watering plants in the summer instead of heavy chemicals. I know these look like minuscule requests and it is easy to think one person can’t make a difference, but if each of us make little changes, we will create one large change.

Pope Francis has asked us to “come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly Feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for ‘if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator.’”

Pope Francis emphasized protection for the environment and the need to mitigate climate change in his second encyclical, Laudato Si’, released in June of 2015. In this April 25, 2015, file photo, thousands of dead fish are seen at Centla beach in the state of Tabasco, Mexico.

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

From Encyclical, Laudato Si’, 2015

by the domino effect of climate change. Pope Francis notes, “Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystem services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry.” He continues, “For example, changes in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children.”

There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is a widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world.”

As Earth Day approaches, April 22, I urge each of us to be aware of our Holy Father’s plea for environmental change. Small sacrifices in our daily routine can make a lasting difference. Carpool to work, use a reusable water bottle, bring your own cloth reusable bag to the grocery store, and if you forget it in the car, walk back out for it. Bring plastic bags to the grocery store for recycling. Separate your trash and consider composting food scraps. Rain barrels are a great solution for watering plants in the summer instead of heavy chemicals. I know these look like minuscule requests and it is easy to think one person can’t make a difference, but if each of us make little changes, we will create one large change.

Pope Francis has asked us to “come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly Feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for ‘if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator.’”

The Catholic Witness

April 15, 2016

CNS/JAIME AVALOS, EPA
Ford’s Theatre rests in the heart of Washington, D.C., where Tenth and F Streets bisect about a half mile from the White House. It’s an imposing structure that today still is a house of drama where great actors share their stage talents to adoring audiences. No matter how great the play, nothing will ever surpass the dramatic tragedy there occurred there on Good Friday, April 14, 1865. We have had other presidents assassinated in cold blood in our early history. Yet do we remember where President Grant was mortally wounded in 1881 in Washington, or the site where President McKinley was killed by a point blank shot in Buffalo in 1901? The answer probably lies that we remember Ford’s Theatre is that the slain president was Abraham Lincoln. Moreover, do we really faithfully worship the assassins in these other grisly presidential murders? But see how our attention is focused on the menace of his slayer, John Wilkes Booth, after shooting Lincoln, stabbed Rathbone savagely in the back alley with his eyes fanatically aglow, trying to mount his getaway horse to flee the scene. As a young boy, John Washington had had several vivid nightmares of Booth trying to kill the boy with his dagger. One time, the boy accidently hung himself with his blanket. When Lincoln was shot, an African-American he tried to escape the evil reoccurring dream. If not for his grandma’s quick action of cutting him down, it would have been another senseless death associated with the scheme to kill a president.

**Why did Booth kill Lincoln?**

John Wilkes Booth was a 29-year-old actor born into a family of famous actors. Often portrayed as an insane lunatic in history, there’s more evidence that Booth was a rabid racist who profoundly detested equality of the races and Freedom.” Booth, however, was more alcoholic than mad, and though he was no genius, he was shrewd, calculating and dastardly in planning Lincoln’s demise. “My thoughts be bloody,” he told a family member a few weeks prior to using his trigger finger.

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By Chris Heisey

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Historic St. Mary’s in Lancaster Marks 275th While Breaking Ground for Future

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Diocese of Harrisburg lays claim to two of the four oldest Catholic parishes in the United States: Sacred Heart of Jesus in Conewago, established in 1730, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lancaster, founded in 1741.

This year, Historic St. Mary’s, as it is fondly called, is marking its 275th anniversary in the Red Rose City in ways that remember the past and look with faith to the future. There’s much to celebrate. This mother church for several early missions in the diocese shares a spiritual bond with the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, and this year is one of five churches designated as pilgrimage sites during the Year of Mercy celebration in the diocese.

St. Mary’s is also kicking off its Enduring Legacy Project with an initial phase that involves improving accessibility to the church nave through handicap accessible ramps from the street level to the church plaza, and from the plaza to the church’s main entrance. According to Father Leo Goodman, pastor, future plans in the Enduring Legacy Project will include a new social space at Resurrection School and the renovation of classrooms.

“This is a celebration of our current faith community and those people of faith before us, so that we can unite our commitment to theirs,” Father Goodman said. “We look back with gratitude and forward with commitment.”

St. Mary’s parishioners marked the momentous occasion on April 9 with an anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer, who then led the groundbreaking ceremony for the start of the Enduring Legacy Project. Parishioners continued the celebration during a reception at the Lancaster County Convention Center.

Roots in ‘Lancaster Town’
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is home to more than 3,000 parishioners, a far cry from the sum total of all of the Catholics who lived in the entire county in the mid 1700s. St. Mary’s first pastors counted 212 German Catholics and 49 Irish Catholics back then. The parish’s origins date back to June of 1741, when two German-speaking Jesuit priests from Maryland traveled to what was then known as Lancaster Town. Seeing the need to tend to the Catholics of the area, the priests built a log chapel within two years of their arrival. It became the fourth Catholic congregation in the nation, behind St. Joseph’s Chapel in Philadelphia, Sacred Heart in Conewago, Adams County, and Goshenhoppen in Berks County.
According to parish history, St. Mary’s was originally called the Mission of St. John Neumann, although there’s no certainty as to when the name change occurred. The initial chapel, built by Father William Wappler, was destroyed by fire in 1760, and the Catholic community of German and Irish immigrants set out to build a stone church, which was completed in 1762. Parish tradition tells the story that the women of the parish meted the mortar while the men built the church with stones gathered from nearby fields. With German-speaking and Irish-speaking Catholics in the congregation, language differences posed a problem. While there were more Germans than Irish in the county when the parish was established, the Irish immigrants soon came to outnumber their counterparts. In 1849, the parishioners petitioned Bishop Francis Kenrick of Philadelphia for a German parish, and thus St. Joseph’s was established and opened in 1850.

