“For He Has Been Raised, Just as He Said”
~ Matthew, 28:6

Vessels containing the holy oils at this year’s Chrism Mass provide a framework for the glory of the Resurrection.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The Lord is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
Our 40 days of Lenten preparation have ended. Our 50 days of joyous celebration now begin. The beautiful Easter liturgies and hymns herald the clear message that God will not put up with death. Jesus' victory over death has opened the doors of eternal life for us and let the light of divine love shine through.

The Easter Mystery invites us to reflect on the triumph of Divine Life. Like the disciples, we are told not to cling to the tomb. Jesus does not belong to the past. He is risen to new life. He is not among the dead. The resurrection requires us to go forth, to move on, to accept our task in the world and to be where Christ is. We have been sent into the world to proclaim by our words and our example the Good News of reconciliation and redemption.

This is our first Easter together as I begin my ministry as Chief Shepherd of our diocese. As we move forward, may we never lose sight of the abiding joy, new life and love that is given to us in the Paschal Mystery: Christ rose at a particular moment in history. Christ desires to rise again now in our personal lives. He wants to rise again in our Church, in our families and in our communities. For this resurrection, the risen Lord requires our cooperation and our deliberate choice. Choose Christ. Choose His victory over sin and death. Allow the Lord to rise in you so that together as Church, we may be witnesses of His mercy and love before the world.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Bishop Ronald Gainer

The glory of Easter is portrayed in “The Resurrection of Christ” by Italian Renaissance painter Mariotto di Cristofano.

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonizations of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II
Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. • Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill
Bishop Ronald W. Gainer invites all the faithful of the Diocese of Harrisburg to share in the joy of the Universal Church upon the canonizations.
Light refreshments and a social to follow in the parish hall.

Mass to Commemorate Anniversary of Bishop McFadden’s Death
Friday, May 2 at Noon • St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg
Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will commemorate the one year anniversary of the death of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, who served as the Tenth Bishop of Harrisburg from August 18, 2010, until his death on May 2, 2013. All the faithful of the diocese are invited to participate in this Sacred Liturgy.
**Principal Opportunities 2014-2015**

Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill (K-8) www.gschespa.org

Our Lady of the Angels, Columbia (PreK-3) www.ourladyoftheangels.org

Sacred Heart, Lewistown (PreK-3) www.sacredheartschool.com

Seven Sorrows BV&M, Middletown (PreK-4-8) seven-sorrows.org

Lancaster Catholic High School (9-12) www.lcchs.org

Trinity High School, Camp Hill (9-12) www.therocks.us

**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)
- 5 years of teaching experience

**Preferred Qualifications: (in addition to the minimum qualifications listed above):**
- 3 years of Administrative experience
- Catechetical Certification (or in process)
- Master’s Degree in Educational Administration

**Desirable Leadership Characteristics:**
- Experience in 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

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**Catholic Home Missions Appeal ~ April 27**

**Strengthening the Church at Home**

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up in parishes of the diocese on April 27. The appeal supports dioceses in the United States and its territories that lack the resources to provide basic pastoral ministry to their populations. Through annual grants, Catholic Home Missions funds catechesis, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry, evangelization and other pastoral programs in dioceses in need. As a result of the generosity of parishioners, Catholic Home Missions impacts the lives of nearly nine million Catholics. The dioceses funded by the appeal comprise nearly 45 percent of all U.S. dioceses.

Home Missions are dioceses and parishes that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Home Missions are in many parts of the country, including Appalachia, the south, the southwest along the Mexican border, the Rocky Mountain states, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, everything must be imported, which raises the price of food. Outside of the island resorts, most people rely on gathered rainwater for their daily needs. The Diocese of St. Thomas runs four schools there, and many of the students seek financial assistance. A grant from Catholic Home Missions helps keep the Catholic school system open allowing children to be educated in the faith.

Migrant ministry presents the greatest need in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mich. In the past 20 years, the Hispanic population has grown by 278 percent. During the harvest season, some parishes provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Catholic Home Missions funds catechesis, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry, evangelization and other pastoral programs in dioceses in need.

For information on the appeal, or how you can donate even after the diocesan collection, visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections or contact the Office of National Collections at 202-541-3400.

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**Diocese Thanked for Contributions to Collections**

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, and Father Robert M. Gilletlan, Jr., as Diocesan Administrator during the vacant see, have received letters of appreciation for the contributions that the people of the diocese made to the 2013 Peter's Pence Collection Church, the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

The diocese contributed $152,311.74 to the Peter’s Pence Collection, which provides the Holy Father with the financial means to respond with emergency assistance to those who are suffering from war, oppression, natural disaster and disease. “This gift not only assists the faithful with the communion of faith and love of the faithful with the Successor of Peter,” wrote Archbishop Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Substitute for General Affairs.

For the 2013 Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the diocese contributed $36,413.36. In his letter, Bishop Blase J. Cupich, Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe noted that the collection supports pastoral projects and Catholic organizations working in areas formerly under Soviet control.

The people of the diocese also contributed $63,122.86 to the 2013 appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, bringing the diocese’s total contributions over the last 26 years to more than $1.4 million. Sister Janice Bader, Executive Director of the National Religious Retirement Office, noted in her letter that, since 1989, the national office has distributed nearly $586 million to help underwrite the day-to-day care of elderly religious sisters and brothers, and religious order priests, and an additional $74 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities.

