Bishop McFadden Dedicates St. Matthew Church

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The faith journeys shared by presenters at this year’s convention of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) offered a message particularly relevant during this Year of Faith: God has a plan for everyone.

Deacon David Hall, who serves at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, and Dr. Carol Houghton, STD JCD, Chancellor of the Diocese of Harrisburg, shared personal stories of being called to join the Catholic Church from other faith traditions. Their powerful testimonies captivated convention attendees, who had gathered April 15 at the Cardinal Keeler Center for the 88th annual event hosted by the Lebanon District Council of Catholic Women.

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Build ‘Civilization of Love’ in Response to Bombings, Cardinal Urges

Catholic News Service

Even though "the culture of death looms large" today, the light of Christ the Good Shepherd "can expel the darkness and illuminate for us a path that leads to life, to a civilization of solidarity and love," said Boston Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley.

"I hope that the events of this past week have taught us how high the stakes are," the cardinal told the congregation at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross April 21, referring to the Boston Marathon bombings April 15 and the subsequent manhunt for the perpetrators.

"We must build a civilization of love, or there will be no civilization at all," Cardinal O’Malley said in his homily at the Mass of the Good Shepherd, which he offered for the repose of the souls of those killed in the bombings and the aftermath.

Prayers were also offered for those physically injured and "for the brave men and women who saved countless lives as first responders."

The attack left three people dead and more than 170 people seriously injured. By April 16, the FBI had identified two brothers who came to the United States years ago as from the Russian region of Chechnya – Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19.

The two men terrorized the Boston area overnight April 18. While they were on the run, they fatally shot Officer Sean Collier, who was with the campus police force at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Tamerlan was shot dead by police, and by the evening of April 19 they apprehended Dzhokhar, whom they found hiding in a boat in a backyard. He was severely wounded and as of April 22 remained hospitalized in serious condition.

In his homily, Cardinal O’Malley talked of how Jesus, before he was crucified, "was severely wounded and as of April 22 found hiding in a boat in a backyard. He was severely wounded and as of April 22 remained hospitalized in serious condition."

"That is what happened to his disciples as well," the cardinal said. "They will strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter."

The inability of the Congress to enact laws that control access to automatic weapons, he said, has contributed to "the wanton violence and destruction inflicted upon our community by two young men unknown to all of us," he said.

"It is very difficult to understand what was going on in the young men’s minds, what demons were operative, what ideologies or politics or the perversion of their religion. It was amazing to witness, however, how much goodness and generosity were evidenced in our community as a result of the tragic events they perpetrated," he added.

In recent days, "we have experienced a surge in civic awareness and sense of community," Cardinal O’Malley said. "It has been inspiring to see the generous and thoughtful response of our community to this atrocity.

"Our challenge is to keep this spirit of community alive going forward. As people of faith, we must commit ourselves to the task of community building," he urged his listeners to heed what Jesus teaches in the Gospel – "that we must care for each other, especially the most vulnerable: the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the foreigner; all have a special claim on our love."

"We must be a people of reconciliation, not revenge. The crimes of the two young men must not be the justification for prejudice against Muslims and against immigrants," he emphasized. "The Gospel is the antidote to the ‘eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth’ mentality."

After Mass, when asked about the fate of suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev if found guilty of the bombings, Cardinal O’Malley told reporters the Catholic Church opposes the death penalty, "which I think is one further manifestation of the culture of death in our midst."

In his homily, he reminded his listeners of the parable of the good Samaritan, a story, he said, "about helping one’s neighbor when that neighbor was from an enemy tribe, a foreign religion, a hostile group."

"We know so little about the two young men who perpetrated these heinous acts of violence. One said he had no friends in this country, the other said his chief interests were money and his career," Cardinal O’Malley said. "People need to be part of a community to lead a fully human life."

"As believers one of our tasks is to build community, to value people more than money or things, to recognize in each person a child of God, made in the image and likeness of our Creator."

He added, "The individualism and alienation of our age has spawned a culture of death. Over a million abortions a year is one indication of how human life has been devalued. Violent entertainment, films and video games have coarsened us and made us more insensitive to the pain and suffering of others."

"The inability of the Congress to enact laws that control access to automatic weapons is emblematic of the pathology of our violent culture."

He said "the innocent victims who perished this week – Martin Richard, Krystle Campbell, Lu Lingzi and Officer Sean Collier – will live in eternity."

"Life is not ended, merely changed – that is the message of Easter. As [the Rev.] Martin Luther King expressed, ‘Death is a comma, not a period at the end of a sentence,’" Cardinal O’Malley said.

A private funeral Mass for Krystle Campbell, 29, was celebrated the morning of April 22 at St. Joseph Church in Medford. At the request of the family, no media were allowed inside the church for the Mass.

An overflow crowd filled St. Ann Parish in Dorchester for the morning family Mass April 21 to remember 8-year-old Martin Richard and pray for his family and for the other victims of the bombings and their families.
Simplified Application Helps Business Owners Offer Scholarships to Local Students

By A.B. Hill

The words “simplified,” “tax” and “form” are not often found in the same sentence; but a revision to the application for the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program puts them together. After persistent feedback by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) and others about the cumbersome application process, the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) simplified the tax credit form, making it easier than ever for companies to receive a financial benefit in return for their support of education. “Pennsylvania’s educational tax credit programs are unique. How often do taxpayers get to dictate where their dollars go to do the most good for the community?” said Sean McAleer, PCC Education Director.

“Government should encourage people to participate in programs that benefit education, not make it difficult. Donors, scholars, and parents are grateful for DCED’s re-arrangement of the process, not make it difficult. Donors, scholars, and parents are grateful for DCED’s re-arrangement of the program, not make it difficult,” said Father Quinlan added. “This program, targeted to the most needy families in some difficult educational settings, provides them with the real possibility of sending their child to a school that may be the only chance for their success.”

Announcing the improved application process, DCED Secretary C. Alan Walker stressed the administration’s support of the tax credit programs. “The governor is committed to providing students with the best access to quality educational programs. By working with businesses we can provide a unique opportunity for students in low scoring schools to thrive.”

Governor Tom Corbett in 2012 signed into law the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program, making $50 million in tax credits available to businesses that contribute to Opportunity Scholarship Organizations. Another $100 million was allocated to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

The OSTC program creates special scholarships particularly for low-income students in the lowest performing 15% of public schools. OSTC is modeled after the longstanding, highly successful EITC program that has helped tens of thousands of students to attend the school of their choice, including Catholic schools. OSTC scholarships are reserved for students who live within the geographic boundary of one of the 15% lowest performing public schools. Families earning less than 185% of the federal poverty line (or about $45,000 per year for a family of four) and families in certain financially distressed school districts are given a priority. Scholarships may be awarded up to $8,500 or $13,000 for special education students), but may not exceed actual tuition and fees.