As the number of Irish immigrants continued to increase, it became necessary for St. Mary’s to build a larger church. Its cornerstone was laid by Bishop John Neumann of Philadelphia on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1852. Fifteen years later, a fire nearly destroyed the church, which underwent extensive reconstruction and restoration before it was rededicated on May 3, 1868, the year that the Diocese of Harrisburg was established.

In 1881, construction of the parish’s convent and school building was begun. That same decade saw many of the developments that give Historic St. Mary’s Church most of its current appearance, including its Gothic arches, side chapels patterned after St. Peter’s in Rome, the large stained-glass windows that flank the sanctuary, and the historic paintings by Filippo Costaggini: “The Assumption of the Virgin Mary,” “The Annunciation,” and “The Flight Into Egypt.”

A decade-long project commenced in 1888 to install the church’s memorial stained-glass windows, statues and hand-painted Stations of the Cross. Over the remaining decades, several restoration and restoration projects have taken place to maintain the architectural and visual beauty of the historic church, a centerpiece of the city of Lancaster.

The Basilica of St. Mary Major is the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. It is one of the four great papal basilicas, along with St. Peter’s, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. John Lateran. Its construction was inspired by the Council of Ephesus in 431, which proclaimed Mary as the Mother of God.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church opens its doors in this Year of Mercy as one of five special sites of pilgrimage in the diocese. A parish historian is available to speak to groups that wish to visit.

**A Welcoming Place of Worship**

In conjunction with the Diocese of Harrisburg’s special Marian Year, which took place from October 2009-2010, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church was granted a special spiritual bond to the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. The diocese’s bishop at the time, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, had requested the privilege of the bond following an invitation by the archpriest of the papal basilica to bishops around the world.

The bond was granted in Rome on Feb. 5, 2009. At the time, only 80 Marian shrines around the world shared the privilege. The spiritual bond honored St. Mary’s Church as a special place of pilgrimage, and offered the privilege of a Plenary Indulgence for each member of the faithful who made a pilgrimage to the church under certain prescribed conditions.

The Basilica of St. Mary Major is the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is one of the four great papal basilicas, along with St. Peter, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. John Lateran. Its construction was inspired by the Council of Ephesus in 431, which proclaimed Mary as the Mother of God.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church opens its doors in this Year of Mercy as one of five special sites of pilgrimage in the diocese. A parish historian is available to speak to groups that wish to visit.

“Since the time that I arrived here at St. Mary’s, I’ve always found our parish to be an incredibly welcoming and vibrant place where a lot of travelers will come,” Father Goodman had told The Catholic Witness in an interview on the occasion of the granting of the spiritual bond with the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome.

His words are just as fitting today as the church opens its doors during the Year of Mercy and celebrates a momentous anniversary.

“My experience with the church is that while each piece of art is a little spiritual reflection itself, there’s just a sense of the church being a holy place. You come into this space and the sense of peace and God’s presence is overwhelming.”

(For information about Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and arranging to make a pilgrimage there, visit www.stmaryslancaster.org or call 717-392-2578.)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Lancaster is one of five spiritual bond to the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The spiritual bond was granted on Feb. 5, 2009, in advance of the diocese’s Marian Year, celebrated October 2009-2010.
A diocesan native who recently spent four weeks working for those displaced by ISIS in the Middle East told the attendees at this year’s convention of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) that, through small acts of prayer, advocacy and charity, they can be “sowers of hope” for the millions of refugees who have been uprooted during this humanitarian crisis.

Cheryl Mrazik, a graduate of St. Margaret Mary School and Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, is the Relationship Manager in the Northeast/Mid Atlantic Region for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official humanitarian agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

She served as the keynote speaker for the 91st annual HDCCW Convention, hosted by the Seton District on April 11 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Its theme was “Sowers of Hope: Opening Our Hearts.”

“Watching reports on what is going on in the Middle East, it is easy to feel very overwhelmed and probably fearful about what we see in the news. We can feel hopeless about the situation. Yet, in this Easter season, we are called to really embrace who we are and be sowers of hope, opening our hearts to others,” Ms. Mrazik told the more than 300 women in attendance.

During a short-term assignment in the Middle East in February and March, she spent three weeks in Iraq and one week in Turkey, assisting refugees there.

Catholic Relief Services each year serves more than 100 million people in 100 countries around the world, working to save lives in natural and man-made crises, addressing the root causes of poverty, promoting the dignity of human life, and building just and peaceful societies.

Since the ISIS takeover began in 2014, more than 3.2 million people have been uprooted, and more than half of them are children, Ms. Mrazik noted.

CRS is working in Iraq to assist the Iraqi and Syrian refugees who have fled to areas like Dohuk, Erbil and Kirkuk. Here, families live in abandoned trailers, where entire families share one room.

In the school that the Sisters opened were many pieces of artwork. Among them were two paintings in the principal’s office, created by a woman who had been uprooted from her home.

“The first painting had beautiful flowers and greens, and it represented her life so full of beauty and color, before the displacement. The second painting lacked the colors and beautiful colors, and had only some life to it. This painting represented her life now,” Ms. Mrazik said.

“Hopefully there will be a third painting.”