For the 2013 Catholic Home Missions Appeal, the people of the diocese contributed $113,974.14. Catholic Home Missions support 84 dioceses in the United States that lack funding for basic and essential pastoral works, such as evangelization, catechesis and seminary formation. In his letter, Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, noted that funds from the collection helped cover the cost of educating the ten seminarians in the Diocese of Jackson, Miss.; and support for lay ministry, seminarians and parishes in the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, that would not exist without financial assistance.

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**Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar**

April 25 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Mount Carmel, 5:30 p.m.

April 26 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, Schenango, 10 a.m.; St. Joan of Arc Gala Blessing, Hershey Country Club, 5 p.m.

April 27 – Dedication of St. John Neumann Religious Education Center, Lancaster, noon; Sacrament of Confirmation, St. John the Baptist Church, New Freedom, 3 p.m.

April 30 – Celebrant and Homilist, Principals’ Mass, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.

May 1 – Celebrant and Homilist, Canonization Mass of Thanksgiving, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 7 p.m.

May 2 – Celebrant and Homilist, Memorial Mass for Bishop Joseph F. McFadden, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, noon; Tree planting ceremony in remembrance of Bishop McFadden, Bishop McDi- vit High School, Harrisburg, 2 p.m.; Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Aloysius Church, Attleboro, 5:30 p.m.

May 3 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Francis Xavier Church, Gettysburg, 10 a.m.

May 5 – Mass for Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Women’s Convention, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

May 9 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 5:30 p.m.

May 10 – Celebrant and Homilist for Mass at Diocesan Men’s Conference, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg.
Make a Difference for Catholic Charities

By Chris Meehan
Special to The Witness

Spring is finally here! Here is an update on a few of the many things happening at Catholic Charities:

Volunteers Needed for St. Elizabeth Guild

To borrow a slogan from the United States Marines, Catholic Charities is looking for a few good men, women, and groups of people.

More specifically, we’re looking for individuals who want to get involved with our organization. We’re looking for people to help us raise money, plan events, volunteer at our programs, and create community awareness about our agency.

Over the past few years, the Guild has been very helpful in many areas, including our Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic, our Come and See Dinner, and the Guild’s “Souper Bowl Sunday” soup sale. These events have increased our exposure and raised much-needed dollars for our programs.

The challenge we are facing with the Guild is that we need more people. Currently, there are a handful of people involved. Like any volunteer organization, having too few people do the majority of the work is going to lead to burnout.

So that is why I am taking this opportunity to ask for help. I am hopeful that there are other individuals interested in being a part of the Saint Elizabeth Guild who will help us reenergize our group.

Our efforts have been focused on the Harrisburg region, but I envision a group of Guild members in Lancaster, York, and/or other areas of the diocese. I would love to be able to report that there are various activities taking place in different regions.

But to get to that point, we need people to get involved. Are you interested? If so, contact me at 717-657-4804 (ext 264) or cmeehan@cchbg.org so we can get rolling.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic – May 12

Now that winter appears to finally be over, we are looking forward to the 12th Annual Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic on May 12. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families. Our tournament will take place at Blue Ridge Country Club in Harrisburg, and it will be a four-person scramble format. Golfers of all abilities are welcome. Not a golfer? Please consider a donation to the event to help support the shelter.

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community – May 17

On May 17, Catholic Charities will be one of 45 nonprofit organizations participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. Because Highmark underwrites all of the costs associated with the walk, 100% of the dollars raised by walkers will benefit the participating organizations. All of the money raised by the walkers for Catholic Charities will benefit Lourdeshouse Maternity Home. Can’t join us for the walk? Please consider making a donation to help support Lourdeshouse.

For more information about either of these events, visit our newly designed website, www.ccbh.org. Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, Catholic Charities. Happy spring!

(Chris Meehan is the Director of Development for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.)

The New Evangelization – Eucharist

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, I had the pleasure of walking through a small art museum in northern New Jersey. The exhibits that were displayed at the museum centered on Hurricane Sandy and the devastation that the storm caused. Besides this exhibit, the museum also exhibited paintings that were created on quilts. The pieces experimented with color as well as various textures. I was totally intrigued with what I witnessed.

As I sauntered through the display areas digesting the beauty and the power of art, I kept hearing a child’s voice. High-pitched squeaks and laughter were intermingled with, “Hey, buddy! Don’t run too far ahead of mom and me!” Eventually, our paths intersected. I realized that this child was no more than two and a half years old and came up barely to my thigh. When he spied me, he stopped dead in his tracks. I bent over and said, “Hello, sir! How are you today?” and then stood up. He began at my shoes and panned up with his eyes to my face. Upon processing the vertical distance from the floor to the top of my head, he exclaimed, “Whoaaa!” His father, in hot pursuit, stood there and took in the entire scene. We both laughed at the boy’s reaction and the dad said, “Ah, Sir! Can I take a picture of you? This is the first time he has stopped all day!”

I was reminded of this encounter when I read a short poem by Mary Oliver that was within an article in the Emmanuel Magazine. The article was called, “The New Evangelization: A Eucharistic Orientation by Owen F. Cummings” (Emmanuel Publication, Vol. 119, No. 6, pg. 505). The poem purposes: “Instructions for Living a Life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.”

Pay Attention: As a teacher, I was constantly calling my students to attend to the instruction and the activities going on within my class. As an evangelist, I sometimes feel like standing on the rooftops and calling out, “Wake up! Come on! Don’t you understand the richness of your faith? Don’t you understand that God loves you intimately? God waits for you to make the first step in responding to His love.”

Part of “paying attention” is not only knowing but understanding that each of us is part of a community of believers that is called a PARISH that is part of the global Church. The Church should be at the center of our sacramental and liturgical life, as well as the place that we grow to know God spiritually and to become the place in which our hopes and joys are sustained and nurtured. Being a joily-filled, God-centered person is truly countercultural. This is why we all need to pay attention to how the Holy Spirit is working in our lives every single day.