Companies that do business in Pennsylvania and pay certain taxes may receive a tax credit for their contribution to a scholarship organization. Tax credits awarded to businesses will be equal to 75 percent of their contribution amount, which can be increased to 90 percent if the businesses continue to support the program for two years. Businesses may receive a maximum credit of $400,000.

EITC scholarships are available to students with a household income of $75,000 per year plus $15,000 per dependent; a family of four making up to $105,000 per year may qualify for an EITC scholarship. The tax benefit is limited, regardless of where they live.

This week’s information about school choice is available at www.pacatholic.org/schoochoice. (L. B. Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic Bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.)

New Site Connects Social Media Posts for Diocese’s Youth Ministry

As the Diocese of Harrisburg prepares its youth and young adults to travel to Mexico and Brazil for World Youth Day this July, the Diocese Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry has created an online Ning site. Blogs, photos and Facebook posts will be made available on the Ning site to members of this online community. Membership is password protected, and online, interactive participation is available to those who become members. We encourage those interested in following along with our pilgrimage and their faithful journey to subscribe at http://youthandyoungadult.ning.com. Ning is a one-stop shop for online social media. Through the Ning, school, the Catholic Witness and youth correspondents will be able to stay in touch and share their stories as often and conveniently as possible. We are excited to have the faithful of diocesan pilgrimage and prayerful pilgrimage, as well as catechesis, will be provided regularly. We encourage those interested in following along to create an account and to be prepared for our July journey in faith.

Catholic Perspective Radio

April 28 – Are you thirsting for information about your faith and the Catholic Church? Grace Uncorked is a new effort by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg to begin a new program on Catholic Perspective. Msgr. William King, pastor of the parish, shares about the idea as well as the first offering that will be held on Friday, May 3. Dorthy Day will be the topic presented by Msgr. James Lyons. Listeners will hear where the idea for the presentations came from and more about what to expect from the gathering.

Deacon Bill Jordan has been fulfilling his vocation as a deacon for 35 years now. Currently serving at St. Richard Parish, Manheim, he shares in the Vocation Spotlight segment how two priests guided and influenced his discernment of the Lord’s calling to him to serve. Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese of and WHYF AM 720. It can be heard Mondays at noon and Sundays at 3 p.m. on WHYF AM 720 and on Sunday mornings on WLAM-AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WHYF-AM 960, Carlisle, at 8 a.m.; WHVR-AM 1280, Havre de Grace, at 8 a.m.; WKOK-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WEEC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available online at www.OldiesRadio1620.com at 6 a.m. and www.WISI1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. or for download at www.hbgdiocean.org.

The Radiothon is coming! Holy Family Radio, AM 720 WHYF, is having its annual Radiothon to raise the funds needed to continue bringing Catholic programming to our area. They have been most helpful to the parishes and ministries that have requested their assistance with publicity. They also provide a solid Catholic resource for everyone with both locally-produced and national programming. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., staff and volunteers will appear live on air with compelling stories and information about the radio station’s mission. Please consider making a donation by calling 717-525-8110 or 717-525-8137. WHYF AM is available online 24 hours a day at www.720WHYF.com for those who have reception problems. Holy Family Radio is an independent, nonprofit organization supported by donations from listeners.

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Pope Francis Says Catholics Still Need to Enact Teachings of Vatican II

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

While some Catholics would like to undo the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, others basically are trying to build a monument to it rather than fully live its teachings, Pope Francis said.

In his homily April 16 at an early morning Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis said Christians must struggle with the temptation to tame the Holy Spirit.

“To speak plainly: The Holy Spirit annoys us,” he said. The Spirit “moves us, makes us walk, pushes the Church to move forward.”

But, too often, he said, Catholics are like the Apostle Peter on the mountaintop when Jesus is transfigured. They, like Peter, say, “Oh, how nice it is to be here all together,” but “don’t bother us.”

“We want the Holy Spirit to sleep,” he said. “We want to domesticate the Holy Spirit, and that just won’t do because he is God and he is that breeze that comes and goes, and you don’t know from where.”

The Holy Spirit is God’s strength, the pope said. The Holy Spirit “gives us consolation and the strength to move forward,” and the moving forward part is what can be a bother.

People think it’s better to be comfortable, but that is not what the fire of the Holy Spirit brings, Pope Francis said.

While Catholics today may be more comfortable speaking about the Holy Spirit than they were 50 years ago, it doesn’t mean the temptation to tame the Spirit has diminished, he said. Pope Francis said reactions to the Second Vatican Council are a prime example.

“The council was a beautiful work of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “But after 50 years, have we done everything the Holy Spirit in the council told us to do?”

The pope asked if Catholics have opened themselves to “that continuity of the Church’s growth” that the council signified. The answer, he said, is “no.”

Catholics seemed willing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the council’s opening in 1962, he said, but they want to do so by “building a monument” rather than by changing anything.

At the same time, Pope Francis said, “there are voices saying we should go back. This is called being hard-headed, this is called wanting to domesticate the Holy Spirit, this is called becoming ‘foolish and slow of heart,’” like the disappointed disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The same phenomenon can be at work in Christians’ personal lives, he said. “The Holy Spirit pushes us” to live the Gospel more seriously, but resistance is often one’s reply.

Pope Francis ended his homily encouraging everyone to pray for docility to the Holy Spirit, “to that Spirit who comes to us and invites us to go back. This is called being hard-headed, this is called wanting to domesticate the Holy Spirit, and that just won’t do because he is God and he is that breeze that comes and goes, and you don’t know from where.”

Spring Fund-Raisers

By Christopher Meehan

Special to The Witness

It appears as though spring is finally here. I haven’t had to wear my winter coat for a while, and my snow shovel has been put away (hopefully) until next winter. After hearing from Punxsutawney Phil back in February that spring was right around the corner, I was starting to wonder if winter was ever going to end. Having grown up in Punxsutawney, I never would have thought Phil’s predictions. But this year I wasn’t so sure if he was right.

Here at Catholic Charities, spring is a busy time for us. In the coming weeks, two important events are scheduled. On May 13, we will be holding the 11th annual Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic at Blue Ridge Country Club in Harrisburg. All of the proceeds from this event will benefit the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families. The Interfaith Shelter is the only homeless shelter in the tri-county region specifically for families. As the demand for our services continues to increase, the funds raised by the Golf Classic are critical to the shelter’s mission to keep families together during a difficult time in their lives. Families who come to the shelter work with the dedicated staff to overcome their barriers to self-sufficiency and resolve to overcome the challenges of finding employment, childcare, health care and housing in order to get back on their feet.