“Our challenge as Easter people of hope is to be part of painting that third picture with the people of Iraq and Syria that looks much like the first – of a vibrant and beautiful life,” she said. “Let us open our hearts and be the sowers of hope that we are called to be.”

(Ms. Mrazik offered. She urged the conference attendees to pray, noting that the refugees she encountered appreciate that they are not forgotten in the prayers of the faithful. She also called on the women to continue to learn about the refugee situation, and read about their stories of hope, and to advocate for them by sharing their stories with others, and by supporting the refugees who have been relocated in their parishes and in the diocese. She also encouraged monetary donations to CRS, so that they can continue their humanitarian efforts for those in dire need.

Ms. Mrazik shared a poignant story about paintings in that school when she offered ways in which the faithful can be “sowers of hope” for the refugees.

“Watching reports on what is going on in the Middle East, it is easy to feel very overwhelmed and probably fearful about what we see in the news. We can feel hopeless about the situation. Yet, in this Easter season, we are called to really embrace who we are and be sowers of hope, opening our hearts to others,” Ms. Mrazik told the more than 300 women in attendance.

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CRS workers have worked there to establish or enroll children in schools. They assist with shelter by winterizing buildings, creating handicap accessible entrances and living quarters, and ensuring that buildings are safe. They also offer cash grants and vouchers so that the local econo-
## Voters’ Guide Pennsylvania Primary 2016

**Primary Election Day is April 26, 2016**

The Catholic Witness presents here a Voters’ Guide in anticipation of the April 26 Primary Election. The questions were prepared by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of the Pennsylvania Catholic bishops. Questionnaires were mailed by The Catholic Witness to candidates for Congress and Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives whose districts are within the Diocese of Harrisburg to give them an opportunity to participate. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference surveyed candidates for Attorney General, Auditor General, State Treasurer and United States Senate. The names of those who responded are printed in bold in the candidate list; survey questions and responses follow.

Only those candidates who have contested races were surveyed.

The Catholic Witness and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither support nor oppose any candidate.

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### CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE, SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Attorney General Candidates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen A. Zappala (D), Katie Zaza (D), Shapiro (D), John Morganelli (D), John C. Rafferty, Jr. (R), Joseph C. Peters (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene A. DePasquale (D), John A. Brown (R)</td>
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<th>State Treasurer Candidates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph M. Torsella (D), Otto W. Voit, III (R)</td>
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<th>U.S. Senator Candidates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brown (D-171), Kerry Benninghoff (R-171),</td>
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<tr>
<td>(D-107), Michael Krankowski (D-107), Kurt Masser (R-107)</td>
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<th>State House of Representatives Candidates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Paulson (D-13), Ethan Donne (R-13), Scott Martin (R-13), Neal Rice (R-13), Robert Teplitz (D-15), Alvin Taylor (D-15)</td>
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| John DiSanto (R-15), Andrew Lewis (R-15), Jon Ritchie (R-31), Michael Regan (R-31), Brice Arnitz (R-31), Scott Harper (R-31) |

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<tr>
<td>Nancy Dean (D-13), John Lawrence (R-13), Melinda Fee (R-37), Timothy Reedy (R-37), Nicholas Selch (D-41), Brett Miller (R-41)</td>
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| Steven Elliott (D-43), Keith Greiner (R-43), Richard Rogers (D-81), Richard Irvin (R-81), Mary Ann Buckley (R-81), Greg Rothman (R-87), Michael Travis (R-87), Christopher Cowan (D-88), Sheryl Delozier (R-88), Christine Tolbert (R-89), Robert Kaufman (R-89), Denise Weldon-Sivy (D-91), Daniel Moul (R-91), Dawn Keefer (R-92), Krag Bruder (R-92), Anthony Pugliese (R-92), Kevin Schreiber (D-95), Joel Sears (R-95), Michael Sturla (D-96), Robert Bigley (R-96), Charles Klein (D-97), Steven Mentzer (R-97), Dale Hamby (R-100), Bryan Cutler (R-100), Laurie Ludder (D-101), Pier Hess (R-101), Jeffrey Griffith (R-101), Frank Ryan (R-101), John Dissinger (R-101), Jacob Long (D-102), Russ Diamond (R-102), Thomas Houtz (R-102), Partly Kim (D-103), Richard Soto (D-103), Jody Rebarbach (D-103), Susan Helm (R-104), Nathaniel Curtis (R-104), Thomas Mehaffie (R-106), Jonathan Keeler (R-106), Deborah Albright (R-106), Chris Pfaff (D-107), Michael Krankowski (D-107), Kurt Masser (R-107), Melody Fleet (D-171), Kenny Benninghoff (R-171) |

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### STATE TREASURER

Voit (R): Support. I believe that families deserve this support so they can take advantage of opportunities presented by religious schools.