Be astonished: Amazement, surprise and wonder should be part of our lives’ experience of who God is, as our finite minds and hearts reflect on the infinite God. The “whoaaa” of that toddler as he reflected on my nearly six-foot height is a mere fraction of what our “whoaaa” should be as we contemplate God’s love. Astonishment is nurtured through a commitment to prayer, reflection and study. Our brains need to be fed not only with knowledge of why we do what we do, but who we truly are in the light of our baptism.

We are God’s sons and daughters! We live and move and have our being in God (Acts 17:28). We belong to a community of saints who have left us a library of words of wisdom through the simple sharing of their stories. This is a rich legacy, since they model how we should be living.

Tell about it: This is the essence of what the new evangelization is all about. Telling others about Christ is the foundation of every missionary action of the Church ever since the apostles were originally sent out. Each of us must participate in this mission. If you truly love God, then that love should and must spill over into action. Words alone are not the sole means of evangelization. Words help, but actions speaker louder. Our culture can be evangelized when we do ordinary actions in an extraordinary way. Words associated with St. Francis of Assisi describe this notion in this way: “Evangelize with our whole life, and if necessary, use words.”

What can we assist you to pay attention, be astonished, and tell others? The Eucharist. Understanding of what grace the Eucharist brings forth in our lives, as well as how it unites and creates the Church, leads to spiritual maturity. Jesus himself said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.” (Jn 6:56). Upon reflection of this, I am left with one word: “Whoaaa! What’s up about you?”

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of the IT Department. An educator for 28 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Corpus Christi Makes Contact with Mission Control

Above: Eric Trinh asks a question of the robotics specialists at NASA.

Right: Students from Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg participate in a live chat with NASA’s Mission Control from the science center at Wilson College.

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Corpus Christi school students in Chambersburg connected with NASA’s Mission Control on April 10 via a webcam at Brooks Science Center on the campus of Wilson College. The virtual visit was part of Corpus Christi School’s ongoing relationship with NASA Explorer School.

Last year, students participated in classroom science projects that were then taken by their teachers – Amanda Blough, Amy Fetteroff and Kelly Hocken- smith – on a zero-gravity flight. This year, the school was rewarded with a $5,000 grant used for six Lego Mindstorms EV3 sets, which allow the students to create and command robots. They were also given the opportunity to speak live with a robotics specialist at Mission Control.

Several students were selected to ask questions, which included, “How do you train for operations on the International Space Station?” and “What programming language do you use to program your robots?” Each student’s question was answered in a professional manner, but also in a way understandable to the students. The specialist at Mission Control also showed some coverage of the Space Station as well as some live training taking place in Houston.

Amanda Blough said that she hopes her students are inspired by the conversation and understand what hard work and dedication these robotics specialists have put into their careers.

National Merit Scholars Honored

Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program were recently recognized by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Pictured with Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary of Education, left, and Bishop Ronald W. Gainer are, front row, Megan Berg of Trinity High School and Rachel Hottle of Delone Catholic, and, back row, Joshua Riley of Lancaster Catholic, Adam Desseyn of York Catholic, and Alexander Ringlein of Lancaster Catholic.

Five diocesan high school students have earned recognition this year as Finalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program: Megan Berg of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, Rachel Hottle of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, Joshua Riley and Alexander Ringlein of Lancaster Catholic High School, and Adam Desseyn of York Catholic High School.

The five students enjoyed a luncheon with Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, hosted by the Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools on April 15 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for high school students to receive recognition and college scholarships. Nearly 1.5 million students enter the program each year. To become a Finalist, a student must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test. The student must also complete an application and essay detailing their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Megan Berg of Trinity High School is involved in Strings, where she twice participated in district orchestra. She also plays on the volleyball team, serves as a Shamrock Ambassador, is a member of the National Honor Society, and volunteers at her school and her parish of St. Katharine Drexel in Mechanicsburg.

Rachel Hottle of Delone Catholic is active in concert band, chorus, cross country, Student Council, the National Honor Society, and the Interact Club. She plans to attend Swarthmore College, double majoring in music, with a concentration in flute performance, and political science.

Joshua Riley of Lancaster Catholic is involved in Student Council, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl and marching band. He is president of the Respect Life Club, and has been awarded a silver key in Scholastic Art and Writing.

Adam Desseyn of York Catholic is a member of the Boy Scouts, the National Honor Society and the Prom Committee. He is an Eagle Scout, and has been a winner of National Novel Writing Month. Adam has been awarded a full scholarship to DeSales University, where he plans to earn a degree in computer science with an emphasis in game design.
By Emily M. Albert  
The Catholic Witness

Did you know “God’s NOT Dead” and “Heaven Is For Real?”

Maybe you haven’t noticed, or maybe you have. Hollywood has had an increase in Christian themed movies in the last few months.

It began with “Son of God,” released Feb. 28 by Heards Entertainment Productions and LightWorkers Media. This film was quickly dismissed by most movie critics, claiming poor acting and mediocre filming. However, many movie-goer reports were high and, in fact, the film grossed $59,437,041 by April 20. For comparison, well-known director Wes Anderson’s film “Grand Budapest Hotel” has grossed $44,964,929 as of April 20, and has been in the box office since March 7, only eight days less than “Son of God.”

Watching the film, I easily related to Jesus. He is portrayed very much as a human and common man. As the movie goes in its plot and Jesus continues to find his disciples, you can’t help but wish to be one of them. There are moments in the film when you want to scream at the screen, “How could our ancestors not have believed?!”