The cost to operate the shelter far exceeds the reimbursement we receive from federal, state, and county funding. Because of this, we rely heavily on the support of our donors as well as the proceeds of our special events. That’s why the funds raised through the Golf Classic are so critically important. Every dollar raised will be used to help homeless families from the shelter overcome their challenging situation.

On May 18, Catholic Charities will be one of many organizations participating in the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. This community benefit is sponsored by Highmark Blue Shield, which underwrites the cost of the walk so that 100 percent of the money raised by walkers supports the participating groups.

All of the proceeds raised by Catholic Charities walkers will benefit Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, a program that provides quality services to pregnant women who have no other means of support. All of the residents at Lourdeshouse are provided with childbirth and parenting classes, case management, and transportation. In addition, case managers assist residents in obtaining employment, housing, education and counseling. Pantry items such as food, diapers and other supplies that are also available for residents.

Much like the Interfaith Shelter, the cost to operate Lourdeshouse is much greater than the funding we receive to operate the program. But without Lourdeshouse, the women involved with the program would not have the support they need. It is imperative for us to do all we can in order to protect the sanctity of human life.

Please join us in May for either or both of these fun events! With your help, we will raise much-needed dollars for two very important causes – homeless families and pregnant women and their babies. Together, we can continue to provide help and create hope for those in need.

For more information about Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, please visit our website at www.ccbh.org.

(Christopher Meehan is the Director of Development for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.)
By Joseph Austin
Catholic News Service

The legacy of Army chaplain Father Emil Kapaun endures because of the men who knew him on the battlefield and in a prison camp during the Korean War, said the spokesman for the Army Office of the Chief of Chaplains.

“The legacy is kept alive by the stories of the soldiers,” Chaplain Kenneth W. Stice, a colonel, told Catholic News Service at a media round-table at the Pentagon April 10. “That legacy goes on whether recognized ... or not.”

With Stice were the priest’s nephew, Ray Kapaun and Father John Hotze, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., the home diocese of Father Kapaun. They spoke to CNS the day before President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military award, posthumously to the Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, who died May 23, 1951, in a North Korean prisoner of war camp.

“Virtually Human: The Impact of Media & Technology on Human Relationships”
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
9:00 am – 3:00 pm -- September 14, 2013

- Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- Keynote address by Dr. Eugene Gan, Professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville and author of “Infinite Bandwidth: Encountering Christ in the Media”
- Breakout sessions to engage parents, catechists, youth ministers, college students and young adults on the moral aspects of media and its use
- Panel discussion with presenters about today’s challenges of media use


U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, who died May 23, 1951, in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, is pictured celebrating Mass from the hood of a jeep Oct. 7, 1950, in South Korea. He was captured about a month later.

A jeep Oct. 7, 1950, in Korea. He was captured about a month later.

Ray accepted the award for bravery. He is pictured in an undated portrait.

U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Kapaun was recently awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military award for bravery. He is pictured in an undated portrait.

Ray came to know his uncle through his father and mother. He ministered to his fellow soldiers even in the prison camp.

“I did not know my uncle ... he died before I was born,” Ray told CNS at the Pentagon.

Born six years after the priest’s death, Ray, who was a youngster, would always help his classmates, tutoring them, and investing the time to make sure they could complete their assignments.

Years later in the POW camp that was his home in his final days, Father Kapaun used his wits to steal food from the guarded warehouse to supply the starving soldiers with food, Father Hotze told CNS.

“He gave his life for his sheep,” Army Chief of Chaplains Father Donald Rutherford told a Pentagon Channel reporter during the media roundtable.

Father Rutherford, a Catholic priest who holds the rank of major general, said he encourages his young chaplains to look at Father Kapaun as an example of the “Army values: of being soldiers, of loyalty, of respect, of dignity, of selfless service, of honor, [and] of personal courage.”

In his homily on Palm Sunday, April 6, 1941, Father Kapaun said: “Men find it easy to follow one who has endeared himself to them. A man finds it a pleasure to serve one who has saved his life.”

When soldiers fell wounded on the battlefield, they need someone there to give them encouragement and hope.

“[Father] Kapaun did that,” said Stice. He used every opportunity to encourage the troops, gave them a will to live, a meaning and a purpose to keep going, the chaplain said. He trained soldiers to be loyal to their country and their values, and to never let go of that thing that holds all of humanity together: life.
The Church: A Pilgrim People of God

By Father Joshua Brommer, STL
Special to The Witness

Since he first stepped onto the grand loggia of St. Peter’s, Pope Francis captivated the attention of many. As the media scrambled to get every bit of news about the Council from “the head of the world,” stories began to spread that Pope Fran- cis would take a different approach to his ministry as Pope Benedict XVI had already worked out all the kinks as well as the Archbishop of Buenos Aires. The Pope takes the bus. The Pope lives in a simple apartment. The Pope pays his own laundry. As quickly as the unique personality of the new Pontiff was revealed, false attempts to put him into contrast with his successor came into the foreground, as if living in someone’s else house, wearing the clothes someone else provides for you, eating the food someone else gives you, and laboring long days for the good of a billion Catho- lics throughout the world was a sign of opulence and not service, a sign of grandeur and not humili- ation. However we may choose to look at it, both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have given us signs of humility and obedience; signs of how a life of service to God and his Church are to be lived out.

As a young priest, Father Ratzinger once explained, “It was especially the Latin countries that developed the idea that the Church is “the Church of the poor.” … If in the past (or even the present) the Church seemed too closely identified with the ruling classes, the term “Church of the poor” reminds us that the Church is not an abstract concept of the world, but a reality of infinite and fundamental importance, a willingness to break free of such chains. It also means that in the footsteps of Christ, the Church is sent especially to the forgotten and poor. Pope Benedict XVI articulated this truth, we can see indications of it lived out in these first months of Pope Fran- cis’ papacy.

During the Council, the Fathers of the Church debated on the nature of the Church. A prevailing identification between the “Church” and her out- ward appearance, one that can easily ignore the risk of ig- noring the rich teaching articulated by St. Paul that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ which includes but is not exclusively the institution and social structure of the Church. The Body of Christ includes all of its members, hierarchal and laity, religious and single, those in heaven and those on earth. The Church is a great mystery to be rever- enced: the Church is the “royal and holy beginning” of the Kingdom of God which gathers together men and women from every race and nation; the Church is the mystical body which shares in the prayer and joy of the kings of heaven to which Christ; the Church is the “cultivated field” and the “building of God;” the Church is the “heavenly Jerusalem,” “our mother,” and “the spotless spouse of the spotless lamb” (LG 6). There is a tension between the “already” and the “not yet” of the Church. The inmortality of God’s People. (Phil 3:20). For early Christians, being a pilgrim was not taken literally. Christians made it a habit of visiting local shrines and holy places, particularly the tombs of the martyrs. Eventually these local trips expanded into much larger pilgrimages. Even in the early Church, these earthly pilgrimages are reminders of the pil- grimage we take through this life to the eternal holy place of heaven.

