Father Daniel J. Menniti, a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg for more than 61 years, passed away on April 9 after a short illness. He was 86. In his retirement in active ministry, he had been residing in Carlisle.

The funeral Mass was to be celebrated April 17 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Church in Carlisle by Bishop Ronald Gainer. Burial was to be in St. Patrick’s Cemetery on McClure’s Gap Road.

Father William Forrey, pastor of St. Patrick’s, expressed his gratitude for Father Menniti’s generosity in consistently serving the faithful even in his retirement years.

“He was an incredible gift and asset to the people of St. Patrick’s,” Father Forrey told The Catholic Witness. “He would celebrate daily Masses, as well as weddings and baptisms. Not only did he help out at St. Patrick’s, but he was always generous with his priestly ministry to any pastor that needed coverage. Even on his death bed, he apologized that he wasn’t able to help out with his latest commitment.

“I will always appreciate his willingness to help celebrate the sacraments wherever and whenever he was needed. He was consistently generous with his priestly gifts,” he said. Daniel Menniti was born Sept. 11, 1928, to Mose and Rosina Menniti of Mount Carmel. He attended the Catholic Slovak Elementary School, and Catholic secondary schools in Mount Carmel, and studied at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained into the priesthood on Dec. 19, 1953.

In 1954, Father Menniti completed his Licentiate in Sacred Theology and

Pope: Year of Mercy Will be Time to Heal, to Help, to Forgive

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Mercy is what makes God perfect and all-powerful, Pope Francis said in his document officially proclaiming the 2015-2016 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

“If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected,” the pope wrote in “Misericordiae Vultus,” (“The Face of Mercy”), which is the “bull of indiction” calling a Holy Year to begin Dec. 8.

Standing in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica April 11, Pope Francis handed copies of the document to the archpriests of the major basilicas of Rome and to Vatican officials representing Catholics around the world.

Portions of the 9,300-word proclamation were read aloud before Pope Francis and his aids processed into St. Peter’s Basilica to celebrate the first vespers of Divine Mercy Sunday.

In his homily at vespers, the pope said he proclaimed the Year of Mercy because “it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.”

The boundless nature of God’s mercy — his willingness always to forgive anything —
World Youth Day 2016 in Poland
Will Offer ‘Message of Mercy’

By Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

A new airport, improved road and rail links, a fleet of dream buses and ‘Youth Bible’ are among features projected for the Catholic Church’s 14th international celebration of World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, in 2016.

“It’s still 16 months to go, but the planning is well advanced,” said Msgr. Bronislaw Fidelus, a co-organizer of the event scheduled for July 26-Aug. 1.

“There’s huge interest abroad, and we’ve already registered large Church groups from the U.S., Europe and Latin America. We’re sure the theme of Divine Mercy, chosen specially by the pope, will create a real openness to Christ among young participants,” Msgr. Fidelus said.

World Youth Day organizers expect the 13th international event will attract more than 2 million people from around the world.

Msgr. Fidelus said the program was approved March 13 by a Vatican delegation under Cardinal Stanislaw Ryylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, adding that the Polish church counted on Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, adding that the Polish church counted on Stepin on the five-day event to renew the faith among young Catholics everywhere.

Meanwhile, a Krakow official said work was underway to expand the city’s communication and transport network and road and rail links with Europe as well as to renovate local schools to accommodate pilgrims. “Having hosted several pilgrimages by the late St. John Paul II to his home city, Krakow is well equipped and prepared for large-scale events like this,” Filip Szatanik, spokesman for the Krakow City Council, told Catholic News Service.

“It’s also a great church city, full of sacral buildings and objects and closely linked to Poland’s Christian history. We can count especially on this side of its character to make this a major promotional opportunity,” he said.

Launched by St. John Paul II in 1985, World Youth Day is celebrated annually on a local level and every two or three years with an international gathering with the pope.

Krakow was announced as the 2016 venue by Pope Francis at the last World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

World Youth Day will have the theme, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7), and will follow April 2016 church-state celebrations of the 1,050th anniversary of Poland’s Christian conversion.

Pope Francis is scheduled to lead a televised Way of the Cross procession from the city’s Divine Mercy Sanctuary, followed by a prayer vigil on youth issues near the Wieliczka Salt Mine, and a final Mass in Krakow’s Blonia Park.

The World Youth Day website said the festival would feature a tent museum with Vatican exhibits and concerts and exhibitions at more than 100 locations, as well as “wayside catechesis” sessions in 30 languages and a “reconciliation zone” with several hundred confessors.

It added that Poland’s 16 archdioceses and 28 dioceses had so far pledged accommodation for 373,000 foreign visitors, and said the organizing committee had been asked to add canoe trips and mountain hikes to enable foreign pilgrims to sample the life of St. John Paul II, who was archbishop of Krakow from 1964 to 1978.

Pope Francis also has been invited to visit Wadowice, where John Paul II was born, in 1920, during his visit.

Organizers said the “Youth Bible,” under preparation at the Catholic University of Lublin, would present the New Testament in contemporary language without “archaic expressions.”

They added that the “virtual prayer marathon,” launched March 13, would enable young Christians to show where they were “praying to change the world,” or requesting prayers, by clicking on a website, www.mayfeelings.com/prayforwyd.

Beginning in July, a fleet of yellow “dream buses,” chartered by young Catholics at Poland’s Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Marian sanctuary, is to travel throughout Europe to publicize the celebration.

Meanwhile, a World Youth Day cross, made in 1983, has been taken to the Jasna Gora national sanctuary and the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. It was to tour Poland until the festival.

Father Tomasz Kijowski, World Youth Day spokesman, predicted the event would also have an “activating effect” on young people in Poland.

“The young have been leaving the Church here – we need some shock, some impulse, to halt and reverse this trend,” Father Kijowski told KAI, Poland’s Catholic information agency.

“I wouldn’t want to suggest we’re working out some vision for a Christian Poland, but we want to initiate certain processes which will continue after the World Youth Day, instead of ending when the pope flies out.”

World Youth Day
Krakow, Poland
July 23-August 1, 2016

“A retreat experience in Poland July 24-26

- Czestochowa, home of the Pauline Monastery on top of Jasna Gora Mountain and the image of Our Lady known as the Black Madonna
- Auschwitz, the Nazi Concentration Camp and the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Auschwitz II, where Edith Stein was put to death for being born Jewish and joining the Catholic Church
- Lagiewniki, home of St. Faustina’s Shrine of Divine Mercy
- Wadowice, the birthplace of St. John Paul II
- Wieliczka, the site of the Underground Salt Cathedral

World Youth Day in Krakow July 26-31 with Pope Francis

- Daily Mass and catechesis sessions
- Tours of historical sites, cultural programs and exhibitions
- Walking tours of Krakow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II
- Stations of the Cross and the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Prayer services and addresses by the Holy Father
- World Youth Day Vigil Mass with Pope Francis, and an overnight camp out
- Sending Forth Mass with the Holy Father and clergy from around the world

Cost is $3,949 per person (does not include WYD fees or travel insurance), based on two or three persons per room.

For more information, a complete itinerary and a payment schedule, contact Virginia Pereira at 717-657-4804, ext. 327, or vpereira@hbgdioce.org, or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/.

Local World Youth Day Events Open to All

WYD 2016 Kick-Off Mass, and One Year until the WYD Papal Mass, to include Catholic Youth Experience (CYX)
August 1, 2015, at 10 a.m., at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg

World Youth Day Catechesis Sessions
December 5, 2015
March 5, 2016
June 11, 2016
Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg
Catechesis sessions from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

World Youth Day Send Off Mass
July 16, 2016, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg
Mass at 10 a.m., followed by a gathering

Stateside Vigil and WYD Mass
July 30-31, 2016
Lancaster Catholic High School
Catholic Parish Helps Immigrants of All Faiths in Berks County

From the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

“It’s important for a parish to recognize the needs of the community and respond to it. In the Reading area, there is a large immigrant community. I was hearing from people – Catholics and non-Catholics – who were looking for language classes to help them better integrate into society,” said Father Andriy Rabiy, Pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Parish.

Father Rabiy recognized that the language barrier faced by many immigrants limits their ability to work and support their families and make connections with people in the community.

Relying on the talents of Emlyn Jones, a parishioner who had taught English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for 30 years, the people of the parish began to host regular ESL classes for residents of Reading, regardless of their faith. Perhaps because many of the families in this predominately Ukrainian parish recognized a connection with these immigrant families, the people of the parish were overwhelmingly supportive, donating to purchase books so that the classes could be provided free of charge. The Nativity ESL classes are offered in two tiers, introductory and intermediate, and have hosted up to 10 students per class.

The ESL classes aren’t the only way Nativity parish has supported the community. In nearby Leesport, the parish offers services for im-
migrants.

The Department of Homeland Security, which runs the center, asked the parish to help a woman from Ukraine with two children who was seeking asylum status. The parish again recognized a sister-in-need, and responded by helping with translation, donating clothing and food, and finding the family legal services and housing. She has since been approved to work in this country.

The facility has contacted the parish to work with other people from Eastern European countries when they arrive in Berks County.

“Are helping people who are distressed. They are right here in our community, and we have a calling to help our brothers and sisters in need, regardless of their religion,” said Father Rabiy.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Reading is just one example of how the more than 1,000 Catholic parishes across the state offer support and assistance to their local community. Others provide food pantries, clothing drives, and emergency assistance, among many other community services.

For more information about Nativity Parish, visit their website or Facebook page. See more at: http://www.pacatholic.org/catholic-parish-helps-immigrants-of-all-faiths-in-berks-county-5.html.


Catholic Parish Helps Immigrants of All Faiths in Berks County

Job Opening: Secretary for Catholic Life and Evangelization

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking an experienced leader, with a passion for mission, to direct the ministries and apostolates within the Secretariat for Catholic Life & Evangelization.