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<tr>
<th>STATE SENATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demme (R-13): Support. I support more choices for parents and the EITC and OSTC are excellent tools to increase the availability of educational choice for parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin (R-13): Support. As a graduate of St. Anne’s Elementary and Lancaster Catholic High School, I appreciate the need for expansion of EITC and will fight for school choice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ritchie (R-31): Support. This is a very good program to benefit families of students that attend religious schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harper (R-31): Support. I support programs that cut business taxes.</td>
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<th>STATE HOUSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Selch (D-41): Support. Statewide funding for education must be increased across the board, including through the use of EITC and OSTC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott (D-43): Support. With state support barely covering these programs, these tax incentives can provide additional funds to provide innovative and enriching programs for students with ever increasing needs. It’s a win-win proposition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greiner (R-43): Support. I have strongly supported this while working as a certified public accountant, and as a legislator.</td>
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<td>Rothman (R-87): Support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klein (D-97): Support. As a graduate of St. Anne’s Elementary and Lancaster Catholic High School, I appreciate the need for expansion of EITC and will fight for school choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis (R-101): Support. I am in favor of school choice.</td>
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<td>Diamond (R-102): Support.</td>
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<td>Houtz (R-102): Support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keeler (R-106): Support. I support tax-credit programs that allow families to place their children in the best educational settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pfaff (D-107): Oppose. Instead, I favor direct income tax credits to offset tax due (or increase refund) of PA state tax. (This is fair across the board.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krankowski (D-107): Support. Any funding increase to public, Catholic or private schools in PA I will also support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masser (R-107): Support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benninghoff (R-171): Support. Terrific program which I have supported since its inception and voted yes to expand it each budget I can.</td>
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**ATTORNEY GENERAL**


**AUDITOR GENERAL**

Brown (R): Support. I support this program because I believe that families deserve this support to pursue a religious education.
AUDITOR GENERAL
Brown (R): c.

STATE TREASURER
Voit (R): c.

STATE SENATE
Demme (R-13): b. All life, from conception to natural death, is created in the image of God and as such deserves full legal protection regardless of the circumstances.
Martin (R-13): c.
DiSanto (R-15): c. I believe in the grave immoral nature of abortion, however I also believe that the choice on how to proceed here must be retained to the individual, who in these extreme circumstances, were robbed of their own choice to consent or to life.
Lewis (R-15): b. Except when life of mother is in danger. We must fight to protect unborn children, and work to promote a culture of life.
Ritchie (R-31): c.
Harper (R-31): I don’t support abortions, but I understand that a woman will still get one illegally if they can’t get it one legally.

STATE HOUSE
Selch (R-41): a. Abortion should be safe, legal and rare.
Elliott (R-43): a. I personally accept the Church’s position on abortion, but as a representative for all, I cannot insert my personal beliefs into a discussion that should remain between a woman and her spouse or a woman and her doctor.
Greiner (R-43): c.
Rothman (R-87): c.
Klein (D-97): a. The ultimate decision of a woman to have an abortion stands with that woman and her doctor in the private office of that doctor. Being Catholic, having friends that were adopted and family members that have adopted children, I believe there are better options than abortion. My family faced that decision when my wife was pregnant with my son. The doctors at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia told us that our son will be born with a heart defect and may have many other complications that may result in sickness and hardship. We chose life for my son and today a have a beautiful, smart precious 6 year old boy. As an elected representative, I would fight to strengthen social programs to support that woman and her choice no matter what she was to decide.
Hamby (D-100): a.
Hess (R-101): c.
Ryan (R-101): b. Life begins at conception and must be protected. I am a Knight of Malta and chair of a school for the Sisters of Good Shepherd.
Diamond (R-102): b.
Houtz (R-102): c.
Keeler (R-106): c.
Pfaff (D-107): c. Abortion, as well as euthanasia, is murder. Thus, all abortion must cease.
Krankowski (D-107): c. I always admired former Gov. Casey of PA for being a Democrat and being pro-life.
Masser (R-107): c.
Benninghoff (R-171): c. As an adoptee I am very sensitive to this issue.

What is your position on expanding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide health insurance to children in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Morganeli (D): Oppose.
Shapiro (D): Support.
Peters (R): Oppose.
Rafferty (R): Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars but this is where charities need to step in.

AUDITOR GENERAL
Brown (R): Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.

STATE TREASURER
Voit (R): Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars for undocumented immigrants, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.

STATE SENATE
Demme (R-13): Support. Children should not be restricted from life giving medical care because of the actions of their parents.
Martin (R-13): Oppose. This is a difficult question, because I have compassion for children in need. However, I know our state faces significant financial challenges already for PA citizens. The vast majority of the residents who would have represented have expressed opposition to this idea.
DiSanto (R-15): Oppose. As a country, we must fundamentally follow our Federal immigration laws. If a child’s life is in danger, of course we should protect that. I do not support U.S. citizens paying for any undocumented person’s basic health care.
Lewis (R-35): c. We must uphold the rule of law. People who are here illegally should not qualify for taxpayer funded programs.
Ritchie (R-31): Oppose. Taxpayer money should only be used for U.S. citizens. In this case, private charity is needed.
Harper (R-31): Support. Sure, but CHIP may expire soon. I’m for a single-payer healthcare system.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON AMENDING PENNSYLVANIA’S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS FOR HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

a.应 include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.
b. They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.
c. No change is necessary.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Morganeli (D): a.
Shapiro (D): a.
Peters (R): b.
Rafferty (R): c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

AUDITOR GENERAL
Brown (R): c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

STATE TREASURER
Voit (R): c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

STATE SENATE
Demme (R-13): b.
Martin (R-13): c. However, we must continue to strive to protect religious liberties and rights of conscience of our citizens.
DiSanto (R-15): b. I oppose discrimination in all forms and would not vote for anything that would undermine religious liberty.
Lewis (R-15): c. No change to this law is necessary, and the proposed change will only undermine religious freedoms.
Ritchie (R-31): b.
Harper (R-31): c. I would eliminate the Human Relations Commission entirely because they try to extort money from employers – I know well.