Pilgrimage is humbling and filled with sacrifice, it demands simplicity. As the Pilgrim Church we must never forget what Pope Francis reminded the Cardinal electors the morn- ing of his election: “As we journey without the Cross … [we are] not disciples of the Lord. My wish is that all of us … will have the courage, yes, the courage, to walk in the presence of the Lord’s Cross.” We do so, confident in the truth that “the sufferings of this present time are not worth com- paring with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom 8:18).

Therefore, the journey is not just a journey and consolation, “The Church, like a stranger in a for- eign land, presses forward amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God” (LG 8). And, we are never alone. We travel together on this pilgrimage as the People of God. Lumen Gentium, the constitution on the Church, puts it this way: “The Church, like the heavenly Jerusalem, is a journey: the “sacraments and institutions” (LG 48) of the Church. Like our ancestors in faith who received manna in the desert, God provides food and sustenance for the Pilgrim Church by giving us the Bread of Angels, the Holy Eucharist. Through the doctrine and law of the Church, we are given the means of grace to renew our pilgrimage, to make pilgrimages, helping us to remain on “the Way”, who is Christ himself (Jn 14:6). Even those who have gone before us, the saints who have already ar- rived, can share their experience with us on the journey in a union “reinforced by an ex- change of spiritual goods” (LG 49).

The saints in heaven are our intercessors and interceding on behalf of the Pilgrim Church as well as exem- plars spurring us on to victory. Lumen Gentium continues, “To look on the life of those who have faithfully followed Christ is to be inspired with a new reason for seeking the city which is to come, while at the same time we are taught to know a most safe path by which, despite the vicissitudes of life, we may arrive at our eternal home, prepared and condition proper to each of us, we will be able to arrive at perfect union with Christ, that is, holiness of heart” (LG 50). The longer the pilgrimage, the more the imitation of the saints is explained as one of those “institutions” which help the Pilgrim Church on its journey to eternal blessedness.

As recently as 1964, this document triumphs in exalting the Church about her true nature as a Pilgrim in the world. Pilgrimage is considered a human activity according to the mystery of the Church. The Church observes its 50th anniversary this year. This is part of the wisdom of the Council in remind- ing us of the Church as a community of Pilgrims.

Pilgrimage is a form of Christian life. It is not just a trip to a place. It is a pilgrimage to Christ, a pilgrimage to the Father, a pilgrimage to the Holy Spirit. It is a pilgrimage of love, of faith, of hope. Pilgrimage is a way of being in the world. It is a way of being in the world as a servant, as a humble servant.

The pilgrimage is not just to a place but to a person. Christ is the goal of our pilgrimage. Christ is the purpose of our pilgrimage. Christ is the meaning of our pilgrimage. Christ is the fulfillment of our pilgrimage. Christ is the end of our pilgrimage. Christ is the completion of our pilgrimage. Christ is the fullness of our pilgrimage. Christ is the mystery of our pilgrimage. Christ is the substance of our pilgrimage.
Convention
Continued from 1
Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey.

“The Lord began to turn things up in me, and made me aware of a breadth of faith that I had missed,” she said.

In 2006, he realized he could no longer serve as pastor of the Brethren in Christ Church, and the following year, he and his wife Libby entered the Catholic Church. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden ordained Deacon David Hall to the permanent diaconate on May 26, 2012.

He said that the call to Christian faith “is not a call to have minimum faith, but to have maximum faith, which means our calling is to be as Christian as we can be. When people live under the paradigm of unbelief, there is always going to be negative fallout. The more a person lives apart from God’s truth, the more that person will experience some form of personal disintegration. And the more a society lives apart from God’s truth, the more that society will experience societal disintegration.”

“Heard that Jesus was present in the bread and wine in a symbolic and spiritual way, she explained. In the United Church of Christ, it was commonly held that Jesus was present in the bread and wine in a symbolic and spiritual way, she explained. In order for personal faith to have a leg to stand on, we must also have corporate faith.

“In this world, where opinions are multiple, we need a sure faith. In a world that is unraveling before our eyes, we need a reliable authority that can offer a reasonable hope,” he said. “We need the fullness of faith to have hope ourselves and to offer to this dying world.”

Prior to an afternoon panel discussion on the Year of Faith that featured Deacon Hall, Dr. Carol Houghton, and Father Louis Ogden, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, Dr. Houghton shared the story of her faith journey. She was raised in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, which merged with the Congregational Church and became the United Church of Christ. She had planned to become a minister, and majored in philosophy in college. But in college, she began to question some aspects of her Protestant faith, especially regarding the Eucharist, and those questions continued to surface as she worked to complete post-graduate studies at the Lancaster Theological Seminary.

She had never been taught the Catholic Church’s belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, she said. In the United Church of Christ, it was commonly held that Jesus was present in the bread and wine in a symbolic and spiritual way, she explained. Yet, she believed in the Real Presence, and this belief led her to attend Mass on an occasional basis at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Millersville, even while studying to be a minister in the United Church of Christ.

“It was uncomfortable for me to be there, because I knew I could not receive the Eucharist as a Protestant. Yet I desired to be there in the presence of the Eucharist,” she said.

She was a year away from ordination when she realized in her heart that she could not become a minister for the United Church of Christ. She entered the Catholic Church on April 26, 1973, and continued studies at the seminary to earn a Master of Divinity Degree. After serving for a year as a Director of Religious Education in El Paso, she was sent to study in Rome, where she earned Doctorates in Theology and Canon Law. Dr. Houghton returned to the Diocese of Harrisburg in 1990, and has served as Chancellor and Tribunal Judge for 23 years. She has taught Canon Law at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., for 26 years.

Dr. Houghton told the women at the HDCCW convention that she shared her story to illustrate “what God is doing and certainly can and does do in each one of our lives, if we allow him.”

“I know that God has certainly directed my life in a way that I never thought possible. His thoughts are not our thoughts, and his plans are not our plans,” she said. “I hope that as a lay woman with a Church vocation, I can be an example to other women and to laity in general of what all of us are called to do in the Church today. Clergy and laity work together, each having their own part, each doing a distinct service for the Church, and all collaborating together in service to meet the needs of the people of God.”

“In the end, it’s not really a question about what position we might hold, or what degree we might have, or what we may do with our lives,” Dr. Houghton continued. “The most important thing about being faithful women or men in the Church is that we are truly the persons God wants us to be. The model of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, and the example given to us by other women and men in the life of Jesus, is not an example of position or influence. It’s about, first of all, a life of service to others, and secondly, listening to the Word of God and then acting on it as best as we can to fulfill it in our own lives.”

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Third Annual Retreat

June 7-9, 2013 Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.