The film is in the style of “The Passion of Christ,” but is extremely different too. It shares several of Jesus’ most known miracles, and you understand Jesus as a man. It made me relate and contemplate my own experiences the incense used by priests at the altar.

I thought this was a beautiful symbolic gesture from Hollywood. And though they never say God once in the movie, instead of using the word Creator, there is an undeniable devotion from “Noah.”

“Son of God” and “Noah” created emotion and curiosity for the Bible. If even just one person who has never read Scripture went home and Googled “Genesis” or “The Last Supper,” then Hollywood was preaching without even realizing it.

“God’s Not Dead” is an obvious Christian film. It challenges the viewer to believe even when no one around them does. The plot follows a young man who takes a philosophy class in his first year of college. On the first day of class, the professor wants to get one thing out of the way for the rest of the semester: God is dead.

He is an atheist and insists that students will not speak about the existence of a great being. The young man refuses to agree with the professor, and, as a result, must prove God’s not dead. We follow this young man as those around him, all Christians, tell him to give in and just do what the professor wants. We also follow several other characters in their trials of belief and non-belief. The final scene of the film gives reassurance of God’s great forgiveness. And it even challenges the viewer to text everyone in their phone, “God’s Not Dead.”

I saw this film after watching “Noah,” but before seeing “Son of God.” I thought that was the perfect placement. After the movie, I spoke with my sister, who asked me, “What did you take away from the film?” At first I wasn’t sure how to answer the question, because the movie was so honest about its belief that I thought, “Why do I even need to take anything away?” But then I realized it was Jesus. The film did such an amazing job at connecting you to Jesus. And I’d say as I finalized my film binge, “Heaven Is For Real” did the same thing.

“Heaven Is For Real” is a movie based on an award-winning novel about a true story of a four-year-old boy who has a near death experience and believes he visited heaven. The young boy in the film is the son of a small town preacher, and as he begins to tell his father about his experiences, the father becomes more and more curious, all the while having his faith questioned and at the same time strengthened. The film itself is a little quirky, but a good experience. And again, it creates curiosity about faith. How easily we can say we believe but, just like Peter, quickly come to deny God?

I’m still fascinated that the big screen has chosen not to deny God. That there are quality films for families to attend and open discussion about Jesus is remarkable. Perhaps Hollywood is trying its hand at the way it used to create films, harkening back to the 50s and 60s, when “The Ten Commandments” was created, or “The Greatest Story Ever Told.”

Or maybe it’s just time for the secular world to know “God’s Not Dead.”

(Continuing with showings of faith-based movies, Regal Entertainment Group in Harrisburg will host a limited showing of "God’s Not Dead" in Harrisburg the weekend of May 3 and 4. The film is at "The Hallmark" cinema, and tickets are available online.)

Roma Downey stars in a scene from the movie “Son of God.”

‘Beginning Experience’ Weekends for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse

Camp Hebron, 957 Camp Hebron Road in Halifax  
June 13-15 and Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

Beginning Experience is an approved Roman Catholic program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. Beginning Experience is the Church at work, providing help, healing and spiritual restoration.

Save the Date

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Fourth Annual Weekend Retreat  
June 13 – 15, 2014  
Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.

Father John Schmalhofer, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover, Retreat Master

All women of the Harrisburg Diocese are cordially invited to join us for this spiritual weekend. To register, or for more information, contact Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 or FrankHarbM@aol.com.
The exuberance of youth on fire with the Catholic faith spilled down the steps of the state Capitol April 13 as upwards of 1,000 teens gathered for the annual Palm Sunday liturgy in Harrisburg.

Singing and dancing as they rejoiced in the faith and offered praise and worship to God, they were greeted by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer for the celebration of Mass and the blessing of palms.

As the last strains of “Hosanna in the highest!” echoed down State Street, the bishop reminded the youth that their commemoration of the Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem is not a reenactment, but a mystery for today.

“Today, as we walk with these palms in this glorious liturgical procession, we are reaffirming our discipleship in Jesus,” the bishop told them.

Looking up at the sight of hundreds of their peers praising God on the Capitol steps, Meghan Freed and Regan Warren from St. Joseph Parish in York couldn’t help but feel inspired.

“Even though everybody has their own way of celebrating their faith and expressing their joy in Christ, it’s exciting to see that there are so many other young people who keep the faith alive and are passionate about it,” Regan said.

The girls are members of the Ignite Catholic Youth Ministry, which brings teens from St. Joseph and St. Patrick parishes into an intimate relationship with Christ. They said that their involvement with Ignite has led them to participate in events such as the Fan the Fire rally, the Steubenville youth conference and the diocesan World Youth Day celebration on Palm Sunday.

“Events like this really give us an opportunity to grow and express our faith with other people,” Meghan said. “We want to do whatever we can in our community to bring the love and the joy of God to others.”

Following the blessing of palms, participants processed to St. Patrick Cathedral, where the celebration of Mass continued. Several teens proclaimed the Lord’s Passion from the Gospel of Matthew.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer pointed to the “clash of human emotions” presented in the Palm Sunday liturgy: from the joy of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem to the grief of his suffering and death; and from his gathering with the disciples at the Last Supper to his abandonment.