The Secretary is responsible for directing the offices within the Secretariat in continuing the mission of Jesus Christ through the promotion of catechesis, evangelization, spiritual growth and providing opportunities for the faithful to live out their faith. The Secretary is responsible for building and developing a vibrant, Christ-centered, mission-driven team who can assist pastors in providing invigorating programs which meet the needs of the faithful of the diocese. The Secretary is responsible for Family Ministries, Ministry to People with Disabilities, Youth & Young Adult Ministry including CYO and Scouting, Hospital and Prison Ministries and Hispanic/Vietnamese/Korean/Black Catholic Apostles.

Requirements:

• Be a practicing Catholic with an outgoing, self-motivated personality
• A consistent prayer life and established communication skills
• Master’s Degree in Theology or related field preferred
• Prior management, supervisory and administrative experience required.
• Parish and/or Diocesan experience desired.

Benefits:

• A full-time position with a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package that includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance and a 401K plan.

To apply, please forward your résumé and a cover letter that includes your vision for evangelization in a Catholic parish to employment@hbgdiocese.org.

Closing date for applications FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2015

Principal Opportunities in Harrisburg Diocesan Schools For 2015-2016

St. Columba, Bloomsburg (PreK-3) www.saintcolumbaschool.org

Anunciation, McSherrystown (K-5) 8 www.abvmoschool.org

Minimum Qualifications:

• Practicing, knowledgeable Catholic
• Thorough understanding of Catholic School Philosophy
• Commitment to modeling the values of Catholic Educational Leadership
• PA Administrators Certificate (or in process)
• Catechetical Certification (or in process)
• 3 years of teaching experience

Preferred Qualifications:

• 3 years of Administrative experience
• Catechetical Certification (or in process)
• Master’s Degree in Educational Administration

Desirable Leadership Characteristics:

• Experience at marketing, recruitment, and fiscal management
• Collaborative leadership style with good interpersonal and team-building skills
• Oral and written communication and motivational skills
• Experience in instructional leadership, curriculum development, teacher supervision, and effective instruction
• Knowledge and application of instructional technology
• Ability to effectively represent the school and the Church

Send résumé and letter of interest to:

Livia Riley
Superintendent of Schools
diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804, ext. 222
Email: lriley@hbgdiocese.org

Position Available:

Associate Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, Millersville University

Help College Students Live Their Catholic Faith

Catholic Campus Ministry at Millersville University is seeking an Associate Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, a full-time, ten-month professional position. Needed to assist the Director of Catholic Campus Ministry in leading our Christ-centered and growing Catholic Campus Ministry. Responsibilities include: creating innovative ways to bring people together; responding to inquiries about the Catholic faith; providing opportunities for young adult faith formation; attending weekly campus Mass and coordinating the liturgical leadership team; providing pastoral care for students; coordinating annual retreats; mentoring and guiding the student Leadership Team. We offer competitive salary and benefits. This position requires fully initiated active member of the Catholic Church. Preferred candidates will have previous experience in youth/young adult ministry and a strong academic background in a related field. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter by Friday, May 18 to: employment@hbgdiocese.org.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

April 17–18 – Installation of Lector and Acolyte, Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

April 19 – Celebrant and Homilist at Annual Mass for Catholic Scouting, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.

April 20 – Celebrant and Homilist at 90th Annual Convention of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.

April 24 – Confirmation, St. Catherine Laboure Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

April 25 – Confirmation, St. John the Baptist Church, New Freedom, 10 a.m.

April 26 – Celebrant and Homilist for 130th Anniversary of the Knights of Saint Paul, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, York, 9 a.m.

April 28 – Confirmation, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 7 p.m.

April 30 – Confirmation, St. Leo the Great Church, Rohrerstown, 7 p.m.

May 1 – Confirmation, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lewistown, 7 p.m.

May 2 – Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, Selinsgrove, 1 a.m.; Main Celebrant and Homilist at Floral Offertory to Mary (Vietnamese Community), Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

April 17, 2015 • 8 Catholic Witness - 3
Salvatorians are called by God to be apostles for our times, making the Savior known to all people. Priests and Brothers are making a significant difference in the world by living as apostles in today’s culture, following the charism of Father Francis Jordan as they minister, and proclaiming that Jesus is Savior. They collaborate internationally with their Salvatorian Family of Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Lay members to fulfill their mission.

The Salvatorians are making a mark by the dynamic way they proclaim the Gospel, and with their welcoming spirit of hospitality. The Salvatorians are a beacon of light in the Church and the world, as dynamic teams from all branches of the Family work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation. Inclusivity is a hallmark of the Society. Bridges of justice and peace are built within and beyond the Salvatorian community so that more people may know the goodness and kindness of Jesus the Savior.

Salvatorian priests and brothers are members of the Society of the Divine Savior, a Catholic religious community founded in 1881. Our priests and brothers carry the Word of God all over the globe, ministering wherever there is a need: parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and communities under duress. The U.S.A. Province is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and international headquarters are in Rome.

(Information provided by the United States Province. Visit http://www.salvatorians.com/)
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Did You Know…
1. 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 dioceses is doing to prevent child sexual abuse.
2. 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 continuously to reflect the ongoing commitment of the bishops.
3. The Charter directs action in all the following areas:
   - Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors
   - Making prompt and effective response to allegations
   - 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 Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board
4. The Youth Protection Program of the Diocese of Harrisburg already met or exceeded many of the newly updated Pennsylvania Child Protection Status Standards. Where needed, our program is being updated to fully comply with all state laws.
5. The Charter calls for annual audits of diocesan institutions, which continue to comply with the requirements outlined in the Charter.

The High Return on Education Tax Credits

By A.B. Hill
Special to The Witness

Savvy investors do their homework. Before buying stock they research a company’s track record. Is the company making sales? Expanding its market? Are customers satisfied? They will research a company’s track record. Is the company a cosponsor of HB 752 and a champion of the school choice that the EITC and OSTC are making a difference.” Turzai is representative to cosponsor the bill. “By expanding the choice and the opportunity to participate in innovative education programs proven worthy of investment.

Providing a quality education for our children is the most critical investment we can make for our future. As Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for Pennsylvania’s lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan. The longstanding EITC program has given more than 2 million dollars in tax credits to over 400,000 students in Pennsylvania. The EITC to $170 million and OSTC to $80 million. “Both programs are funded by companies that contribute to scholarship organizations in exchange for a tax credit. The longest a company can get a tax credit is four years. That provides funding to more than 450,000 scholarships to help students attend the school of their choice, including Catholic schools. The three-year-old OSTC program has given more than 800,000 scholarships to students.

EITC tax credits are often depleted on the first day of the school year. Companies can earn back the money they put into the EITC and OSTC programs, my bill will allow even more children to benefit. But if you invest in companies that are making a difference, you will be helping to change the lives of children and their families.”

There is strong bipartisan support for expanding EITC and OSTC. Senator Jay Costa (D-Allegheny), Democratic Leader, called the expansion of the tax credit programs a “win-win.” At a luncheon in Pittsburgh he told EITC supporters, “This is more of a program to benefit students and the business community. It’s not full-blown school choice. It’s providing options and programs for some students.”

A generation of students who went to the school of their choice with EITC scholarships have demonstrated its success track record. Catholic schools are the largest group of non-public schools in Pennsylvania. Most Catholic high schools boast graduation rates at or near 100%. Of those graduates, over 90% go on to attend either a two or four-year institute of higher learning. OSTC scholarship students will soon live up to their peers. These “customers” – our students and their parents – are indeed satisfied. Senate Majority Leader John Bruncati (D-Montgomery) said, “It is a program that benefits our children. Financial realities often preclude parents from having that choice. Parents who pay their school taxes deserve some benefit from those taxes, in the form of some assistance in the exercise of their right to choose a nonpublic school, if that is best for their children. EITC and OSTC are making a difference for many families and for our communities. It is a smart investment to allow more to have that choice.”

Urge your legislator to “invest in success” by cosponsoring and voting in favor of House Bill 752. Use the Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network at www.pacatholic.org to send your message today.
When married couples reach a significant milestone anniversary of their wedded life together, it’s quite common for people of younger generations to ask them the secret to a long and happy marriage.

Invariably, answers such as “love,” “communication” and “trust” come to the forefront. Fred tells the story, “Our first anniversary was approaching, and friends and family naturally started asking when a baby would come. Well, a baby did come, but it wasn’t our baby. Libby’s parents had a baby boy a year after we were married!”

FRED AND LIBBY continued living with her family for a few more years, and remained childless during that time. Then an acquaintance offered that the couple could rent his mother’s former house for $15 a month. The small home in Windsor had a barn and a garage on four acres of land nestled along a creek. But it lacked an indoor bathroom, and what water the home did have often came in the form of a flooded basement from the creek.

“Now woman in her right mind would have come with me into this house, but she did,” Fred smiled at his wife.

They made the house their lifelong home, and raised the children that were born there: Steve in 1950, Michael in 1951, Ann in 1952, David in 1955 and Donald in 1957.

The children brought joy to Libby, who relished her role as a housewife, and to Fred, who took a job at Caterpillar, from where he would retire 33 years later.

“But life wasn’t always sunshine and happiness,” Fred pointed out.

The Steinfeld’s third child, David, died of leukemia when he was five years old. The utter heartache and grief of watching a child struggle with a terminal illness, and of burying him laid an unspeakably heavy toll on the family. Today, Fred swallows hard when he thinks of David’s illness and death, and says that they relied heavily on their faith to maneuver through those dark days.

After some time passed following David’s death, the Steinfelds opened their home to become foster parents for an infant girl, who, at just a few months old, had already been in several foster homes.

“We were happy to help care for her,” Libby said. “She was family to us for the year or two that we had her. It was difficult for all of us when the foster care agency came to take her to a permanent place, but we knew that would happen one day. We never did get to find out what became of her, but we were happy that we were able to help her when she needed us.”