“Living Our Lives Rooted in the Lord and His Church”

Retreat Master: Father Louis P. Ogden, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg

The retreat is limited to 150 women. All housing is handicapped accessible. For more information, or to register, contact Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 or FranBarbMc@aol.com.
With songs of praise and thanksgiving to God, members of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Parish in Dauphin rejoiced in the dedication of their new church on a glorious April 21.

The new church, built adjacent to the parish activity center and rectory, overlooks the scenic vistas of Stony Creek, which sprang forth with blossoming trees and flowers on Good Shepherd Sunday as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden celebrated the Mass of Dedication.

Several hundred joy-filled parishioners turned out for the Mass, which was replete with symbolism. The church is the first one built specifically for the Catholic parish; initially, Masses for the congregation were celebrated in the local school house and fire hall before the former Dauphin Presbyterian Church was purchased for St. Matthew’s in 1968.

“I’m excited for the people. This is the first time that the parish is actually going to have a church that is conducive to Catholic worship,” Father Paul Clark, pastor of St. Matthew’s, told The Catholic Witness. “We will be able to have visiting priests for 40 Hours, processions with the Blessed Sacrament, and other liturgies that we previously had to scale down a bit. I’m excited for them to be able to experience worship in a fuller sense.”

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A Crucifix stands on the altar, which was adorned with altar cloths, candles and flowers prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden pours Sacred Chrism onto the altar as he anoints it during the Dedication Mass. The altar was formerly from the chapel at Kutztown University.
He also expressed his gratitude to the parishioners for their financial commitments and their offerings of time and talent to help make the $1.5 million church a reality. The parish began saving money for the church some 15 years ago, during the pastorate of Father Edward Quinlan.

“It has been very inspiring for me to see the time and effort the people of the parish have contributed,” Father Clark said, also noting the efforts of the Capital Campaign, Building and Interior Design Committees, as well as those who donated the various memorials in the church.

The Mass of Dedication began with a procession from the parish center to the doors of the new church. There, Bishop McFadden received the keys to the church from the builder and then presented them to Father Clark, who opened the doors for the congregation to enter.

Once inside, parishioners marveled at the sight of the church. Pine wood, a stone reredos behind the altar and stained-glass windows centered by clear glass offer a natural connection to the surrounding landscape.

A wooden Crucifix, which came from Italy, hangs on the stone reredos above the altar and tabernacle. Above the choir loft is a stunning Rose Window featuring images of Mary, Mother of God and God-Bearer.

A number of items from local churches were incorporated into St. Matthew Church, including pews from St. Margaret Mary Church in Harrisburg, Stations of the Cross from Holy Name of Jesus Church in Harrisburg, statues of Mary and Joseph from the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, and dedication candles from the Redemptorists in Ephrata.

The church seats 299 people, double the capacity of the former one.

During the Dedication Mass, Bishop McFadden blessed the congregation and the church walls and altar with holy water. He anointed the altar with Sacred Chrism as Father Clark anointed the walls. The altar was then adorned with altar cloths, candles and flowers before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

In his homily, Bishop McFadden told parishioners that they are the Church of St. Matthew’s.

“It is in this building that we will be nourished by God with his Word and his Grace,” he said.

The Scriptures remind us that we are a chosen people, he said, pointing out that, by our nourishment through the Eucharist, we continue to grow as the Body of Christ.

“Today, Jesus comes to this house to live,” the bishop said. “He chooses to live here among his people.”

Among those who gathered for the Mass were Charles and Corine Becker, longtime parishioners of St. Matthew’s, which began as a mission of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick and then of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg.

The Beckers recall attending Mass in the local school house and fire hall in those years before Father Daniel Menotti, then pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, purchased in 1968 the former Presbyterian Church on Allegheny Street.

“We are so glad that we have been able to see this new church, built specifically for our parish,” Mrs. Becker said. “It has drawn a lot of people here today, and that shows how important St. Matthew’s Parish is to the area.”

During the Dedication Mass, Mrs. Becker helped to adorn the altar, and Mr. Becker served as a gift bearer. It was a solemn occasion for the husband and wife, who are parents of five children. They share fond memories of their children’s baptisms and weddings at St. Matthew’s.

“It truly is a beautiful church, and a wonderful occasion,” Mr. Becker said. This parish means a lot to us, and it is just so good to be here today.”

Clouds float over St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Church in Dauphin on a recent spring day. The parish had been saving for the $1.5 million church for some 15 years. The new church is located adjacent to the parish activity center overlooking Stony Creek.
The Knights of Columbus are a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and neighbor. They help meet the needs of those in the local community, provide “Coats for Kids” and “Food for Families,” support programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities, aid victims of natural disasters and other catastrophic events, local and worldwide, donate wheelchairs to people without mobility at home and abroad, and save lives through initiatives such as the “Ultrasound Program.”

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. They volunteer time to serve parishes and communities. And by working together, they were able to donate more than $1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

Unity and Fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communities, protect the well being of their Catholic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life’s journey. The Knights of Columbus offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith through living the example of a charity that evangelizes and by personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights makes the most of its brotherhood. Make a stand among them, and you can discover how easy it is to make a difference in your life and that of others.

Why You Should become a Knight

If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

Visit www.kofc.org/join, and look for Knights of Columbus in your parish during membership drives through June.

Fiat Days
July 7-9, 2013
Mount St. Mary’s University and Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.
Attention all Catholic young women ages 15-25: Our Lord has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg’s sixth annual Fiat Days vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other women your age as you listen to the Lord’s call in your life while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more. There is no charge to attend, due to the generosity of anonymous donors. Contact the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282, for information or a registration packet.

Quo Vadis Days
June 23-27, 2013
Mount St. Mary’s Seminary
Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25: Our Lord has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg’s eighth annual Quo Vadis Days vocation camp to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord’s call in your life while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, great food, talks and more. Quo Vadis Days is staffed by the diocese’s priests and seminarians. There is no charge to attend, due to generous donors. Registration forms are available at www.hbgdiocese.org, or contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282.
**Bishops: Immigration Bill on Right Track, Some Changes Sought**

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

Without getting into specifics, a panel of bishops said April 22 that a comprehensive immigration bill introduced the week before is on the right track, though they alluded to some aspects they would like changed.

In a teleconference about the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, or S. 744, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York also said the fact that the men believed by police to be the Boston Marathon bombers were immigrants is "a terribly unjust and completely irrational argument" for suggesting immigration reform shouldn't happen.

About the same time as the teleconference, the Senate held its second hearing on the bill, with testimony flaring among Judiciary Committee members over comments by some senators linking the bombings with the immigration legislation.

Cardinal Dolan, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the connection is flawed for several reasons. First, he said, it's "illogical, unfair and unjust" to label an entire class of people because of the actions of a few. Second, he said, "good, solid, fair immigration reform" would make enforcement of immigration laws easier, because there would be better records of who the immigrants already are here.