“All of these conflicting emotions and experiences are brought together in this liturgy just as they come together in our lives,” he said. “We know that rollercoaster in our lives; the highs and the lows, the ups and the downs. Just as in our lives as in this liturgy, they can only be

Palm Sunday ~ A Mystery Unfolding Today

John Mullen and Josh Konkolits of St. Columba Parish in Bloomsburg join their peers in an exuberant demonstration of the love for their faith by singing and dancing to songs of praise and worship on the Capitol steps during the diocese’s World Youth Day celebration on Palm Sunday.
Holy Thursday ~ Christ Came to Serve

Celebrated during the evening on the Thursday of Holy Week, the Church begins its observance of the Easter Triduum and commemorates the Last Supper on Holy Thursday.

The “Ceremonial of Bishops,” which presents rubrics on conducting liturgical celebrations, sets forth that “This Mass is, first of all, the memorial of the institution of the Eucharist, that is, of the Memorial of the Lord’s Passover, by which under sacramental signs he perpetuated among us the sacrifice of the New Law. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is also the memorial of the institution of the priesthood, by which Christ’s mission and sacrifice are perpetuated in the world” (#297).

Just as the Lord Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper as a sign that Christians should love one another, at the Holy Thursday Mass celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer washed the feet of diocesan seminarians studying for the priesthood.

At the conclusion of Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was placed in a special repository, with the faithful invited to spend time in prayer, representing the disciples’ staying with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane.

As part of the celebration, the council selects an organization to receive monies collected during the Offertory. At this year’s Mass, $1,497.56 was collected for Cross Catholic Outreach, a ministry that serves the poor to help them break the cycle of poverty while advancing Catholic evangelization. (By Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness.)

Palm Sunday

Continued from 7

held together in a harmonious tension by a mystery – the mystery of God’s love for us.”

He exhorted the teens to “make a new resolve not to be afraid of anything, but to love Jesus as he loves us, and to allow whatever cross comes our way to only open us to divine love and to the hope and conviction that every cross holds the promise of new life, joy and glory.”

The annual Palm Sunday celebration is planned and led by the Diocesan Youth Council, a group of young people from parishes and Catholic high schools that focuses on messages and service opportunities to take to their peers.

As part of the celebration, the council selects an organization to receive monies collected during the Offertory. At this year’s Mass, $1,497.56 was collected for Cross Catholic Outreach, a ministry that serves the poor to help them break the cycle of poverty while advancing Catholic evangelization. (By Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness.)

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

At the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer washes the feet of seminarians Anthony San Severino, left, and Gregory Kramp, right. The practice of the washing of the feet represents the service and charity of Christ.
The Chrism Mass ~
Uniting the Faithful in the Sacraments

Celebrated on Monday of Holy Week, the Chrism Mass is the sacred liturgy during which the bishop consecrates the Sacred Chrism and blesses the holy oils that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments in parishes throughout the coming year.

On this solemn occasion, the bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick, which is used in the Anointing of the Sick, and the Oil of the Catechumens, which is used in anointing those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

During this Mass, the bishop also consecrates the Sacred Chrism, used in the baptism of children, the Sacrament of Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and the dedication of altars.

Like all sacred oils, Chrism is made from olive oil and is scented with Balsam. It symbolizes God’s overflowing grace and serves as a reminder of our call to serve a sacred purpose.

In his homily during the solemn Mass, celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer told the congregation that the Chrism Mass “is a celebration for all the Christian faithful.”

“Our active participation today in this Chrism Mass is an opportunity to share in the joy that these oils will bring to so many,” Bishop Gainer said.

“The Chrism Mass also emphasizes the ministry of priests, who renew their commitment to priestly service in the presence of the bishop, and with the support and prayers of the faithful present. ’We cannot fail to recognize the vast majority of priests who remain faithful, by God’s grace, and daily live and serve as Christ in our midst,’ Bishop Gainer said. ’This steadfast fidelity and selfless dedication does not make printed headlines, nor is it reported in the evening news. But we who are served can never take for granted or forget our faithful priests. My sisters and brothers, never cease praying for your priests.’ ”

(By Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness.)
The greatest and most noble of all solemnities, the Easter Vigil is the night when the Church keeps watch and awaits Christ’s return in glory.

The Roman Missal states: “On Holy Saturday, the Church waits at the Lord’s tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death and on his Descent into Hell, and awaiting the Lord’s Resurrection.”

The Easter Vigil is celebrated in parishes throughout the diocese. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer celebrated the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. It began outside with the creation of a blazing fire, the flames of which dispelled the darkness and offered light in the night.

With the congregation assembled around the fire, the Paschal Candle was brought forward as the symbol of the light of Christ scattering the darkness, and lit from the fire.

The congregation then processed into the darkened Cathedral with candles, following the Paschal Candle in procession as a sign of following the light of Christ. The Cathedral lights were then lit for the continuation of the liturgy.

At the Easter Vigil, the Exsultet is also proclaimed, as are seven readings from the Old Testament and two readings from the New Testament. They serve as a recounting of the deeds of the history of salvation.

It is also during the Easter Vigil that new members of the Catholic Church are baptized, confirmed and receive Holy Communion for the first time.

The “Rubrics of the Easter Vigil” state that the Vigil, by its nature, should not begin before nightfall, and should end before daybreak on Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil is the turning point of the Triduum, marking Christ’s passage from death into life.
I am Love and mercy itself. This is the heart of Jesus’ message of Divine Mercy that he entrusted to the 1930s to a simple Polish nun, Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament, by intimate personal revelations. In these gestate revelations from 1934-1938, the Lord Jesus told Sister Faustina that he wanted her to be his “apostle and secretary” and to write down all that he would say to her. His message of divine mercy would go out to the world through her diary entitled “Divine Mercy in My Soul.” Faustina was called by Jesus to be an instrument of his mercy. She offered many hardships and sufferings in union with Christ’s suffering in reparation for the sins of humanity and for divine mercy for souls. She experienced humility, joy, purity and obedience. These were the fruits of the graces she received from the Holy Eucharist, which she called the Fountain of Mercy: from the Sacrament of Penance, and through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy.