Bringing happiness and extending Christian welcome to others has been a staple in the Steinfelds’ lives. After their children – who attended St. Joseph School – married and moved away, Fred spent five years in his retirement delivering mail at the Red Lion Senior Center. He thoroughly enjoyed the friendships he developed there, and would have continued longer in that role if not for health reasons.

“I cried when I had to quit there, because I learned a lot about the people living there, and I know they appreciated me, even if I just stopped in to say hello, or to fill their water pitchers or sweep their floor.”

Over the years, Fred has recovered from knee replacement surgery and cancer, and Libby has managed through back pain. Yet, they’ve always found a way to bring joy into the lives of others.

The couple is well known in the York County area for the variety shows that they would present to church groups, mother-daughter gatherings, senior centers and anniversary or birthday parties. Armed with a tape recorder playing tunes and a bag full of hand-made props – puppets, oversized cardboard birthday cakes and marionettes – Fred and Libby offered programs that included songs, stories and skits.

Their only desire was to see smiles on the faces of the people for whom they performed.

“God gave me the ideas to make up these programs, and so I felt it was my duty to use them to make other people happy,” Fred remarked.

Even to this day, Fred said he’d be happy to put on those programs again if he could. And in small ways, he does, showing a marionette named Maria to the youngest generation of his family. The extended Steinfeld family gathers routinely to celebrate holidays and birthdays, and to spend time on Sunday afternoons.

“We have such a loving family, and I know God has blessed us in that way,” Fred said. “Libby and I have been through happy times and sad times, but we got through even the rough patches because we always took care of each other. We kept the promises we made 70 years ago.”

— Fred Steinfeld, age 91

“Libby and I have been through happy times and sad times, but we got through even the rough patches because we always took care of each other. We kept the promises we made 70 years ago.”

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Sacred Heart.”

dead. And when, one after the other, we shall have on all of its members, absent and present, living and

alas and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family

als and the joys and all the happiness in our family
Celebrating 65 Years of Priesthood, Father Sempko Reflects on Faith Foundation

By Jen Reed

**The Catholic Witness**

In his 65 years as a priest serving the Church of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Father Walter Sempko has cultivated the faith lives of countless men, women, children, clergy and religious as a pastor and a chaplain. He’s also facilitated an annual pilgrimage to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, a monthly Mass in the Polish language, and a Rosary prayer group that meets every four weeks to pray for peace.

On March 25 of this year – the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord – Father Sempko, 91, marked the 65th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, a life of service in which “God has given me abundant grace and joy in caring for my people,” he reflected in an interview on Easter Monday from his apartment at the Priests’ Retirement Residence in Harrisburg.

And to think, that “yes” to God was first articulated in a high school writing assignment.

In 1941 at Kulpmont High School, Walter Sempko and his senior classmates were given their social studies teacher, Miss Pearl: What do you plan to do after graduation?

As he contemplated, images of his devout parents, support-  ive priests and religious sisters, and memories of accompanying the organism to sing during daily Mass at St. Casimir Church in Kulpmont came to the forefront of his mind.

Those thoughts prompted me – right then – to think seriously about a vocation to the priesthood,” Father Sempko said. “It all added up, and I put it into words in that paper. It was the first time I expressed an interest in becoming a priest.”

For Father Sempko, whose parents were from Poland, “The home was the first school.”

He was impressed by his dedication to attending devo- tions on those Wednesday evenings, how he was never too tired to go, and after pouring in a hard day’s work in the coal mines. His devotion was a real lesson for me. He preached a nicely homily through his example.

The seeds of faith that took root in the home grew and flourished for him at St. Casimir School, where he was flourished for him at St. Casimir School, where he was taught by the Bernardine Sisters. One, Sister Valenca, ap- proached him after school to give him one more fact on- fect talk: “You’re going to be a priest, aren’t you?”

Father Sempko smiles at the memory.

“I shrugged my shoulders,” he said, re-enacting the ges- ture with a gentle yet matter-of- fact tone: “You’re going to be a priest, aren’t you?”

Father Sempko says his greatest joy lies in those he instructed in the faith.

“Those whom I had the privilege to instruct – and God has sus is the Prince of Peace, and they’re an excellent team we can come from God through the intercession of Mary. They’re an excellent team we can come from God through the intercession of Mary. We are, two months from ordination, oral exams are com- ing up in February, and we have to schedule a wedding. Treat, contact the chalice maker, and arrange for holy cards, invitations, caterers and a social hall.”

Father Sempko was given his first assignment as pastor, at Our Lady of Mercy in Roaring Creek. He would go on to serve as pastor of St. Joseph’s in Milton, the former St. John the Evangelist in Enfield, and St. Jo- seph’s in Danville. In 1983, he began a 15-year ministry as chaplain of the former Villa Teresa Nursing Home in Harrisburg. He retired in 1989 to St. Cecilia’s in Lebanon, and lived there for eight and a half years, until recuperation from open heart surgery prompted him to move to the Priests’ Retirement Residence in Harrisburg.

Father Sempko remains active in his retirement. He continues to coordinate a monthly Mass celebrated in the Polish language at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Har- risburg. Starting the third week of every month, he’s a bishop in since 1988, when the former priest who regularly celebrated the Mass, Msgr. Matthias Siedlecki, was no longer able to do so because of health reasons.

“It’s important that Masses can be offered where people can meditate and participate in their native language,” Fa- ther Sempko said.

Father Sempko also initiated the annual Pilgrimage for World Peace through Conversion of Heart, held on the first Sunday of August at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, Md. Now approaching its 28th year, the annual pilgrimage was initiated by Father Sempko following visits he made in 1988, 1989 and 1990 with various groups to Medjugorje, the site of alleged Marian apparitions. Facilitated by several clergy over the past 28 years, the pilgrimage draws as many as 250 people to the grotto in Emmitsburg to pray for world peace that can come from God through the intercession of Mary. Prayers for peace are also offered through the Rosary prayer group that meets with Father Sempko and other re- tired priests at the Retirement Residence every four Mon- days at 11:30 a.m. The group of men and women pray in the chapel there, dedicating themselves to pray for peace throughout the world.

“The world needs peace. Mary is the Queen of Peace, Je- sus is the Prince of Peace, and they’re an excellent team we must approach and ask for this wonderful gift we need,” Father Sempko said.

In all his ministries throughout these past 65, Father Sempko says his greatest joy lies in those he instructed in the faith.

“My greatest joy comes when I think of those people whom I taught, and who entered the Church,” he said. “Those whom I had the privilege to instruct – and God has called some of them home – I pray for the happy repose of their souls. I do as happy, he said with a wry smile, “they don’t forget about me in my work down here.”

---

**Ordinations to Diaconate and Priesthood**

With praise and gratitude to Almighty God, the Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the ordinations of

Steven John Arena
Samuel Isaiah Dubois
John Michael Kuchinski
Richard Joseph Mowery
Brian Thomas Olskowski

To the Order of Diaconate

Order of the Diaconate

Through the imposition of hands by his Excellency, the Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

The Cathedral of Saint Patrick 212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA

With praise and gratitude to Almighty God, the Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the ordinations of

Donald Haugh Bender, Jr.
Ryan Michael Fischer
Matthew Robert Larlick
Samuel Isaiah Dubois

To the Order of the Presbyterate

Ordination to the Priesthood

Through the imposition of hands by his Excellency, the Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

The Cathedral of Saint Patrick 212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA
Divine Redeemer Parish Partners to Open Center of Service in Honor of Mother Maria Kaupas

Facility Aims to Connect Laity with Faith in Action

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas, the Lithuania-born religious sister who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Casimir and ministered in Mount Carmel in the early 1900s, returned in spirit to the coal region on Divine Mercy Sunday, as a center for community service was dedicated in her name.

The Mother Maria Kaupas Center, which will officially open on July 1 of this year, is located at 412 West Avenue in Mount Carmel, in the site of the former St. Peter’s Convent.

The center will house spiritual and charitable initiatives and programs that will give parishioners, Confirmation candidates and college students an opportunity to become immersed in service projects.

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the dedication ceremony on April 12, following a Mass at the nearby Divine Redeemer Church, a parish formed 20 years ago by the consolidation of Our Mother of Consolation, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter, St. Paul and Holy Cross. It was at Holy Cross Parish and School that Mother Maria Kaupas and her congregation served 108 years ago.

“I am honored to have this opportunity to be here for this new initiative,” Bishop Gainer said during the dedication ceremony. “We pray that what we begin today will certainly have God’s blessing, and, through the intercession of Mother Maria, that many, many good benefits will come here, both to the believing communities here in the region, and also to the community in general, that this might be a place where good works will abound, and where God’s blessing and God’s mercy will be experienced through the initiatives here at the Mother Maria Kaupas Center.”

The dedication ceremony was attended by representatives of the Sisters of St. Casimir, the Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius, the Felician Sisters and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, local sisters and representatives from Bucknell University and Holy Cross. It was at Holy Cross Parish and School that Mother Maria Kaupas and her congregation served 108 years ago.

“Here we are in 2015, eight of us Sisters of St. Casimir, reflected on a day in the 1980s when she came to Mount Carmel to see the first mission of the community. While she walked down the street with another member of her community, women opened their windows and shouted, ‘The sisters are back!'”

“It was such a delightful, spontaneous, joyful greeting, and one that I have never forgotten,” she told those gathered.

“Here we are in 2015, eight of us Sisters of St. Casimir, coming back and experiencing that same warm hospitality, spontaneity and joy among you,” she continued. “As we gather on this special day to dedicate the Mother Maria Kaupas Center, I hope that each of us can hear in our hearts those same words that Mother Maria heard when she came here: My love has gathered you here.”