"We've been through this before," said the cardinal. "When the Irish came, there were people who said we can't let those Irish in because of those

By Shelley Metcalf

Catholic News Service

The small town of West, Texas, has been swarmed with assistance, prayer and, perhaps most importantly, prayers since an April 17 explosion at a fertilizer plant.

The explosion killed 14 people and destroyed many of the homes within five blocks of the fertilizer plant. Though not all of the names of those who died have been released, the Waco Herald-Tribune newspaper listed among them as emergency responders, including volunteer fire department members.

Father Karasek said he talked to people from all over the world in the days after the explosion about their personal ties to the disaster.

"I have answered so many questions, but everyone is praying for us," he said.

On April 19, Austin Bishop Joe S. Vasquez introduced the bill in Austin, Texas, for an interfaith service of remembrance for those who died. During the service, local clergy offered their reflections and condolences to those who died. During the service, local clergy offered their reflections and condolences to those who died. During the service, local clergy offered their reflections and condolences to those who died.

"This community has experienced a tragic event that has altered many lives," said Bishop Vasquez. "We mourn the loss of your loved ones and friends and we continue to pray for the injured.

"What we have witnessed in these days are acts of self-sacrifice and compassion," he said. "In moments such as passion," he said. "In moments such as loss of your loved ones and friends and tragic event that has altered many lives,"

A tear rolls down Vanna Wainwright's face as she hugs her daughter Brazanna, 9, during an April 21 outdoor prayer service four days after a deadly fertilizer plant explosion in the town of West, near Waco, Texas. At least 14 people have died in the massive explosion the evening of April 17, and about 200 others were injured.

"We were lifting people in wheelchairs up and over debris. We knocked out what was left of the windows to lift people out on mattresses and get them out of the rubble," As she was helping, Pustejovsky, who is director of radiology at Providence Hospital in Waco, about 20 miles away, received a call from the Catholic hospital asking all available personnel to come to work. She said she knew she could not leave what she was doing, but heard stories the next day of how all of the hospital staff was lined up to help when the buses started rolling in with injured patients.

"There were so many people, young and old, who were helping," she said. "We were lifting people in wheelchairs up and over debris. We knocked out what was left of the windows to lift people out on mattresses and get them out of the rubble,"

"What we have witnessed in these days are acts of self-sacrifice and compassion," he said. "In moments such as passion," he said. "In moments such as loss of your loved ones and friends and tragic event that has altered many lives,"

A few days since the tragedy.

"I heard a big boom and the lights flickered and when I looked toward town there was a huge mushroom cloud," Pustejovsky said. She immediately headed to town to help. The first place she stopped was the nursing home where her mother-in-law lives. Just before the explosion, emergency personnel who saw danger in the fire at the plant were trying to evacuate the home's residents.

Providence treatment more than 60 of the less seriously injured from West.

Bishop Vasquez returned to West April 21 to celebrate Mass at Assumption Church, which was full and more than 110 Knights of Columbus from across central Texas formed an honor guard. At least two of the first responders killed by the blast were members of the Knights of Columbus.

Cardinal Dolan, whose academic background is in American history, said there have often been spasms of anti-immigrant fervor in the United States, which "at its roots, very often, is anti-Catholic vitriol."

He said he sees parallels between historic anti-Catholicism and anti-Muslim sentiment today. Cardinal Dolan said he was in conversation with some New York Muslim leaders who wanted to learn from the Catholic story of assimilation.

"They were saying," he said, "tell us how you did it. How did [Catholics] become respected as reliable American citizens without losing the elements of their faith?"

Cardinal Dolan said immigration should be called upon to keep their antennae up for prejudices against others that mirror the struggles Catholics have historically faced.

**Damaged Texas Town**

**Swarmed with Assistance, Prayers**

April 26, 2013, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS - 11
Diocesan Seminarian Serves at Mass Celebrated by Cardinal Dziwisz

St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., received a visit April 12 from Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, who served as the personal secretary to the late Blessed John Paul II through his 27 years as pope. Archabbott Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., members of the Benedicent community and students of St. Vincent Seminary and College, as well as members of the Basilica Parish, attended the Mass. This was the cardinal’s first visit to St. Vincent.

Donald Bender, a seminarian of the Diocese of Harrisburg, is shown serving as acolyte for the Mass. As the personal secretary to Pope John Paul II for 40 years, Cardinal Dziwisz is recognized as one of Pope John Paul II’s most trusted aides and, in his own right, an influential voice in the Vatican. Cardinal Dziwisz offers personal reflections on the life of Pope John Paul II in his book A Life with Karol. The cardinal speaks about the issues that were of importance to Pope John Paul II and how he focused his energies on addressing the needs of the Church and the issues confronting the world at large. His love for Pope John Paul II is reflected in the emotional accounts of the attempted assassinations of the Holy Father in 1981 and in the Pope’s final days in 2005.

Cardinal Dziwisz has committed himself to the propagation and creative development of Blessed John Paul II’s legacy through the establishment of the Have No Fear! John Paul II Centre in Krakow.

John Gastley Scholarship Foundation to Host Dinner Raffle

The John Gastley Scholarship Foundation will introduce its latest scholarship winner to the public at the May 18 Dinner Raffle being held at The Cross Keys banquet facility at the intersection of Route 30 and Route 194 in New Oxford. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Only 300 tickets will be sold. A ticket entitles two people to entry, dinner, opportunities to play small games of chance and one entry into the grand prize drawing. You do not need to be present to win one of 30 prizes. Tickets are available at www.gastleyfoundation or by calling 717-451-9820.

The John Gastley Scholarship Foundation endeavors to honor the memory of a coach, teacher, classmate, teammate, businessman, friend, husband, father and grandfather – John Gastley – through the establishment of a fundraising mechanism to provide financial support for students to attend Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown. This scholarship provides for full tuition for each selected student for their four-year career at Delone. A new recipient is selected each year.

Holy Spirit to Open Spirit Urgent Care

Spirit Urgent Care will open on April 29 at 431 North 21st Street in Camp Hill, right next to Holy Spirit Hospital. The walk-in center will be a convenient and affordable option for those who are sick or injured. Spirit Urgent Care will be open from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week. No appointments are needed.

Specially trained physicians and staff will see patients at the center. Paul Rast, DO, is a board-certified emergency physician with 30 years of ER experience. Ayaz Virji, MD, a board-certified family physician, has more than nine years of urgent care experience.

Common health problems that will be treated at the center include: colds and flu, cuts and bruises, ear and throat infections, fever, migraine headaches, seasonal allergies, skin rashes, sprains and minor musculoskeletal injuries, stomach viruses, and urinary tract infections. Spirit Urgent Care will provide x-rays and blood testing onsite. Testing for strep infections and tuberculosis, as well as providing flu and tetanus vaccines, will also be done at this center.