On April 26, 1938, a local trucks driver was elected pope and took the name John Paul I. Thirty-three days later, he was dead, and there was need for another conclave. There emerged from this conclave a man of whom most of the world outside of Poland was not aware. Entering the conclave as Karol Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow, on October 16, 1978, he excised the conclave as Pope John Paul II. The new pope was intimately aware of the Divine Mercy revelations and had been a promoter of them and of Sister Faustina while in Poland. He would soon take this message to the world stage. Pope John Paul II was inextricably linked throughout his life with the message of Divine Mercy, both by his personal example and in his official acts as Christ’s Chief Vicar on Earth, the Servant of the Servants of God.

In the movie version of C.S. Lewis’s classic “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” when St. Nicholas, on scene, he slings the heavy sack of gifts from his back and takes the name John Paul II. The new pope was intimately aware of the Divine Mercy revelations and had been a promoter of them and of Sister Faustina while in Poland. He would soon take this message to the world stage. Pope John Paul II was inextricably linked throughout his life with the message of Divine Mercy, both by his personal example and in his official acts as Christ’s Chief Vicar on Earth, the Servant of the Servants of God.

This is an allegory, of course, for the battle each Christian has to fight the devil, and the fruits of the harmful elements in the culture, and against Satan and his minions. The Divine Mercy devotions are spiritual weapons that Our Lord gives us to wage and win the battle to take out the devil. He is streaming down from the heavens, which had been closed since the Fall of Adam, and we have prayed for God’s Divine Mercy to envelop the children that don’t would assuredly have it the day before, on Saturday. About the Sacrament of Penance, Jesus told St. Nicholas, “When the time comes that I shall manifest this to the children of mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy” (1602). At another time he tells her, “In the Tribunal of Mercy (the Sacrament of Penance)… the greatest miracles take place and are incontestable.”

To go Mass and Receive the Eucharist (if properly disposed, i.e., Catholic and in the state of grace).

To make a Novena to the Divine Mercy.

Some parishes have the Sacrament of Penance available on the Feast of Divine Mercy. If so, I would encourage you to approach Jesus with a full heart, and to ask for His mercy on those ones that don’t would assuredly have it the day before, on Saturday. About the Sacrament of Penance, Jesus told St. Nicholas, “When the time comes that I shall manifest this to the children of mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy” (1602). At another time he tells her, “In the Tribunal of Mercy (the Sacrament of Penance)... the greatest miracles take place and are incontestable.”

If you need to be reconciled to someone or to forgive an enemy with a grudge, you can do it. We know not the day, nor the hour, when God will call us to himself! Trample on pride and be reconciled.

Perhaps it is best to end with some of Jesus’ own words regarding his mercy:

That mercy is of his essence: “I am Love and Mercy itself” (1074).

That now is the acceptable time: “While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy” (848).

That we, and thus our sins, have a finite quality, but that since Jesus is God incarnate, he, and therefore his mercy, is infinite and there are no finite sins, and thus the sins that are too great for his mercy. We must but avail ourselves of it.

That God is so far to draw near to me, even though his sins be as scarlet” (699). “My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world” (1485).

Thank You, Lord!”

I love and adore You, Jesus!

Jesus, I trust in You.

### Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Chaplet for Divine Mercy**

**I.** Jesus, I trust in You! **(I love and adore You, Jesus!)**

**ù**

**2.** Go to Mass and Receive the Holy Eucharist **(if properly disposed, i.e., Catholic and in the state of grace).**

**ù**

**3.** 3 PM – The Hour of Great Mercy

**ù**

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a prayer normally prayed on Rosary beads.

We begin with the Sign of the Cross. Then, on the first three small beads, we pray the Our Father, then a Hail Mary, then the Apostles’ Creed.

On each of the Our Father beads, the following prayer is either recited or chanted: “Eternal Father, I offer you the
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columbia: Joseph M. Chyko, Donald E. Stock.
BONNEVAULE – St. Joseph the Worker: Karina E. Kuhn, Patricia Emerson.
COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Catherine Aldons, Harold Nikolaus, Mary L. Smith; St. Peter: Mary Greenya.
ENOLA – Our Lady of Lourdes: Anna H. Worotyla.
GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Marie Anzengruber, Isabelle Goodcare, Rosetta Johnson, Dawn Kirschner, Eleanor Krawczyk, Phil Plotka, John V. White; Antonio Xavier: Marie McNaughton.
HANOVER – St. Joseph: Mary C. Marchin, William Moore, Raymond C. Toal; St. Vincent de Paul: Josephine Neri.
HARRISBURG – Holy Name of Jesus: Elizabeth Yutromsky; St. Catherine Laboure: James Powell, Helen Trautman; St. Francis of Assisi: Barbara Miller, Joanne Retrieve; St. Margaret Mary: Frank Gnall, Joyce Barabara Miller, Joanne Retrieve; St. Peter: Mary Greenya.
LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: John Skubon.
LITTLESTOWN – St. Aloysius: Rhea Gingrow, Earl G. Sanders, Edward Snerringer.
MCHESTRUNKY – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Ruth Carr, Margaret Jirik.
MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Ruth Carr, Margaret Jirik.
MOUNT CARMEl – Divine Redeemer: Benjamin R. Frank; Our Lady: Agnes Gudonis, Aaron Profitt.
NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Evelyn Curry, Thomas Sullivan.
NEW FREEmO – St. John the Baptist: Thomas Augustyniak, Stephen Wiedmaier.
RHErrTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Rosemary Giandalia, Joanne Pettito.
STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Marie McNaughton.
WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Sharon Hager, Mary Morton, Muriel Santucci, Alexandra “Sandy” Wlson.
YORK – St. Patrick: Ann Ferro, Con Thi Vu; St. Rose of Lima: Eduardo Pinto.