“The Mother Maria Kaupas Center will serve as a place where people will come to know and be inspired by Mother Maria’s life and spirit, her tremendous faith and courage that sustained her in all the circumstances of her life,” she said. “It will be a place where people can continue to discern God’s presence in their own lives. And we are especially pleased that the center will be so welcoming to young people who are searching for something deeper on which to build their lives.”

Father Martin Moran, pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish and former Executive Director of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association, said the impetus behind the Mother Maria Kaupas Center is to connect the laity with ways of putting faith into action while modeling the ministries of the religious communities who have and continue to build the local Church.

“We see this center as a ministry of our parish, as lay persons continuing the ministry and charisms of many of the religious congregations that once served in our area,” he said. “So instead of becoming affiliates of religious communities, we have started a new chapter in recognizing the works these religious communities did in the past and in continuing their work as lay persons working to better our local community and Mount Carmel and the surrounding area.”

“We also see the importance of sustaining and cultivating strong, intentional pathways for our young people, from high school to college and back to the parish as priests, consecrated religious, married and single lay persons serving within the Church,” Father Moran said.

Mother Maria’s Footsteps

Mother Maria Kaupas was born Casimira Kaupas in Ramygala, Lithuania, in 1880. In 1897, she came to Scranton, Pa., to serve as a housekeeper for her brother, Father Anthony Kaupas, who was pastor of St. Joseph Parish. Young Casimira was soon inspired by the religious sisters she encountered, and was sympathetic to the needs of the Lithuanian immigrants she met. She returned to Lithuania and began to discern a vocation to religious life.

Father Kaupas encouraged his sister to pursue a venture that would educate the children of Lithuanian immigrants and help preserve their native language and customs. In 1905, Casimira returned to Pennsylvania with two companions: Judith Drzemaus- kas and Antanija Ungaraitis. Bishop John W. Shanahan of the Diocese of Harrisburg agreed to sponsor the new congregation, and he made arrangements for the three young women to enter the novitiate of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for their preparation for religious life.
HEALING CENTER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On Aug. 30, 1907, Mother Maria Kaupas, Mother Immaculata Dvaranauskas and Mother Concepta Ungaraitis made their profession of vows, and the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Casimir was formed, named after the patron saint of Lithuania.

The sisters set out to minister in Catholic education, and they taught at Holy Cross School in Mount Carmel. In 1911, they established their motherhouse in Chicago to tend to the large Lithuanian population there. Mother Maria sent the sisters to teach in parishes across the United States and assisted in establishing a foundation of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania. In 1928, the congregation began its health care ministry, opening Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago.

Mother Maria was diagnosed with cancer in 1933. She died on April 17, 1940, at the age of 60. At the time of her death, the community she founded had started schools in New Mexico and was preparing to expand to Argentina.

Today, the Sisters of St. Casimir minister in Chicago and in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas and Argentina. In addition to their ministries in Chicago, the Sisters of St. Casimir sponsor a high school in Pennsylvania (Villa Joseph Marie), minister at Lake Michigan Catholic Middle/High School in St. Joseph, Mich., are on staff at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, and minister in Argentina. They serve in education, health care and other ministries which reflect the spirit and vision of their foundress.

On July 1, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI recognized the heroic virtues of Mother Maria Kaupas, declaring her Venerable. Her cause is awaiting a miracle that would lead to Beatification.

Sister Margaret Petacavage, who directs the cause for Mother Maria Kaupas, told The Catholic Witness that the cause has what is called a proposed miracle. Medical information about the alleged miraculous healing of an individual has been submitted, and it is being reviewed by doctors.

“We keep praying that we’ll know soon, and we’re hopeful for a miracle for her beatification,” she said.

“It’s truly a historic moment for all of us, to think that 108 years later, this immigrant woman, this beautiful young lady coming here at 17 as an immigrant would have achieved all of these things,” Sister Margaret said of the center’s dedication. “She had a big, loving heart, and I’m happy and proud of all that she has done for the Church and for people’s lives. You can see the welcoming spirit here, that they have benefitted from her original mission of training sisters to work, live and help others.”

“This is going to be a rejuvenation of her initial mission, and certainly her spirit is alive here. One of her quotes was ‘Always more, always better, always with love.’ That kind of sums up her whole life, and I can see that happening here,” she said.

A Place of Evangelization through Service

The Mother Maria Kaupas Center will ultimately serve as a home for several projects and programs that will benefit the community’s elderly, the sick and the home-bound, and those who are in need of food or basic home maintenance.

One prom is the “40 Miles Project” – a joint effort of Bucknell University and Divine Redemer Parish, through which college students can take part in local volunteer efforts. The center will be able to provide overnight accommodations for up to a dozen students and faculty advisors.

The project gets its name from the distance between Bucknell and Mount Carmel. Father Moran served for nine years at the university in Catholic campus ministry. Bucknell has selected three units to partner with the center: the Office of Service Learning, through which students participate in community service; Research@ Bucknell, through which faculty and interns delve into research in their field of study; and the Office of Sustainability, through which students will take part in a project that will examine ways to assist towns like Mount Carmel, which has a limited job market and whose young people therefore leave the area after graduation.

“We’ve invited the Church to a lot about the New Evangelization, but never talk about the best ways to reach our college students,” Father Moran said. “Our Catholic youth in colleges today view themselves on campus under many interests. Coming from the Catholic Campus Ministry Association as their Executive Director, I realize only a small number of our young Catholics are involved in Catholic Campus Ministry or even attend Mass on campus. However, these same students love community service, are involved in sports and special interest groups on campus, and also have a strong rapport with their faculty as interns. The past model for civic engagement between university and the local community was service learning. Today, that model has been replaced by the concept of field stations, such as what the Mother Maria Kaupas Center can provide.”

It is his intention that the center, which will have a director and a project manager as its staff, will reach out to several colleges each semester to introduce them to the service projects available in the community.

“The greatest qualification is a student’s wishing to have the experience of community service that has a built-in Catholic social thought presentation, and a theological reflection on the project and work the student accomplished,” Father Moran said of the criteria for participation. “Another qualification is a willingness to respond to Pope Francis’ call to Wake Up the World – Being Lights of Hope, through their outreach projects. And finally, a desire to help our local community continue the great vision of Mother Maria and the many other women religious who came to work in and enrich our community.”

A second element of the center will involve community outreach projects for area Confirmation students and their parents. At the center, young people and their parents can work together to initiate service opportunities, and Father Moran hopes that neighboring parishes will use the facility in this same capacity.

“The model has the Confirmation students, their pastor, their teachers and the Confirmation students’ parents developing a project throughout their year to work on together with theological reflection and studies in Catholic social thought added to this experience,” Father Moran noted. “We had great success in this pilot event last year, from changing light bulbs and batteries in smoke alarms to spring cleaning the porches of the elderly homebound parishioners. Such initiatives help our parish community see our young people involved in community service not only during Confirmation but also giving their full enthusiasm to stay involved in the Deanery Outreach Program when they are in 9th through 12th grades.”

The Northumberland Deanery Outreach Program is another ministry that will be housed at the Mother Maria Kaupas Center. The program is a series of monthly gatherings of youth in grades 9-12 to grow in the faith through guest speakers and service projects. The deanery presents the seminars, which also emphasize the formation of future leaders and the discernment of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Divine Redeemer Parish in St. Vincent de Paul Society, which has been serving the community for more than 25 years, will also find a home at the center for monthly meetings and as a base for its support of the Mount Carmel Food Pantry and the preparation of meals for the home-bound and for families in need.

The center has received seed money to initiate the Catholic college student volunteer program, “From Service to Sisterhood,” in partnership with the Sisters of St. Casimir. This grant is committed to engaging Catholic students in more meaningful and potentially transformative ways by addressing the development of effective leaders from among Catholic college students to discern a call to priesthood and religious life.

“Participants in community service at the Mother Maria Kaupas Center will be able to make a project that will address the vulnerable Mother Maria worked and ministered,” he said, adding that those who will be part of the ministries there “will move into priestly life more willing to take up the mantle of leadership through worship, working for justice, and transforming the workplace as baptized lay members of the Church.”
In Jamaica, Bloomsburg Catholic Campus Ministry Serves at Home for People with Disabilities

By Amy Yeagle

Special to The Witness

Bloomsburg University’s winter break brought more than rest and recreation for a group of Catholic Campus Ministry students who experienced a mission trip to Jamaica during their time off. The group of eleven students, along with Catholic Campus Ministry director Father David Hereshko, and associate director Amy Yeagle, spent a week volunteering with Mustard Seed Communities, an organization “dedicated to caring for the most vulnerable populations in society.”

The group spent the week in Mo-neague, Jamaica, at Jacob’s Ladder, a home established by Mustard Seed Communities for adults with physical and mental disabilities. In Jamaica, there are no facilities to care for those with disabilities after the age of 18. Jacob’s Ladder seeks to house up to 400 residents. Construction and work projects are therefore ongoing. Jacob’s Ladder also employs a number of practices to achieve sustainability, including harvesting rainwater, farming, practicing aquaponics (a system that raises aquatic animals with plants in a symbiotic environment), and raising animals.

Painting new and completed resident cottages was the main work project done by the group. Other tasks included clearing a trail and weeding. A large amount of time was also spent interacting with the residents. The students were able to enjoy soccer, dancing, playing musical instruments, talking, and playing games with the residents throughout the week. Some of residents even joined the group to help with work projects.

“The residents of Jacob’s Ladder impacted my life for the better,” said student Emma Seibert. “I am so glad I met each and every one of them.”

“The residents of Jacob’s Ladder were so welcoming, it was amazing,” added student Lauren Furjanic.