Spirit Urgent Care is not for life-threatening emergencies or ongoing care for chronic health problems, such as diabetes.

The electronic medical records of patients of Holy Spirit’s primary care and medical specialty offices will be available to the providers at Spirit Urgent Care. “The outpatient electronic medical record helps with safety of care, as well as efficiency of care,” says Peter Cardinal, MD, Medical Director, Spirit Physician Services. “When providers have access to patient medical history, they can provide better care, and previously completed tests and procedures are not repeated.”

When patients are treated at Spirit Urgent Care, they will receive a complete report of their care and test results. A report also will be sent to their family doctor, who can provide follow-up care if needed. If they do not have a family doctor, the staff can help them find one.

To contact Spirit Urgent Care, beginning on April 29, please call 717-763-3730.

Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Mickey Franczak, Kathleen Olah; St. Joseph: Rita Sabanos.

BONNEAUVILLE – St. Joseph the Worker: Jeanne Weaver.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Walter Mattson.

COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Leonard Hohnacki, John Polan, Rita Sosnoskie.


GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Susan Codori, Walter Haczewski.

HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Michael Brennan, Mary Louise Slagle, Jean S necerring, Mary Wherley.

HARRISBURG – Holy Family: Tranquillo Falcone, Eugene Mosiejki; St. Catherine Labouré: Frank Kusnir, Jr., Thomas Plass, Italo Savaglio, Joseph Schell, Charles Stewart.

KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Anthony Miriello, Anna Thomas, Joseph Winhofer, Jr.

LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Clyde Fesig, Richard E. Oliver.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Wilma Merkel, Robert Wetten.


MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: Marie A. Bartol.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Peter Danella, Irene Padamonsky.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Kathleen Nace.

NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Michael Noel, Erik Shindler.


ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Donald Roehm.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Dennis Svec.

YORK – St. Patrick: Jack North; St. Rose of Lima: Margaret A. Landis (Repine).

Sister Irene Regina

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Irene Regina died in Camilla Hall, Immaculata, Pa., on March 25 after a brief illness. She was 76.

Born Irene McConnell in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1954. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Immaculata University, a Master of Education from Rutgers University, and a Master of Science from Villanova University.

During her years in education ministry, Sister Irene Regina taught in elementary schools in the Archdioceses of Philadelphia and Miami, and in the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Altoon, Arlington and Raleigh. Prior to her illness, she was serving as an assistant in the office at St. James School in Falls Church, Va.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at Camilla Hall on April 2. Burial was in Immaculata Cemetery.

Sister Anita Marie Miller

Mercy Sister Anita Marie Miller died at Mercy Center in Dallas, Pa., April 4. She was 75.

Born Louise Miller in Spangler, Pa., she earned a degree in secondary education with a specialization in the sciences at Misericordia University, and was a certified laboratory technician. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1954.

During her years in education ministry, Sister Anita Marie taught at schools in the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Scranton and Altoona-Johnstown. From 1984 until the time of her death, Sister Anita Marie had ministered in the Diocese of Pittsburgh at Serra Catholic High School.

The funeral Mass was celebrated April 5 in the Mercy Center Chapel in Dallas, Pa. Burial was in the Sisters of Mercy Cemetery, Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, Pa.

Expressions of Faith Art Show

Featuring Artists from the Diocese of Harrisburg

March 1, 2013 – November 24, 2013

51 Artists – 75 Pieces of Work

Cardinal Keeler Center

4800 Union Deposit Rd

Harrisburg, PA 17111

Expressions of Faith Art Show: Artistic expressions are real highways to God, the supreme Beauty; they help us to grow in our relationship with him, in prayer. Benedict XVI

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The Council of Catholic Women at St. Columba Parish in Bloomsburg has chosen a theme for the 2013 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Catholic Shrines of the United States. The theme is “Pilgrimage: Faith, Family, and Friends.” The week-long pilgrimage will include stops at sites of the Blessed Virgin Mary, including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and other shrines in 16 states. It will feature Mass, a Eucharistic Congress, and opportunities for adults and children. Children’s identification cards will be conducted by the local police. A representative from Christian Counseling & Education Services will conduct counseling about bullying and teasing. There will be a speaker on holistic nutrition and diets. The parish will also offer a workshop on healthy living, including a handout on healthy recipes. Children’s identification cards will be conducted by the local police. A representative from Christian Counseling & Education Services will conduct counseling about bullying and teasing. There will be a speaker on holistic nutrition and diets. The parish will also offer a workshop on healthy living, including a handout on healthy recipes.

Dioscario Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

Father Wade Meneses, CPM, a Father of Mercy and frequently seen at the EWTN studio at 4:20 a.m. on April 26 in his weekly Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Lancaster, May 1 at 5 p.m. Music provided by the Combination of the Arts, which will perform a program of sacred music by Father Gerardo Marable, pastor of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish in Camden, N.J. For more information, contact Rita Smith-Wode-Eat at 717-233-1441.

The Holy Name of Jesus Council 14481, Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Living Rosary in response to the request for prayers by Father Tony Francis. The Living Rosary and procession will be held at May 7 at 10 a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Harrisburg. The Rosary devotion will begin with a procession starting at Statue of Mary and proceeding to the site of the Rosary.

Catholic Food Days

St. Jane de Chantal Parish in Millhopper will host a monthly meatless dinner May 2 at 6 p.m. Father William Weary will be the celebrant.

A pro-life Mass in the Extraordinary Form will be celebrated by Father Michael White at 7 p.m. May 4 and at 8 a.m. at St. John’s Blessed Sacrament Church in Lancaster.

Mass with Prayers for Healing will be celebrated by Father Paul Weirig May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland. The Mass is sponsored by the Pignons de Praise and Life in the Spirit of Jesus, St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster. Call Mary Ann at 765-740-7066 or Lorella at 765-717-3571.

Education, Enrichment & Support

The Oblates of St. Benedict are meeting at St. Paul the Apostle Church in York. These meetings are open to any person who becomes a Benedictine Oblate. Contact Father Tony Francis for more information.

The Diocese of Harrisburg is offering the following seminars.

A Theology on Tap session, at young adults ages 21-35, will be held May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in Harrisburg. Father Jonathan Sawicki will discuss the material. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland. For more information, contact the parish office at 717-726-6404.

The Eucharistic Congress in New Freedom, will be held in June of this year, and will begin in June with the parish, Deacon Mike Solomon (Brother of St. John’s parishioner Paul Solomon). The Mass, a Eucharistic Congress, and the Mass with Prayers for Healing, will be held at Father David’s retirement from Sept. 27-29, 2013 for the inclusive price of $2500.00! An open invitation is extended to everyone to arrive at St. John’s Parish via deluxe charter bus to depart from there to attend the event. The competition will be held at five star hotel, banquet dinner, and daily tour, guided tours and admissions, and all taxes and tips. For full itinerary, call Father Thomas at 717-919-8751.