STATE HOUSE
Selch (D-41): a. No one in Pennsylvania should be discriminated against for any reason.
Elliott (R-43): a. While churches may be exempted based on church doctrine, in the business and public sector, religious liberty cannot be a shield for discrimination, bigotry and hate.
Greiner (R-43): c.
Rothman (R-87): b.
Klein (D-97): a. Every person deserves dignity.
Hamby (D-100): a.
Hess (R-101): a.
Ryan (R-101): b.
Diamond (R-102): b.
Houtz (R-102): b.
Keeler (R-106): c.
Pfaff (D-107): b. It must be illegal to discriminate against Christian religious beliefs.
Krankowski (D-107): b. I strongly believe in religious liberties!!
Masser (R-107): c. I oppose discrimination in all forms.
Benninghoff (R-171): c.

April 15, 2016
What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Morganelli (D): Support.
Shapiro (D): Support.
Peters (R): Support.
Rafferty (R): Support. Health care professionals deserve a fair reimbursement and the poor deserve care.

AUDITOR GENERAL
Brown (R): Support. The poor deserve care and I believe that health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated.

STATE TREASURER
Voit (R): Support. Health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated for caring for the less fortunate and I believe our society has an obligation to help those who can’t help themselves.

STATE SENATE
Demne (R-13): Oppose. I support looking for market driven, patient centered approaches to cut down the cost of healthcare rather than increase government spending.
Martin (R-13): I believe we need to implement solutions that reduce the cost of care so current Medicaid reimbursement rates provide adequate access and individual care. This is an issue that needs to be looked at in a wholistic manner, including cost-shifting that has driven up costs on the privately insured as well.
DiSanto (R-15): This is a federal issue. We must get our fiscal house in order before increasing benefits. I am available to discuss with anyone and will work hard to cut wasteful spending within state government so that we can invest in important programs.
Lewis (R-15): Oppose. Medicaid spending in PA is out of control, and we need to right size all government programs, including healthcare.
Ritchie (R-31): Support. Doctors, nurses and other health care professionals deserve to be fairly compensated when providing care for the less fortunate. Society has a responsibility to help those that truly can’t help themselves.
Harper (R-6): Oppose. PA should opt out of Medicare Medicaid and implement a single-payer system so everyone has access to healthcare.

STATE HOUSE
Selch (D-41): Support. Low Medicaid reimbursement rates force patients to a limited number of care providers. Patients must travel far from their home to get basic care, especially from rural areas or are forced into acute care facilities. Raise the reimbursement rates to obtain care from more local providers.
Elliott (D-43): Support. I believe that we have an obligation to protect and care for those who need it most and expanding access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals supports that belief.
Greiner (R-43): We need to find ways to reduce costs of care to start, so that we can determine if Medicaid reimbursement rates provide adequate access and coverage. It has to be looked at in a wholistic manner.
Rothman (R-87): Support. As long as the increased reimbursement rates do not result in tax increases for hardworking Americans.
Klein (D-97): Support. I support increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates. All people deserve access to quality healthcare. Low reimbursement rates to physicians result in overburdened offices and physicians. The higher payments will entice more providers to accept Medicaid and offer quality healthcare to all people independent of their financial standing.
Hambly (D): Provided it can be financially supported.
Ryan (R-101): Support. Medicaid rates deny coverage — however the ACA does not provide healthcare.
Diamond (R-102): Oppose. We can’t afford it at this time.
Houtz (R-102): Support.
Keeler (R-106): Support. I support if H.H.S. will allow federal money earmarked for Medicaid expansion to pay for private insurance.
Paffl (D-107): Support. Home health care needs greater rate(s) or reimbursement.
Masser (R-107): Our state is currently facing a fiscal crisis due to the mismanagement of Governor Wolf and his inability to compromise. We need to get our fiscal house in order before we increase funding for any items in the budget. However, as we get our fiscal house in order I will keep an open mind to increased funding requests such as this.

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

Perry (R-4): Support.
Costello (R-6): Support.
Meehan (R-7): Support.
Smucker (R-16): Support.
Beiler (R-16): Support.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. I support legalized abortion.
b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Perry (R-4): c.
Costello (R-6): c.
Meehan (R-7): I am pro-life. I have a 96% pro-life rating from National Right to Life. I strongly support partial-birth abortion, and have voted to prevent pain-capable abortions after 20 weeks. I have repeatedly voted to prevent taxpayer funding of abortions.
Marsicano (D-11): c.
Smucker (R-16): b.
Beiler (R-16): c.

What is your position on legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

Perry (R-4): Oppose. We must secure the border first. Secondly, we are a nation of laws. We can empathize with the intent of this question, my only goal is to uphold and defend the laws of this country and its citizens, and I feel for these illegal immigrants, let us please not forget they are here illegally. After we secure our borders, we can work on rights to earning citizenship.
Costello (R-6): The U.S. is the most generous and compassionate nation on the face of the Earth. I believe we need to continue to show respect and compassion to our fellow citizens. However, we must also deal with the reality that there are people in this world who wish to do us harm and there are entities out there who seek to exploit other humans for profit at political gain. We must secure our borders and recognize those who respected our immigration process while simultaneously working with those who broke the law in a humane and realistic manner.
Meehan (R-7): I do not support amnesty for illegal immigrants. Only after our borders are secure can we develop a comprehensive, fair and compassionate strategy to address those living in our country illegally that positions our country for success.
Marsicano (D-11): Oppose.
Smucker (R-16): Oppose. I do not support amnesty for illegal immigrants. Only after our borders are secure can we develop a comprehensive, fair and compassionate strategy to address those living in our country illegally that positions our country for success.
Beiler (R-16): Support. I support legal status but not citizenship.