Cultural opportunities throughout the week included attending Mass at the local parish, having dinner at a local restaurant, going to a craft market, and spending some time at the beach. The group was also able to participate in a day of reflection with Msgr. Gregory Ramkissoon, the founder of Mustard Seed Communities, and two other volunteer groups. Prayer and reflection were incorporated throughout the week when the group had Mass each morning and spent time in prayer and reflection each evening. Individually, each member of the group was also given a booklet for daily prayer and reflection and was assigned “prayer partners” from the residents of Jacob’s Ladder and within the group to pray for throughout the week.

One of the greatest blessings of the trip was the chance to experience the unconditional love of the residents of Jacob’s Ladder and to see their happiness and the value and dignity of their lives.

“I think our mission team went into the trip thinking we would be teaching the residents about life,” reflected student Jessica Dougherty. “But it was the residents who were the true teachers. They are the real missionaries. They are love.”

Student Kristin Epsaro shared, “This past week has been an experience of a lifetime! Working on service projects and interacting and growing close to the residents has taught me the values of unconditional love and appreciation for everything that I am blessed with.”

Recent graduate Alex Porter noted, “This experience has been such a wonderful blessing. I’ve learned so much more about how precious every life is and how amazing true unconditional love for everyone feels. Those are the lessons I’ll take with me and spread in my actions with others.”

Following this trip, Catholic Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University plans to continue their dedication to service by participating in various local service opportunities throughout the spring.

See more pictures from the trip and learn more about Bloomsburg University Catholic Campus Ministry at http://orgs.bloomu.edu/ccm and https://www.facebook.com/bloomccm. Learn more about Mustard Seed Communities at http://www.mustardseed.com.

( Amy Yeagle is the Associate Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University.)

In Jamaica, Bloomsburg Catholic Campus Ministry Serves at Home for People with Disabilities

Catholic School Spirit Night with the Lancaster Barnstormers

May 16, Gates Open at 6 p.m.
Clipper Magazine Stadium, Lancaster

Catholic School Spirit Night, plus Star Wars Night. LightSabre giveaway to the first 1,000, as well as a fireworks display. Free tickets for students and faculty. Fundraiser tickets benefit individual schools. For information, call 717-509-HITS, or visit www.lancasterbarnstormers.com.

Catholic Diocese Night with the Harrisburg Senators

May 23 at 6 p.m.
Metro Bank Park on City Island, Harrisburg

Tickets are $9 for all ages. First 1,000 fans over the age of 13 will receive a Senators T-Shirt. There will be a special raffle just for diocesan participants. Plus, you can enter to win special prizes. Get an informational flyer from the parish office or send an e-mail to jkauffman@senatorsbaseball.com for more information.
Minnesota Beer Company Celebrates 15 Years of Feeding the Hungry

By Jessica Trygstad
Catholic News Service

In the purchase and subsequent consumption of what’s playfully dubbed “Irish Holy Water,” fans of Finnegans beer are feeding the hungry in Minnesota, which has included clients of Catholic Charities in the past.

Since its beginning 15 years ago, the Minneapolis-based beer company has centered its business model on the common good, contributing 100 percent of its profits to alleviate hunger.

Finnegans’ formula is simple: It starts with “good beer” found at local restaurants, bars and liquor stores, and puts that profit into the Finnegans Community Fund, which buys fresh produce from local farms. In turn, Finnegans donates the fresh produce to food shelves to be distributed to people in need. Paying for the produce at market-rate, Finnegans provides farmers with an income and people in need with healthy food.

“I know that in the last decade, we’ve seen the number of people going to food shelves double,” said Finnegans founder and CEO Jacqui Berglund. “The largest growing segments are military families and college students. We need to work harder and have our citizens meet their basic needs.”

Up until two years ago when Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis stopped operating food shelves, it had benefited from Finnegans’ outreach.

With the notion of “we’re here to serve others,” Berglund said the company is proof that a small group of committed people “can do anything.” In Finnegans’ case, the staff of five has created and run a social enterprise that is self-sustainable, Berglund said. Next to Newman’s Own brand, Finnegans is the second longest-running company in the country that has a 100 percent profit business model.

Because of government regulations, Finnegans is really two companies: the for-profit company that owns the brand and pays the bills, and the nonprofit company that donates all its proceeds – more than half a million dollars to anti-hunger efforts since its start in 2000.

“The most important thing to me is creating community wealth and giving it back,” Berglund told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Finnegans also is celebrating one year of its Reverse Food Truck – which, rather than serve food, collects food and monetary donations – furthering its mission to “put hunger in the rearview.”

In addition to Minnesota, Finnegans partners with farmers and distributes in Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and soon, Iowa.

From the “holy water” reference to its haloed shamrock logo, Finnegans adopts from Catholic culture, thanks, in part, to Catholics behind its advertising.

Finnegans beer, brewed in Minneapolis, contributes 100 percent of its profits to alleviate hunger. Locals call the beer “Irish Holy Water.”

The company’s philanthropic mission is led by Moudry and his team at Martin Williams in Minneapolis to offer the advertising agency’s work pro bono.

“We have been able to find a very fun tone for the personality of the brand,” said Moudry, chief creative officer. “When you have an Irish amber beer, and you’re selling it in the Twin Cities, we’ve found there’s an opportunity for benevolence and leprechaun wit.”

Moudry, who is a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, said the Catholic component of that wit comes out more the closer it gets to St. Patrick’s Day each year.

In advertising Finnegans’ Reverse Food Truck, Moudry, who has brothers and uncles who are priests, pointed to the slogans: “Just a food truck. Like Mothra hit the road,” “50,000 calories of shamrock wit.”

Moudry and his team at Martin Williams in Minneapolis partnered bringing that social piece, which can be a social evil, to make it into something good.

But the mission is not lost,” he said, adding that the agency only takes on pro bono work if they trust that the client is helping to make the world a better place.

(TRYGSTAD is assistant editor of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.)

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Scholarship

Applications are available from parish presidents of a Parish Council of Catholic Women for no less than one year. The applicant and her sponsor must be residents of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Applicants must meet all conditions established by the Scholarship Committee as set forth in its rules and regulations, which are included in the application packet.

Applications are available from parish presidents of the Council of Catholic Women. More information can be obtained by contacting Joyce Scott, Scholarship Chair, at 717-737-0927 or joynebob10@comcast.net. The application deadline is May 1, 2015.
Mercy

Continued from 1

has been a constant subject of Pope Francis’ preaching and is explained in detail in the document, which outlines some of the specific projects the pope has in mind for the year.

The Old Testament stories of how God repeatedly offered mercy to his unfaithful people and the New Testament stories of Jesus’ compassion, healing and mercy demonstrate, the pope said, that “the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which he reveals his love,” just like mothers and fathers love their children.

“How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tender-ness of God,” he wrote. “May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst.”

Nothing in the Church’s preaching or witness, he said, can be lacking in mercy.

Pope Francis asked that all dioceses around the world designate a “Door of Mercy” at their cathedral or another special church or shrine, and that every diocese implement the “24 Hours for the Lord” initiative on the Friday and Saturday before the fourth week of Lent. In Rome the last two years, the pope has opened the celebration with a penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica and churches around the city were open for the next 24 hours for confessions and Eucharistic adoration.

The pope said he will designate and send out “Missionaries of Mercy” to preach about mercy; they will be given special authority, he said, “to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.”

And he urged all Catholics to spend more time practicing what tradition-ally have been called the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works are: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, giving drink to the thirsty and burying the dead. The spiritual works are: counseling the ignorant, advising the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries and praying for the living and dead.

The date the pope chose to open the year – Dec. 8 – is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Both dates, he wrote, are related to the Year of Mercy.

Mercy, he said, is “the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sins.” That bridge was made concrete when God chose Mary to be the mother of his son.

The Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote, is also a way to keep the Second Vatican Council alive. “The walls which too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way,” he said. The council recognized “a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father’s love in the world,” he said, and every Catholic church “is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy,” a mercy that “knows no bounds and extends to everyone with-out exception.”

While some people try to argue that mercy, even God’s mercy, is limited by the demands of justice, Pope Francis said mercy and justice are “two dimen-sions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love.”

Preaching mercy, he said, is not the same as ignoring sin or withholding correction. Instead, mercy involves re-pentance and conversion and ensures the sinner that once God forgives a sin, he forgets it. He also addressed direct appeals in the document to members of the ma-fia and other criminal organizations as well as to officials and others involved in corruption. “For their own good, I beg them to change their lives,” he wrote. “I ask them this in the name of the Son of God who, though rejecting sin, never rejected the sinner.”

“Violence inflicted for the sake of amassing riches soaked in blood makes even the instruments of God’s justice despicable,” he continued. “Everyone, sooner or later, will be subject to God’s judgment, from which no one can escape.”

At the same time, Pope Francis wrote, many of those who insist first on God’s justice are like the Pharisees who thought they could do all things by following the letter of the law, but end-ed up simply placing “burdens on the shoulders of others and undermined the Father’s mercy.”

“God’s justice is his mercy,” the pope said. “Mercy is not opposed to justice, but rather expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert and believe.”

Recognizing that “they have been treated with mercy by God, he said, Christians are obliged to treat others with mercy. In fact, the Gospel says that Christians will be judged by the mercy they show others.

“At times how hard it seems to forgive,” he said. “And yet pardon is the instrument which God through our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence and re-venge are necessary conditions to liv-ing joyfully.”

Pope Francis also noted that God’s mercy is an important theme in Judaism and Islam, and he urged efforts during the Year of Mercy to increase interrelig-iouss dialogue and mutual understand-ing with followers of both faiths.

Father Menniti

Continued from 1

began his doctoral dissertation, but was called back to the Harrisburg Diocese later that year and ap-pointed as an assistant at St. Patrick Parish in Car-lisle.

He also served as vice chancellor of the diocese. Chairman of the Board of Bishop McDevitt and Trinity High Schools, and Diocesan Superintendent of the Trinity High School, Father Menniti also founded, and was the first director of the Diocesan Catholic Campus Ministry. He served in the Diocesan Tribunal and on the Seminarians and Vocations Advisory Committee.