Catholic Perspective

April 27 - The Canonizations of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II are featured this week on Catholic Perspective. Contributor Rose Atkinson finds out more about the canonizations, and talks with a local travel coordinator who discusses the renewed interest in trips to the Holy Land and to Rome.

Karen Hurley, who traveled to Rome several times in her role as former president of worldwide Catholic women’s groups, also appears on the program in our Spotlight Story.

A Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese and WHFY AM 720. It can be heard Mondays at noon and Sundays at 3 p.m. on WHFY AM 720 and on Sunday mornings on WYAN AM 1350; Lancaster: at 7:30 a.m.; WHIV AM 1280; Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WOKAM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIZE AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WVEC FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9.30 a.m. It is also available on line at www.OldiesRadio1620.com and on the WWSM 1510 AM at 9 a.m. It can also be heard online at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Eat at Bob Evans and Benefit Catholic Radio – Bob Evans restaurants in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Snyder and York counties will participate in a community fundraiser to benefit Holy Family Radio, AM 720, on April 28-30. Fifteen percent of your purchases between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., dine in or carry out, will be donated. You must present a flyer at check-out for Holy Family Radio to receive credit. Fliers and a list of locations can be found on Holy Family Radio’s website - www.720whfy.com or at the station at 8 W. Main Street, Shiremanstown, during business hours, 717-525-8110.

Seminarian John Kuchinski Receives Ministry of Acolyte

John Kuchinski, a seminarian of the Diocese of Harrisburg, was one of 53 seminarians to receive the Ministry of Acolyte during a Mass April 6 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong, Secretary for Seminaries at the Congregation for the Clergy in the Vatican, conferred the Ministry of Acolyte on the men.

Mr. Kuchinski is a native of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown.

As part of the rite, the archbishop placed a paten – a plate of precious metal that contains the host – into the hands of each candidate and said, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your table at the Lord’s Table of his Church.”

As acolytes, the seminarians are commissioned to serve at the altar at Mass, to assist in the purification of Consecration vessels, and are charged to take Holy Communion to the sick.

The seminarians are currently in their second year of theological formation and will have two additional years of studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood. Reception of the Ministry of Acolyte follows reception of the Ministry of Lector, which was conferred upon them last year. It precedes ordination to the transitional diaconate.

Gastley Scholarship Foundation to Host Dinner Raffle

Jack Connor walked many of the same footsteps as John Gastley. Coach Connor patrolled the sidelines of many of the same south central Pennsylvania youth football fields as Coach Gastley. They lived in the same town, and over their careers both were the recipients of numerous football accolades at the local and state level. They both were leaders and mentors to many young men. Jack Conner will be the honored guest speaker at this year’s Dinner Raffle on May 31 at SAVES Hall in Hanover to support The John Gastley Scholarship Foundation.

The foundation provides one four-year tuition award to Delone Catholic High School each year. Earning the scholarship has little to do with athletics. An 8th grader is selected through an application process based on criteria that examines what the student has accomplished to positively influence his or her community.

At Hanover High School coaching from 1971-1998, Coach Connor impacted countless lives. Coach John Gastley did not have the same length of career, but likely provided positive impact to as many individuals as a Delone graduate, as a teacher, as a coach, and as a business and family man.

One $500 ticket admits two for dinner and drinks and entitles one entry into the $5,000 raffle. Only 300 tickets are being sold. You do not have to be present to win. Food and beverages will be served and small games of chance are available all evening. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at SAVES Hall, located at 5865 Hanover Road, Hanover. Tickets are available online at www.gastleyfoundation.org, by phone at 717-717-451-9820, by e-mail at info@gastleyfoundation.com or via standard mail to The John Gastley Scholarship Foundation, PO Box 755, Hanover PA 17331.

Pregnancy & Family Resource Center Has New Location in York, Receives Knights’ Donation for Ultrasound Machine

Friends of the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center in York gathered recently to celebrate the center’s new beginning at 1049 North Hartley Street in York. The St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 11872 presented the organization with a check for a new ultrasound machine at the reception.

Father Keith Carroll, Administrator of St. Patrick Parish, provided a blessing. The Pregnancy & Family Resource Center was incorporated in 1990, and was formerly located at 46 West Princess Street in York. The new center opened its doors at the Hartley Street location to serve women and families in need on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2014.

The Pregnancy & Family Resource Center provides pregnancy support services, material assistance, a parent education program and community referrals to anyone pregnant or parenting young children. All services are free of charge. The center has relocated to a convenient, accessible and spacious first-floor location, to be able to expand their services to the community, including ultrasounds and hours of operation and operation days. The center is open through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Additional hours may be available upon request by calling 717-854-6283 or visiting the Web site, www.yorkpregnancycenter.com.

Pregnancy & Family Resource Center

Has New Location in York, Receives Knights’ Donation for Ultrasound Machine
Dioscure Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon will celebrate a Day of Divine Mercy on April 25 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Annville. The Mass will be held May 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Mechanicsburg. The service will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recreation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. Confessions will not be available.