What is your position on efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

Perry (R-4): Oppose. I believe in no form of discrimination whatsoever — to include laws like this that only protect certain classes — which inherently discriminates against someone else’s beliefs.
Costello (R-6): I am opposed to discrimination of any kind.
Meehan (R-7): I oppose discrimination. I would have to review any proposed legislation to ensure it protects everyone’s constitutional rights.
Marsicano (D-11): Oppose.
Smucker (R-16): Oppose. Nobody should ever be discriminated against. I oppose efforts to force faith-based institutions from implementing and executing policies which run counter to their faith.
Beiler (R-16): Oppose.

What is your position on efforts to reduce legal abortions?

Perry (R-4): Oppose. Rates should be based on the area and rates of service.
Costello (R-6): I support efforts to provide greater access to quality healthcare for all Americans, especially for those individuals most in need. However, I would need to review the specifics and better understand any proposal to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates, in particular, with respect to how such increases would be distributed and justified given the demand and need for care. Until I see the specifics of such a proposal, it is difficult to identify a “SUPPORT/OPPOSE” position to this question.
Meehan (R-7): I support ensuring states have the flexibility to set Medicaid provider reimbursement rates that ensure the state’s residents have access to necessary primary and specialty care.
Smucker (R-16): Support. Before rates are increased, we much eliminate the nearly $100B of annual waste, fraud and abuse. Furthermore we must ensure that physicians and medical providers are rewarded for keeping people healthy.
Beiler (R-16): (Did not respond)
Immaculee Ilibagiza, Kathleen McCarthy to Highlight Retreat in Emmitsburg

Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza and Catholic radio broadcaster Kathleen McCarthy will share the message of Christ’s forgiveness, mercy, healing and hope during a retreat at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Md., June 24-26.

Immaculee will be the retreat leader Friday through Saturday, and Kathleen will lead Saturday and Sunday.

The retreat is being sponsored by the Evangelization and Stewardship Committee of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg. The retreat will include Confessions, a healing service, celebration of Mass, overnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music ministry and prayer teams.

Participants can register as a commuter or as an overnight guest. For registration forms, visit www.aliveinthespirit.net or contact Kathy Reid at kathy-reid57@hotmail.com.

Resurrection Catholic School Announces “Rock the Church II”

Music groups and schools from Lancaster will gather April 29, 7 p.m., at St. Anthony of Padua Church to perform their favorite songs in a benefit concert for Resurrection Catholic School.

Called “Rock the Church,” the choirs and ensembles from St. Mary, St. Joseph, St. Anthony and San Juan Bautista churches will be joined by the Lancaster Catholic High School Concert Choir and Resurrection’s school choir, The Singing Saints.

In all, more than 100 men, women and children will sing pieces that reflect the diversity of the parishes, the styles of the groups and the scope of their talents. They include bilingual musicians who play guitars and congras, traditional church choir singing a cappella and contemporary ensembles with a modern sound.

This is the second year of Rock the Church, so named to align with last year’s school theme, “Resurrection Rocks.”

“We are pleased this year to have received the enthusiastic support from our parishes and Lancaster Catholic High,” said Principal Brenda Weaver. “The choirs and music groups possess amazing talent. Seeing them perform on the same night was a rare treat last year, and it promises to be even better.”

Rock the Church is free though donations may be offered. T-shirts will be available for sale at the event for $20. Order them ahead of time and get them for $18. Call 715-5537 for information.

Parish music directors are Robert Grabowski from St. Anthony, Anthony Wiker from San Juan Bautista, Stephanie Sands from St. Mary, Michael Adams from Resurrection Catholic School and Scott Drackley from Lancaster Catholic. Jennifer Rinner will represent St. Joseph Parish.

San Marziale Procession To Be Held July 10

The 2016 San Marziale Procession, featuring the Kulpmont Our Boys Band, will be held July 10 in Kulpmont.

The procession will once again showcase the legendary Our Boys Band, who put on a truly wonderful, historic and moving performance the last couple of years. The band will play a variety of authentic Italian march music along with some traditional patriotic American songs.

The procession will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 10, and will begin at Holy Angels Church, 855 Scott St. The event is organized by Landscape Services, Bressi Family Foods, the Holy Name Society of Holy Angels Church, Holy Angels Church, the Kulpmont Order of the Knights of Columbus and various dedicated individuals and local businesses.

Chris Bressi, one of the organizers stated, “It continues to be all about turnout and involvement. Much of what we do is a numbers game. The more involvement by the community and local businesses, the bigger and better this event will continue to grow for years to come. We are asking for anyone to participate in any way they can. This is a community-focused event that serves an excellent cause.”

Any Local businesses or individuals who want to be a named or anonymous sponsor can call Mr. Bressi at 570-373-9433 or Tom Letcavage of Landscape Services at 570-274-1506.

St. Marziale is the patron saint of Isca sull’ Ionio, a small town in southern Italy, which was the birthplace of many Italian immigrants who came to America, eventually settling in the coal region, for a better life. According to legend, St. Marziale was the youngest of seven sons - known as the seven Martyrs of Isca and is venerated as the patron saint of Isca sullo Ionio in Calabria, Italy, and Torricella Peligna in the Abruzzo region of Italy. His feast day is July 10. During the procession onlookers can pin money to the statue; the money will then be donated to Holy Angels Church and/or needy members of the community.