He was instrumental in founding Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, St. Matthew the Apostle and Evan- gelist Parish in Dauphin, and St. Elizabeth Ann Se-ton School and McDevitt High School.

While in residence at St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, Father Menniti studied at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where he earned a doctorate in psychology in 1964, and served as an assistant pastor until returning to the diocese in 1966 to serve as pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg. While there, he also taught at Bishop McDevitt High School.

He was also a member of the adjunct faculty of Harrisburg Area Community College, a member of the faculty of the University Center at Harrisburg and a member of the adjunct faculty of DeSales Uni-versity in Allentown, Pa., and served as an instructor in the Polyclinic School of Nursing.

In 1973, Father Menniti earned a law degree from American University while serving in diocesan parishes. He was named pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Quarryville in 1975.

Father Menniti served for more than 20 years as the psychologist member of the state’s Board of Par-dons.

Over the years, he was actively engaged in Catho-lic and secular communities, including spiritual ad-visor of the 1492 Society, the commission on Bio-Ethics of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the Trinity High School Board of Supervisors. He was a founding member of Channels, an organiza-tion which continues to serve the needs of the poor. He was a professor at Shippensburg University, and taught at St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md.

Following his retirement from active ministry in 2002, Father Menniti continued to assist the parishes and parishioners of the diocese, serving at Masses and offering legal and psychological counsel to peo-ple.

"Father Menniti was a lifelong learner and teach-er," Father Forrey said of the priest’s three doctor-ates, and his willingness to share the gifts of that knowledge with others.

"With his doctorate in Sacred Theology, he led a Tuesday night group that met to reflect on the teach-ings of the Church as well as spiritual and pasto-ral issues. Because he was a civil lawyer, he helped countless numbers of people with legal problems and questions, and all given pro bono. And because he was a psychologist, he also counseled countless numbers of people who were hurting and needed guidance," Father Forrey said.

"He was one of the most generous human beings I’ve ever encountered, always concerned with pro-viding for the needs of the poor and vulnerable," he remarked. “In his preaching, he always asked us to remember the poor and the hungry. His ministry was never about himself, it was always about someone else. Even if you just knew him casually, I can tell you that he was a dear and personal friend for the rest of your life.”

Father Menniti is survived by a sister, several nieces and nephews, and a number of grandchildren, grandnephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a sister and three brothers.

Contributions in his name may be made to Cham-bers Food Rescue, 3305 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110; St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o St. Pat-rick’s Church, 152 E. Pomfret Street, Carlisle, PA 17013; or Carlisle C.A.R.E.S., 50 W. Penn Street, Carlisle, PA 17013.
Lesson of Special Olympics is ‘All Life is Beautiful,’ Says Shriver

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Tim Shriver says his new book, “Fullly Alive: Discovering What Matters Most,” is “really a long thank-you letter to a lot of people who helped shape me,” and it’s also an attempt to say something to our culture about what really matters in life.

Shriver, chairman of the Special Olympics, noted in his book how people with intellectual disabilities have been his teachers in life, helping him learn “something bigger we’re all looking for.”

When he was a little boy, his parents, Eunice and Sargent Shriver, started “Camp Shriver” in the backyard of their Maryland home, pairing children with and without intellectual disabilities in playing games together — swimming, running, climbing trees and riding horses — and becoming friends along the way.

That proved to be the genesis for the Special Olympics movement founded by Eunice Shriver a few years later, which began with games at Chicago’s Soldier Field in 1968.

Tim Shriver, who holds hands with and played with children at Camp Shriver, continues his late mother’s work as he leads Special Olympics, which now includes 4.4 million athletes with intellectual disabilities in 170 countries around the world. In his book, he said those experiences have left him on a voyage of discovery, in which he has learned that “all life is beautiful.”

“They taught me that we are all totally vulnerable and totally valuable at the same time. They modeled lessons in love and fulfillment that I didn’t even know were possible. They changed everything,” Shriver writes in his book.

In an interview with the Catholic Standard, Washington’s archdiocesan newspaper, Shriver noted, “The modern world elevates reason, efficiency, control and independence. People with intellectual disabilities send the opposite message, that we’re interdependent, that patience is more important than efficiency, that relationship is more important than wealth, that compassion is more important than control, that ultimately, none of us are in control.”

That logic might seem counterintuitive, he notes in the book, and the argument that in his mother’s famous family, the Kennedys, perhaps the sibling that had the most impact was not her or her brothers, President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy or Sen. Ted Kennedy, but her sister Rosemary, who had an intellectual disability.

“In some ways, she was the source of the heart of the family, that she was the person who was God’s way of saying, ‘Pay attention to what matters most,’” said Shriver, who contends his Aunt Rosemary’s lessons about love and human dignity inspired Eunice to found first Camp Shriver and then Special Olympics and Sargent to start the Peace Corps and serve in other government programs promoting opportunities and a better life for all Americans.

Religion also offers the world a message that prevailing cultural perceptions of people with intellectual disabilities are wrong, Shriver said. Faith helps people see others with “the eyes of love,” he said.

In “Fully Alive,” he writes about how his parents’ enduring Catholic faith shaped their social in the justice and the God-given dignity of all people, leading Eunice to found Special Olympics and Sargent to start the Peace Corps and serve in other government programs promoting opportunities and a better life for all Americans.

In the book, Tim Shriver prints a prayer written by his father, thanking God for the opportunity to work on behalf of Special Olympics, “because they teach us to love one another, because they teach us to respect all of your creatures of every race, every religion, every nation, of all ages; because they teach us that we are all — every one of us — dependent on you and on one another.”

In the interview, Shriver reflected on the lessons he has learned from his teachers — people with intellectual disabilities — and their joy, spirit and courage. “Basically, they taught me to fall in love with God, to fall in love with life, (and) don’t be afraid,” he said. Their example taught him that “we are fine just as God made us.” He added, “Only faith can make sense of what seems impossible, that a person with Down syndrome is as important as the president of the United States or a Nobel Prize winner.”

Shriver, a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, expressed admiration for Pope Francis and his call to “go out into the field where people are wounded and see God in them.” The pope’s message reflects “the heart of love,” a love for God and a love for his creation, he said.

In the interview, Shriver reflected on his own faith, saying, “I think all of us as Catholics need to deepen our capacity to recognize God in one another. We recognize God in the Gospel, in the sacraments, in the saints, the liturgy, the Rosary. We need to be reminded that we also need to recognize God in one another, and maybe most profoundly, in ourselves.”

(Zimmermann is editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.)

President, First Lady to Welcome Pope Francis to White House Sept. 23

By Catholic News Service

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will welcome Pope Francis to the White House Sept. 23.

“During the visit, the president and the pope will continue the dialogue, which they began during their president’s visit to the Vatican in March 2014, on their shared values and commitments on a wide range of issues,” said a statement released by the Office of the Press Secretary at the White House.

These issues, it said, include “caring for the marginalized and the poor, advancing economic opportunity for all; serving as good stewards of the environment; protecting religious minorities and promoting religious freedom around the world; and welcoming and integrating immigrants and refugees into our communities.”

The statement added, “The president looks forward to continuing this conversation with the Holy Father during his first visit to the United States as pope.”

Last year, in their first encounter, Pope Francis received President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at the White House, including religious freedom and medical ethics.

During an unusually long 50-minute meeting, the two leaders discussed “questions of particular relevance for the Church in (the U.S.), such as the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection as well as the issue of immigration reform,” the Vatican said in statement afterward.

While in Washington, Pope Francis will address a joint meeting of Congress Sept. 24, making him the first pope to do so.

The Archdiocese of Washington said it would host the pope for his visit, but did not announce dates. On his flight from the Philippines to Rome in January, Pope Francis said he would canonize Blessed Junipero Serra at Washington’s Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

On March 18, the United Nations announced Pope Francis will visit there the morning of Sept. 25 to address the U.N. General Assembly. The pope also will meet separately with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and with the president of the General Assembly. The pontiff also is scheduled to a town hall gathering with U.N. staff.

In a statement, Ban noted that the pope’s visit came during the United Nations’ 70th anniversary, in which its members would make decisions about sustainable development, climate change and peace. He said he was confident the pope’s visit would inspire the international community to redouble its efforts for social justice, tolerance and understanding.

The United Nations did not release the detailed itinerary for the meetings, part of a larger papal visit to Washington, New York and Philadelphia. The Vatican is expected to release the official itinerary about two months in advance of the trip, unless local officials — please it earlier.

Pope Francis already had announced his participation Sept. 26 and 27 for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. During his pontificate, St. John Paul II visited the United States seven times — two of which were fuel stopovers — making the country his most frequent foreign destination after his native Poland. He addressed the U.N. General Assembly in 1979 and 1995; Blessed Paul VI did so in 1965 and Pope Benedict XVI addressed the assembly in 2008, during his one U.S. visit as pope.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parish.

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columbia: Marjorie S. Gillespie.
CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: John Bennett.
COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Charles Bartol, Constance Martini, Anthony Musso, John Staub, Marlene Young, Robert Young.
COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Tammy Baker, Michael Salvatore, Bernice Woratayta, Carol Zink.
CONEWOGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Miriam Long.

ELIZABETHTOWN – St. Peter: Frank Michael Vasquez.
FAIRFIELD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Charles “Sam” Zanella.
LANCASTER – St. Catherine Laboure: Mary Kelly; St. Margaret Mary: Joanne L. Little.
KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Paul Lehman.
LEBANON – Annunciation BVM: Gladys Shutter.
MCSHERYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: Richard J. “Dick” Smith.
MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Frances Barb.

MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Patricia Betz, George Black, George Fiorentino, Anna Nott, Barbara Youngs.
NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Earl Crowe, Frank Freistak, Jr., Mirdred Jez, Mildred McIntyre, Brian Semuta.
NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Joseph Novaskata.
NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: James Huber, Alfred Smith.
QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Sienna: Edward Fritz.
WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Elizabeth Weagly.
YORK – St. Rose of Lima: Kathleen Atlee.

The Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg

The Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg received a donation from Lebanon Catholic School.

Lebanon Catholic School Receives Donation of Portable Audiometer from 1980 Alumna

Thanks to a generous donation of a portable audiometer from a former graduate, students at Lebanon Catholic School will now receive audiological care in a systematic and reliable fashion from Mrs. Mary Graber, R.N., the school’s nurse.

Dr. Linda Gonya-Hartman, a 1980 alumna from Lebanon Catholic School and owner of the Hearing and Ear Center of Mount Joy and Lebanon, Pa., donated the portable audiometer. The lack of available audiological equipment left the school to set a goal to provide a more comprehensive diagnostic program, and Dr. Gonya-Hartman responded immediately. Until now, the school would obtain audiometers from the Lebanon School District to perform hearing screenings.

Dr. Gonya-Hartman has been in the audiology profession for more than 25 years. She received her undergraduate degree from Penn State University, a master’s degree in audiology from Ohio State University, and a doctorate degree from Pennsylvania College of Optometry, School of Audiology. She is married and has two sons who attend Lebanon Catholic School – Ryan, a freshman, and Josh, a sixth-grade student. Shown from left in the photo are Linda Gonya-Hartman, Au.D., sixth-grade student Paige Wagner, and Mrs. Mary Graber, R.N.

Celebration Creates Unique Education for Students

When St. Anne School in Lancaster opened its doors in September, its students and parents knew that they would be getting a great education this year. What they didn’t know was that they were going to learn a little something extra in a special way.

St. Anne School first opened its doors in September of 1924 with 72 students being taught on the second floor of the convent (the current rectory) by three Sisters of Mercy. To celebrate its 90th anniversary this year, the faculty and staff decided it would be fun and educational, for the students if they had a chance to learn a little more about the history of those 90 years.

“We wanted the students to really get a sense of how things 90 years ago is,” said Suzanne Wood, St. Anne School principal. “We wanted them to learn all of the changes that happen in that – the buildings, the renovations, the inventions, even the clothing styles.”

Each month, the students have learned about a different decade that comprises the school’s 90 years. Each grade is responsible for researching a particular aspect of that decade. Kindergarten learns what comic strips were popular; first grade is in charge of fashions; second grade, church leaders and issues; third grade, inventions; fourth grade, national and state leaders; fifth grade, sports; sixth grade, European history; seventh grade, government; and eighth grade, science.

On a designated day during that month, one student from each grade is chosen to present their grade’s findings to the rest of the school during morning assembly. This day is also designated as the Dress Down for the Decades Day. The students are allowed to come to school out of uniform (a dress down day), but they have to come dressed in the fashions of that decade.

“In September we focused on the 1920s, the decade that our school was founded,” said Wood. “We must have had 30 flappers walking the halls of St. Anne’s! The next month (the 1930s) we had some students who were dressed as ‘hobos’. The students are really living history, its ups and downs, through this activity.”

Each subsequent month jumps to the next decade. The school year will conclude in June and focus on current events in each assigned area.

St. Anne School is a Pre-K-3 to grade 8 Catholic School in the Diocese of Harrisburg proudly serving the families of St. Anne Parish, St. John Neumann Parish and the surrounding community.

Pro-Life Town Hall Tour to Stop in Lancaster

Lancaster will be the spot for a pro-life town hall meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, Lancaster’s 40 Days for Life for the event. The tour will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at the St. John Neumann Church Social Hall, 601 E. Delp Road, Lancaster. Everyone is welcome. No registration or fee is required. For details, contact Bob Dunn at 717-396-4673 or Lancaster40days@aol.com.

This pro-life town hall will feature Michael Cicchicoppo, Executive Director, and Micah Bilger, Education Director, of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. They will share the latest on key pro-life issues including the effects of the Affordable Care Act on abortion and euthanasia, the push for assisted suicide, abortion in Pennsylvania and more. After a series of short fast-paced presentations, there will be a question and answer period.

“This is a lot of information across the state at the same time,” Cicchicoppo said. “So we are circling the Commonwealth to present the pro-life perspective on the most important issues in our state and nation.”

The pro-life town hall tour also includes stops in Ebensburg, Uniontown, Pittsburgh, Grove City, Titusville, Erie, State College, Scranton, Nesquehoning, Bethlehem and Philadelphia.

“We are pleased to host this pro-life educational event in Lancaster,” Bob Dunn of Lancaster’s 40 Days for Life, said. “This should be a very informative event on critical issues that impact the lives of many in our Commonwealth.” The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is a grassroots anti-abortion organization with members statewide. As the state affiliate of National Right to Life, PPLF is committed to promoting the dignity and value of human life from conception to natural death and to restoring legal protection for preborn children.
**Dioscorean Notebook**

**Compiled by Emily M. Albert**

**Spiritual Offerings**

Mass in the Polish language will be held April 10 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. Confessions are heard in English and Polish after every Mass.

**St. Benedict the Abbate Parish in Lebanon**

will host the National Honor Society of Trinity High School’s annual Gold Gala, Saturday, April 25. The gala will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium Lobby. For more information, call St. Joan of Arc Council #6693 on 717-566-3529, or evgvmg@verizon.net. Registration is $65 per golfer and includes cart, green fees, and dinner. Sponsors and players are needed; for more information on the event, please go to www.lchsyes.org/gala.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 2-12, 2015**

hosted by Father Steven Frazer. The scriptures will come alive on this journey to the roots of our faith. Tours include: Daily Mass at holy sites, lectures on scripture and history, sacred art,ronto motorcoach transport from Elizabethtown to New York JFK to return, and on nonstop flights with Delta Airlines, and more, for $3,495 per person double occupancy. Requesting discount or reservations by April 25. For complete details, contact Karen Hurley at k.m.hurley@gmail.com or Georges’ International Tours at 717-500-7469, sales@georgesint.com or visit www.georgesint.com.

**Events & Fund-Raisers**

Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown will host a Fine Arts Expo, Benefitting the Delone Catholic High School, Saturday, April 25. The expo will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the school’s cafeteria and lobby. There is no cost to attend. The expo will feature fine arts, dance, fine art, dance, music, design, literature, music and many more arts. Artists are needed. Any alumni, or family members of alumni, are encouraged to call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations is pleased to create an exhibit. A list of the day’s activities and schedule of events is available at www.delonecatholic.org to date. Please check www.DeloneCatholic.org or www.facebook.com/DeloneCatholic.

Silence of Mary Home in Harrisburg will host their Ninth Annual Silence of Mary Home Luncheon, featuring homegrown Fan Ger on Friday, May 1, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The proceeds from this event will go toward the Home’s mission of promoting the silent prayer for the sick and infirm. For reservations, call 717-777-4107.

Sons & Daughters of Italy in America in York, Lodge #528 will host their annual Father’s Day Weekend, June 14-15, to benefit St. Joseph School and The Christophorus Columbus Scholarship Fund. The menu is Marinated Chicken Breast and Italian sausage, served with a choice of vegetables, (quantities limited) or traditional Spaghetti and Meatballs. All meals include salad, milk and beverage. Picnic lunch will be held at St. Stephen’s, 2035 Kingston Rd., York. Cost is $9 for all adults, reduced price for children on traditional spaghetti dinner. Cani-oll and Italian cuisine are also available. All proceeds will benefit the lodge. Contact Anthony V. Sessa for more information.

St. Rose of Lima School in Thompsonville will be invited to you to their annual Sip into Summer Wine and Beer Festival, Saturday, May 2, from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. All proceeds will go toward the school’s mission of providing a quality education for students. To see the event, please go to www.thompsonville-lima.org.

The National Honor Society of Trinity High School will be hosting a BINGO Extravaganza, Saturday, April 25, from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Auditorium Lobby. Please visit http://www.frocks.us/academics/honor-colonias/service-for-more information.

Catholic Food Harvest Pantry presents its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament Friday, July 10 at Brawner East Golf Course. Shotgun start is 9 a.m. with scramble format, per person. Cost is $75 per person, which includes 18 holes, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. All proceeds will benefit the Catholic Food Harvest Pantry. The pantry operates one of the largest food pantries in York County. We are an outreach ministry of the Church of the Gesu in downtown York. For details, contact Rich Drackley, Patrick, and St. Joseph, as well as local businesses, service organizations, and individuals. There are currently more than 600 families each month who use our services. Sponsors and donors are needed; for more information on sponsorships and to register, visit the CHFP website: http://www.catholicharvest.org or call 717-846-8571.

The 19th Annual John Waverka Memorial Golf Tournament will be sponsored by the National Honor Society of Trinity High School, Saturday, May 23 at Deer Valley Golf Course in Hummestown. There will be an 8 a.m. shotgun start, 4-person scramble, and single players are always welcome. No handicap, no limit. Registration is $65 per person and includes cart, green fees, tee time with dinner, a gift bag, and awards for individual and team winners! Great prizes! Great games! Registration deadline is May 14. For more information, contact Ed Gliot at 717-566-3529, evgvmg@verizon.net or Mike Waverka at 717-520-1687, mikewaverka@aol.com.

**Parish, School & Organization News**

The St. Rose of Lima Columbintes Council #10870 is offering a $500 scholarship for Catholic students or adults enrolling in post-secondary educational programs for the 2015-2016 school year. For more information, call Audrey Parks at 717-500-7469 or visit www.georgesintl.com. Deadline for application is May 15.