St. Rita Church in Blue Ridge Summit will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will start after the 9 a.m. Mass. There will be a Holy Hour for vocations starting at 1:30 p.m. at St. Rita Church. This year’s Mass. Exposition of the Sacred Heart will start at 2:30, with the Chaplet chanting beginning at 3 p.m. For more information, call 717-642-2441.

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 27 at 12:15 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Mechanicsburg. The service will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recreation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. Confessions will not be available.

The St. Catherine Laboure CW@ in Harrisburg is sponsoring an Eucharistic Holy Hour of Prayer on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, starting at 2:30 p.m. in the Shrine Church. The Holy Hour will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as well as the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m., the Hour of Divine Mercy. A reception will follow in Leo Hall. For information, contact Loretta at 717-570-7593 or Diocesan allegiance: group@bigpond.com. Join us as we also celebrate the canonization of Pope John Paul II, who has introduced many new prayer practices.

A Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy will be held April 27 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Church in York. Father Keith Carroll will be the celebrant.

A charismatic Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated April 27 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church in New Oxford. Father Philip Ramsey will be celebrant, with Father Timothy Marcoce as concelebrant.

Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Therese Church in New Cumberland by Father Paul Fryer, who will lead the prayers for illness, sickness, neurological or discerning illness. We will all pray that you will learn that every Christian has been given a unique vocation from Our Lord. Eid Mass will conclude the week and call you will give you a new perspective on your life and will help you to be more fulfilled in your work and in your relationships.

St. John of the Cross Community in Hershey will be held May 7 at 7 p.m. Father Pius Michael Tukera will preside. Come and experience the joy of the Easter season through prayer and meditation, as we adore Christ in the most Holy Eucharist. A reception will be held immediately afterward in the cafeteria. For more information, call 717-893-0240.

St. John of Arc Parish in Hershey will host a parish mission, April 26-30. Services will be held at 6 p.m. from April 26-28, and at 8 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. from April 29-30. Father Emmanuel Enobong and Father Phillip Enobong will be the speakers. For more information, call 717-360-6819 or 717-360-6819.

The church will remain open following the 9:15 a.m. Mass. Confessions will be offered. There will be Eucharist. A reception will be held immediately afterward in the cafeteria. For more information, go to www.tollcatholic.com.

Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Berwick continues its Year of Evangelization program with the next installment of Father Richard T. Carty’s “Acts of Faith – Evangelization through Drama. He will share the role of theater in his conversion to the Catholic Church. Happy Hour begins at 7 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7 and a Q&A session. For more information, go to www.tollcatholic.com.

Jody Cole will be conducting icon painting (writing) workshops in the Byzantine Style this summer. She will be at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Gettysburg June 9-13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., an hour for lunch each day (brown bag or go out). The total cost of the workshop, which includes all supplies except optional gold leafing, will be $170. Participants will be able to choose from three icons: Madona de Guadalupe (12/10 X15), portrait “1520” relto style or 10/16” or a 15/20” of The Holy Trinity. For more information contact Jody Cole at 717-910-8769 or jodycoleart@gmail.com. Jody will also conduct a week-long retreat at St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, Pa., July 20-25. Participants will paint a 12”X10” icon of The Nativity of Our Lord, Holy Family, Our Lady of Lourdes, or to register, contact 610-258-3053 or sftrannah@cmn.com.

Prosopon School of Iconology will be presenting an iconography workshop in the Russian Byzantine Tradition with renowned iconographer Dmitri Andreychik. Workshop will be held July 14-19 at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Lebanon. Participants will be able to keep all materials for the class is $600. Out of town students will need to book additional accommodations. Non-refundable deposit of $200 due by June 20. Additional cost is $180 per student. To hold the workshop (deposit will be refunded if workshop is canceled) For complete information and registration form, contact Mary Ann at 717-941-7734.
Proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ resurrection means giving concrete witness “to unconditional and faithful love,” he said April 20 before solemnly giving his blessing “urbi et orbis” (to the city and the world).

Celebrating the second Easter of his pontificate, he met at least 150,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square and on adjacent streets that evangelization “is about leaving ourselves behind and enacting Jesus’ values, being close to those crushed by life’s troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast.”

Whatever is going on in one’s life, he said from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, Jesus’ victory over sin and death gives him the strength to love more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.”

Overlooking the square where he had just greeted them, a helicopter surrounded by hundreds of flowering trees and bushes and thousands of daffodils, tulips and roses, Pope Francis said Christians proclaim to the world that “Jesus, love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death.”

In his Easter message, the pope asked that people pray for the recently ordained, “that they may ‘gather round’ Jesus, as discover his true identity, he must head for the wilderness, lost and always serving those in need, protecting his people, searching for those who are treasuring in my heart the living memory... Have the courage to open your hearts” to the Lord’s love. The pope asked for prayers for the recently ordained, “that they may “gather round” Jesus, as discover his true identity, he must head for the wilderness, lost and always serving those in need, protecting his people, searching for those who are...
York Catholic’s boys’ tennis team clinched a 7-0 Division II record after a victorious match, 6-1, against the Squires of Delone Catholic on April 21. This is the first time since 2009 that the Fighting Irish are Division champions. Coach Denise Dunn attributes their success to early victories, such as the 4-3 win against Dallastown. With the help of Nick and Scott Bartkowiak in doubles, the Fighting Irish also won close matches by their doubles play.

The league tournament will begin play for singles April 25 and doubles April 29. Seatings were to be announced after a meeting on April 23, but Coach Dunn hopes for an ideal top four from her team. “It’s an honor to qualify. Only eight teams move on to districts, and it’s an elite group,” she said.
“Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, And let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, Who, coming back from death’s domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.”

~ From the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)