For those who participate and march, there will be food and refreshments available at the Holy Angels picnic grounds. Many people contribute to the food and refreshments, organizers want to particularly thank Scicchitano Buono Pizza of Kulpmont for providing a great spread the past couple of years...

Those who wish to walk in the procession are asked to meet at 12:30 p.m. Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SanMarzialeParadeKulpmontPa/?ref=ts. Visit us on YouTube: http://youtu.be/g55fjNm2hDk.

Event Link: https://www.facebook.com/events/158970230468570/
**Diocesan Notebook**

**Compiled by Emily M. Albert**

**Spirited Offerings**

In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Per- petual Help Grotto at Lebanon Medical Center, Father William Casey, CPM, will lead Eucharistic Devotions May 1-3, in the Lebanon Catholic School auditorium at 6:30 p.m. in the Holy Spirit Hospital auditorium, located at 503 N. 21st St., Lebanon. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.DeloneCatholic.org. One winner will be chosen. A Cancer Wellness Program will focus on steps that can be taken to combat cancer, such as following an anti-cancer diet, managing stress, avoiding smoking, avoiding alcohol, and regular exercise. The presenter will be William L. Portier, Ph.D., Chair of Catholic Theology at the University of Scranton. The lecture series that explores Pope Francis and the current pontificate will begin on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the university’s Foy Alumni Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the university’s Department of Theology at the University of Dayton. For information, visit www.alvernia.edu/campus-life/events.

**Come see the movie Apparition Hill on May at the Carlisle Theatre, 40 W. High St., Carlisle, at 7:30 p.m.**

Apparition Hill is a dramatic film that tells the story of a young woman who lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, or infant death, please know that the Vatican has not yet formally pronounced on the issue. The Vatican teaching is that such an act is a grave sin, but the faithful are not bound to consent to the content of this film as a matter of faith. If you wish to watch this film, please know that viewing this film with a desire to grow in faith, hope and love or even to visit Medjugorje as a place where faithful pilgrims may gather.

The presentation will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 200 Third St. Hanover. Featuring BBQ chicken dinner made from Little Caesars, tickets are $10 per adult, $5 children ages 6-12, free for children under 5. Doors open at noon. The event will be held after the 10 a.m. Mass on June 5. Contact Parish Office at 717-861-0823. For tickets, call Donna at 717-397-4854, ext. 206. Free-will donations will be accepted. To register for this life-saving training, go to http://www.redcross.org. Training and training materials will be provided. Free-will donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Rick Luckman, Athletic Director, at 717-231-7042. The York Catholic High School is offering students a chance to earn scholarship dollars at their Open House on Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m. The event will be open to students in grades 9–12. There will be a tour of the campus, informational sessions available, and a chance to speak with staff and students. A second grade teacher position will be available at Lebanon Catholic School beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The school is in search of former staff and students so they can be a part of the school's history and contribute to the students’ learning experiences.

**Fundraisers and Events**

The CCW of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 2 N. 8 St., Lebanon, will host a Fall Luncheon on Sunday, September 11 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the gym and playground yard, located at 2 N. 8 St., Lebanon. For more information, call Kate Etter at 717-490-4804. Live music, food available for purchase and new this year, craft vendors.

**Catholics United for the Poor**

The Crosiers of St. Joseph, 1705 Grandview Rd. at 5th, in Carlisle, will host a Fall Auction on Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. in the Parish Center. The event will be open to the public. All items will be sold and accept cash or check only. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 717-243-6544. In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Perpetual Help Grotto at Lebanon Medical Center, Father William Casey, CPM, will lead Eucharistic Devotions May 1-3, in the Lebanon Catholic School auditorium at 6:30 p.m. in the Holy Spirit Hospital auditorium, located at 503 N. 21st St., Lebanon. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.DeloneCatholic.org. One winner will be chosen.

**Free Opportunities**

St. Richard Parish in Manheim is seeking a paid youth education assistant to work part-time each week and requires a mature, professional, responsible, committed individual with excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills. The position is listed in one of the following: areas: organ, piano, voice, or choral direction. This position will maintain a professional relationship with the pastor, the members of the choir, parishioners, and members of the Liturgy Committee. In order to motivate volunteers to maintain their companionship, the children will be formed in the understanding of the faith, their names will be engraved on plaques that will be given to the school. The school is in search of former staff and students so they can be a part of the school’s history and contribute to the students’ learning experiences.

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Sisters Celebrate Jubilees

The annual diocesan Mass celebrating religious Sisters’ jubilees of their profession took place at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on April 2, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. The jubilarians were honored in a particular way for their dedication to religious life, joined by members of their community.


Right: Christian Charity Sister Annelyth Pandi, listens prayerfully to the Gospel Reading from Mark, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”

This Year’s Jubilarians

55 Years
Sister Mary Pius of the Eucharist, OP

50 Years
Sister Evelyn Danks, SSJ
Sister Susan Wagaman, SSJ
Sister Susan Marie Kuk, IHM
Sister Elizabeth Anne Motz, IHM
Sister M. Judith Tarozzi, DM
Sister Shawn Donnelly, SCC
Sister Justina Lanasa, SCC

45 Years
Sister Catherine Marie McCaffrey, SCC
Sister M. Rosaline Marx, SCC
Sister Anna Ballak, SCC
Sister Rosalie Marx, SCC
Sister Colette Tenley, ASC

40 Years
Sister M. Carol Therese Stoika, SCCM
Sister Mary Pius of the Eucharist, OP
Sister Bernice Marie Balint, SSCM
Sister M. Janet Mofak, SSCM
Sister Florence Marcin, SSCM
Sister Annie Marie Meadowcroft, ASC
Sister Celeste Marie Kenney, SSCM
Sister A. Lincoln.