Two Little Flowers Girls Clubs in Adams County have room for new members 12 years and older who are interested in prayer, stories, activities and projects, we spend time at each meeting learning about a different saint and the virtue. The club is based on the Little Flowers of Mary second grade curriculum. The club is a fun way to learn an enveloping faith interaction our parents and to grow through the teachings of the Catholic Church. For more information, or to join, contact the Little Fowers of Mary for the group at St. Aloysius in the Littlestown area, or Katie at 717-576-7483.

St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia is seeking volunteers to help transport Catholic residents in their wheelchair to and from St. Matthew’s Main Street Church. The commitment would be for two hours once a month, from approximately 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. If interested, contact Kenタas, Director of Pastoral Care, at 285-6121, or kia@stanne'sAccessor.org.

Tri-County Tourism On Tap (Adams, Franklin, & lower Cumberland Counties) is $5 for a glass of wine on Thursday, May 5 at The Garwayn Irish Pub in Gettysburg. Father John Banetman, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg, will be on hand. The event will be open to the public. Young adults 21-35 years of age are welcome to attend. Cost is $5 for a glass of wine and to attend the event. To see the event, please visit www.tcntourismontap.com.

Harrsbyng Tourism on Tap invites you to join them on Wednesday, April 22 at 2 p.m. at the Harrsbyng Tourism on Tap (Adams County) (and all around amazing guy) Bill Donohay! You’ll remember that he hosts the segment of “Pennsylvania Today.” You will like this segment so much you will be real happy about this! The weather is totally wonderful! April 22 is Earth Day, and Bill will be using that as the theme for this talk. The title of this talk is “Love Your Father”, and he will be telling us how we can learn from His first Book of creation. We’ll be asking for questions, and Bill will try to answer them. The meeting is scheduled is the same as always - come between 6:30 and 7:00 to grab a drink and/or some food. Bill will start at 7:00, and then you will be free to be on your way there!

You and your children are cordially invited to the 40th Annual Celebration of the Assumption on Saturday, August 8. R. Hoke on Saturday, May 2, starting at 7 p.m. A sampling of Father’s favorite dishes will be available to all. The event will be held at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1031 Sonkline Rd. Spring Grove. RSVP must be received no later than April 27. Please call Ms. Joan Jones, Director of Development, at 717-872-1846, or email, SacredHeartParishSpring Grove@fgholidaise.org.

**Retreats, Pilgrimages & Trips**

Tour the Philadelphia Catholic Shrines with Court Queen of Peace #1023, Catholic Daughters of the Americas on May 17 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, St. Katherine Drexel Shrine, Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, and Shrine of St. Joseph, as well as local businesses, service organizations, and individuals. There are currently more than 600 families each month who use our services. Sponsors and donors are needed; for more information on sponsorships and to register, please visit the CHFP website: http://www.catholicharvest.org or call 717-846-8571.

**Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary–A Geisinger Affiliate will hold their annual May Luncheon on Thursday, May 14, at the Hotel Hershey. The luncheon event will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. The “Afternoon Tea” event begins at 11 a.m. Tea and a light lunch will be served at 12:15, followed by thought-provoking entertainment. Robert Priest will entertain the evening with his ability to read minds. Tickets are $40. For more information, contact the Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary office at 717-763-2795 by May 6. Proceeds from the event will benefit Holy Spirit Hospital.

Lebanon Catholic School’s $10,000 gold rush cash giveaway will be held Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. at South Liberty Parish. The first 200 tickets purchased will be awarded with a minimum cash prize of $250. Save the date for Saturday, May 16. The event kicks off at 1 p.m. at 7:30 p.m., and live music entertainment. Music by Galbahar, Brandywine, and Starlight. Must be 18 years of age or older. All tickets purchased before May 4 will be $15 each. All tickets purchased after May 4 will be $20 each. All tickets purchased after May 10 will be $25 each. All tickets purchased after May 15 will be $30 each. All tickets purchased after May 20 will be $35 each. All tickets purchased after May 25 will be $40 each. All tickets purchased after May 30 will be $45 each. All tickets purchased after June 1 will be $50 each.

**Socializing**

April 17, 2015 © Catholic Woman & Friends - 15
A Vocation Journey

By Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M.

(Sister Pamela Smith, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, offers this piece on her vocation journey as a means of reflection during the Year of Consecrated Life currently being celebrated in the Catholic Church.)

A Look Back

F

or several consecutive Lenten Sundays, I’ve been at the Mass in Spanish in our parish. I’ve also attended Mass in English with the five other sisters who are part of our local community, but I have some personal reasons for wanting, periodically, to sing from Flore’s Cantos and to respond “Y con tu espíritu” when the priest says, “The Lord be with you.”

One reason is simply to remember that the Church is Catholic, with a small “c.” Another is to encounter once again a worshiping community in which language, culture, and faith seem to be so smoothly blended, something which is not always apparent in Anglo environs. A third reason is to witness evident zeal for the gospel, which appears in vigorous preaching, spirited music (accompanied by piano, guitar, percussion, and saxophone), an expanse of multi-generational families stretched across pew after pew, and gestures of devotion like the praying of the man who kneels in the middle aisle before Mass with his arms extended cruciformly.

But the most profound reason for my wanting to participate once again in the Spanish Mass has to do with nostalgia and a reclaiming of roots. In 1971-1972 I lived in Bethlehem, Pa., in a neighborhood which was rapidly becoming Puerto Rican. I was amidst one of those late 1960s/early 1970s searches for self, soul, meaning, and a modicum of sense. The U.S. was in upheaval, and it was the heyday of flower children, wildly painted Volkswagen buses, and war protests. Anything that smacked of “the Establishment”—government, Church, educational systems, business, industry—seemed suspect.

To give a very abbreviated version of what happened that year, I would have to say that some key events propelled me into a major change of lifestyle: challenges from my Baptist and Mennonite friends which led me to read Sacred Scripture deeply and extensively; an experience of Church at its best among the Puerto Rican people; and an impact on living in an impoverished neighborhood where family meant more than achievement; a realization that helping the world become a better place was not so much about what to do but Whom to follow.

I realized that the one and only one who had the secret to transforming a planet which seemed bent on destruction was Jesus Christ. Once that struck home, I experienced the revival of a snaky feeling that I might be called to religious life. It was a thought that the friends who had seen me through college, graduate school, four years of teaching career, Friday nights at the Red Garter in Philadelphia, Saturday nights at the Main Point in Bryn Mawr, and attire purchases of kaftans, dashikis, tie-dyed T-shirts, and bell-bottoms found either laughable or unthinkable. The only ones who thought I might be a tad serious about convent life were the ones who had detected my undercurrents and outbursts of idealism.

In any case, attending Spanish Masses 43 to 44 years after I moved from South Bethlehem and 40 years since I jettisoned vows also serves as a reminder of how I arrived at where I have been and where I am.

And Then There’s a Community

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius were a community I had encountered twice, first in the second half of grade school when we moved from New York to Berwick, Pa., and then, one summer, in graduate school at Villanova. I was an educator, and I knew that they were too, but not in the mode of stuffy academics (part of the Establishment that I wanted to eschew). They were devout and companionable and down-to-earth. The SSCM’s I had met in both settings were good-hearted types with a notable sense of humor. Once I entered, I also learned that the sisters’ Slovak ethnic roots in many ways mirrored what I had treasured in my Puerto Rican neighborhood: an integration of faith and culture and everyday expressions which praised God in greetings, invoked God’s will when future possibilities were discussed and mentioned God in farewells without contracting “God be with you” to “Goodbye.” There was poetry, art, music, and stitching that bespoke both native land and native religion.

As I’ve lived with the sisters now for more than four decades, I’ve found that the community’s core mission has as much relevance and urgency as ever. Over the years we have developed a shorthand which gives contemporary expression to the purpose articulated at our founding in 1909—the 4 Es: evangelization, education, care, and ecumenism. We’ve also internalized, as well as written into our Constitutions, the reminder that, as consecrated women, our primary mission is the witness of our lives.

We’re about prayer, community life, and service. The whole impetus is what the Church calls sequela Christi, the following of Christ.

That has led us in many places since our founding in the Diocese of Scranton. We’ve traversed to Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, across Pennsylvania, into Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and down into Delaware, South Carolina, and Texas. We had a brief stint in Slovakia, after the collapse of Soviet Communism. We are in seven states to this day. Our neighborhoods are and have been urban, suburban, coal town, and rural. We’ve been in long-established institutional settings and start-up schools and missions.

The South Carolina six, among whom I serve right now, have helped birth two new schools and have taken on an outreach center which touches the lives of the elderly poor, the resident Gullah population, and Spanish-speaking immigrants and migrant workers.

In many ways, our lives as women religious has replicated the more than 100-year history of our SS.C.M. community and the history of sisters in the United States. We’ve moved, we’ve changed, we’ve prayed, we’ve celebrated, we’ve improvised, we’ve retreated, we’ve renewed, and we’ve surprised ourselves with what we have done and where we have gone.

Faith, initiative, and resilience have marked our collective journey. In mysterious and mystifying ways, it has been all about a strident line in the Lord’s Prayer that is our motto: Thy Kingdom Come! Sometimes we learn that the Kingdom manifests itself and Christ appears on back streets in the midst of people who speak a language other than our own. It turns out to be a remarkable life lesson.

The Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville.

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

Witness - Prayer - Community Life - Service
Evangelization - Education - Eldercare - Ecumenism

- Visit our website: www.sscm.org
- Like us on Facebook
- Come pray Vespers with us at our Danville Motherhouse during the Easter season: for info call 570-275-0910
- Attend a Discipleship retreat: October 9-11, 2015 Villa Sacred Heart, Danville PA 17821
- Attend a Discernment retreat: May 27-29, 2016 Villa Sacred Heart, Danville PA 17821
- Contact Sister Susan Pontz, 570-275-3581 ext 331 Co-Vocation Director

The Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SISTER PAMELA SMITH, SS.C.M.