35 Years
Sister Eileen Marie McGowan, UM
Sister Jean Marie Holup, SSCM
Sister A. Lincoln.

30 Years
Sister Beatrice Kellet, SCC
Sister Carmella Smith, SCC
Sister M. Janet Mofak, SSCM
Sister Colette Tenley, ASC
Sister Helen Pandi, ASC
Sister M. Rosamund Dupock, SSCM
Sister Rosalie Marx, SCC
Sister Anna Ballak, SCC

25 Years
Sister Maria Joseph of the Sacred Heart, OP
Sister Bernice Marie Balint, SSCM
Sister M. Janet Mofak, SSCM
Sister Florence Marcin, SSCM
Sister A. Lincoln.

20 Years
Sister A. Lincoln.

15 Years
Sister Theresa Schonbrun, DM
Sister Elizabeth Anne Motz, IHM
Sister Susan Marie Kuk, IHM
Sister Justina Lanasa, SCC
Sister Shawn Donnelly, SCC
Sister Colette Tenley, ASC
Sister A. Lincoln.

10 Years
Sister Justina Lanasa, SCC
Sister Shawn Donnelly, SCC
Sister A. Lincoln.

5 Years
Sister M. Judith Tarozzi, DM
Sister Shawn Donnelly, SCC
Sister A. Lincoln.

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This Year’s Jubilarians

Lincoln

Continued from 7

As Mary walked to the gallows, she saw the freshly dug graves by the platform. She lost her composure and fainted. Two soldiers carried her up the steps to her pending doom.

“Shall I say something?” she asked Father Walter as she came to. The priest told her that it would do no good, but she persisted.

“I am innocent, but God’s will be done!” she exclaimed. She kissed the priest’s crucifix and soon the floor gave way, snapping her neck.

Not so fortunate was Lewis Payne, who had stabbed Secretary of State William Henry Seward, but he remarkably survived the deep gash to the throat. Payne twisted and struggled for more than five minutes as the noose was not tight enough to kill him quickly. Instead, the conspirator grotesquely gasped for air, bumping into Mary’s limp body in the torrid heat.

By September, John had fled to England and then onto Rome, where he joined the protecting police guard called the Papal Zouaves at the Vatican. There only a couple of months, officials learned that he had an outstanding arrest warrant out for his part in the Lincoln Assassination. John quickly escaped to Alexandria, Egypt, where he was soon captured and extradited to the United States to face trial.

This trial, though, would be conducted in civilian court where witnesses were not limited and the burden of guilt was much higher. After some 170 witnesses by the government and defense, the jury deadlocked and a mistrial was declared by August 10, 1867. He languished in prison until the next summer when he was freed as government prosecutors lost heart in convening a new trial as the country also was in the mood to move on from this sad chapter.

He soon took a job as a teacher in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and then moved to Rockville, Maryland, where he joined the protecting police guard called the Papal Zouaves at the Vatican. There only a couple of months, officials learned that he had an outstanding arrest warrant out for his part in the Lincoln Assassination. John quickly escaped to Alexandria, Egypt, where he was soon captured and extradited to the United States to face trial.

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He soon took a job as a teacher in Rockville, Maryland, and then moved to Emmitsburg, where he taught several years at St. Joseph’s Catholic School. In 1872, he married Mary Victorine Hunter, and together they had seven children as they settled for good in Baltimore. In 1916, outliving all other Booth conspirators, he died of pneumonia at age 73 on April 21 and after a Mass of Christian Burial, he was interred in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore, a far cry from the crudely dug grave his mother was buried in 51 years earlier.

John Surratt gave several lectures explaining his role in the Lincoln Assassination. He drew large crowds who paid fifty cents to attend his talks, at which he argued that he never knew of a plot to kill Lincoln and that the conspirators’ only goal was to kidnap Lincoln and hand him over to the Confederate government. And when the attempt in March 1865 failed, it was Surratt who told a table surrounded by conspirators at his mother’s boarding house that any plot was useless and that they had better cease any planning for fear of being caught.

“Everyone seemed to coincide with my opinion,” Surratt told his lecture listeners. “Except Booth, who sat silent and abstracted. Arising at last and bringing his fist upon the table, he said, “Well gentlemen, if the worst comes to the world, I shall know what to do.””

Writer’s Note:
Those interested in the dark history of the Lincoln Assassination are blessed in a singular way as new books featuring outstanding scholarship continue to be beautifully written and ably published by publishers willing to feed Lincoln junkies. *Fortune’s Fool*, by Terry Alford, is a superb new biography of John Wilkes Booth. Not since 1929, have we had a biography devoted to this troubled actor turned killer. Given academic Mr. Alford spent 25 years assembling sources for this book, it is well worth the careful read. Another great new book is *Lincoln’s Final Hours* by Kathryn Canavan, who’s a journalist that knows how to research and write in a fascinating manner. No mention of Lincoln’s Assassination can omit historian Edward Steers Jr., whose *Blood on the Moon and Lincoln’s Assassination* are gems, as well is his tome *The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia*. The 1892, *The Assassination of Lincoln: A History of the Great Conspiracy* by T.M. Harris is a rare book to have in your hands. It has primary source assassination material this writer relishes as much as he does A. Lincoln.


Right: Christian Charity Sister Annelyth Pandi, listens prayerfully to the Gospel Reading from Mark, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”