Retreats & Pilgrimages

Malvern Men’s Retreat Weekend Invitation: Join the men of the diocese for a retreat at Malvern Retreat House the weekend of May 17-19. The Malvern Retreat House also offers retreats for women, married couples, families, and students. For information, contact Larry Fox (Dauphin, Cumberland, or Lebanon counties) at 717-919-4565 or larryardfox@gmail.com or Joe Spangler (York, Adams or Lancaster) at 717-757-2004 or atonemat.com. Visit www.malvernretreat.com for additional information.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Catholic Shrines of the United States: Father John Tcheou, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 150 Water Street, New Holland, will be in charge of all aspects of the pilgrimage. Father Tcheou will host the first Mass of the pilgrimage at 7 p.m. on April 28 at Our Lady of Lourdes in New Freedom, will be in charge of all aspects of the pilgrimage. Father Tcheou will be celebrated by Father Paul Weirig May 1 at 5 p.m. Music provided by the Combination of the Arts, which will perform a program of sacred music by Father Gerardo Marable, pastor of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish in Camden, N.J. For more information, contact Rita Smith-Wode-Eat at 717-233-1441.

The 17th Annual Rose of Lima School Spaghetti Scramble Golf Tournament at Rich Valley Golf Course, Mechanicsville, will be held June 14 at 9:00 a.m. The tournament is sponsored by the Young Women’s League of Catholic High School. Saint Joseph’s Parish in York will sponsor a Quilt Raffle to benefit Saint Joseph’s Parish. The raffle will be held at the Saint Joseph’s Parish Annual Parish Dinner on June 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Saint Joseph’s Parish Hall. The raffle will feature over 30 quilts, as well as a silent auction. Tickets are $5.00 each or 5 for $20.00. Proceeds will benefit the Saint Joseph’s Parish Scholarship Fund.

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Catholic Food Days

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will host a daily Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Lancaster, May 1 at 7 a.m. Please note that the Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in Lancaster. The Rosary devotion will begin with a procession starting at Statue of Mary and proceeding to the site of the Rosary.

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**Diocese Honors National Merit Scholars**

Three diocesan high school students were recently recognized by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden and members of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Department for their success in this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program.

The students, Alexis China and Sarah Fuller of York Catholic High School, and Christopher Gassaway of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, enjoyed lunch with the bishop April 16 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, and less than 10,000 are awarded scholarships for undergraduate study. The honors awarded to exceptional students are viewed as definitive marks of excellence recognizing students’ remarkable accomplishments and outstanding scores on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Alexis China is a member of the school choir, Student Council, National Honor Society and yearbook staff, and of the cross country and lacrosse teams. She also serves as an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

In addition to her activities at York Catholic, she also volunteers with Vacation Bible School, the parish bazaar and carnival at St. Joseph Parish in Dallastown, and the local food pantry.

Sarah Fuller has been a member of York Catholic’s Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions, choir, ALPHA peer helpers, National Honor Society and CROSS youth group. Outside of school, she is a volunteer for the Eureka Station 54 Fire Company, and serves at Vacation Bible School and in a program for children with Autism. Sarah is the founder of Letters of Hope, a program in which people write letters to children at St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

Christopher Gassaway is a member of the National Honor Society, the French Club, the Environmental Club and carnival at St. Joseph Parish in Harrisburg. He also serves as a musician for school Masses. Outside of school, Christopher volunteers at a local nursing home.

Members of the local organizing committee for World Youth Day say that, with the recent election of an Argentine pope, they expect up to 2.5 million young people at the international event in Rio de Janeiro.

“We currently have 200,000 pilgrims already registered,” said Carol de Castro, press coordinator for the local organizing committee. She said the committee expects 500,000 pilgrims to have registered by the start of the event, which runs July 23-28.

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will join a group of youth and young adults from the Diocese of Harrisburg for the World Youth Day celebration. The diocese’s World Youth Day pilgrimage will begin with a retreat in Guadalupe, Mexico, prior to the festivities in Rio.

The Vatican has not announced the exact dates Pope Francis will attend but has indicated it will be his first international trip.

Argentines make up the largest group of foreign nationals chosen to be volunteers during the six-day event, although volunteer registration had already closed when the name of the new pope was announced in late March. Approximately 15 percent of the 60,000 volunteers chosen are from Pope Francis’ birth nation.

Organizers say they expect that, by July 23, more than 1 million beds will be made available for pilgrims in family homes, schools, recreational centers and churches. The pilgrims will be able to stay free of charge in these locations from July 21-31, said Vinicius Arouca, volunteer on the hosting committee.

Officials say security in Rio de Janeiro should be tighter than normal in June and July, since the city is also hosting the final of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 at the end of June.

For security, Brazil’s Ministry of Defense has made available 8,500 armed forces members. The ministry said these and an expected 4,000-5,000 police officers – will patrol areas where pilgrims will visit. During the vigil July 27, the Brazilian army will patrol Rio’s air space.

**Song Contest Celebrating Mission in the Year of Faith**

To celebrate Mission in the Year of Faith, the Pontifical Mission Societies have launched their first-ever song contest for young Catholics. Contestants will be asked to create original songs (lyrics and music) in English or Spanish, with content drawn from, but not limited to, both the themes of the Year of faith and World Youth day. Two divisions are featured: Adolescent (grades 9-12) and Young Adult (ages 18-29).


One grand-prize winner and two honorable mentions will be chosen in each division. The judges for the contest are contemporary Catholic music artists. Winners will be announced in August, and an awards ceremony will take place in October in New York City.Winning entries will be featured as part of the resources produced by the Pontifical Mission Societies to encourage young people and young adults in their understanding and outreach as missionaries, and given national and international distribution.
By Chris Heisey  
The Catholic Witness

As the 2013 Mid-Penn lacrosse season nears its end, the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt have had their most successful season ever. It takes many years to build a successful lacrosse program, and though the Crusaders remain a fledgling program under head coach Nathan Walter, it seems that he has his boys moving in the right direction.

With three wins under their belt, the Crusaders visited Mechanicsburg on April 18. Trailing 8-7 going into the fourth quarter, McDevitt scored the last four goals to edge the struggling Wildcats at Memorial Park. The victory marked its first league win of the season.

Led by midfielders Nick Suknaic and Evan Rickert, who scored three and four goals respectively, the Crusaders have a number of offensive weapons that can hurt teams that have porous defensive schemes. The Crusaders’ leading scorer is the diminutive but laser-quick Kevin Willis, who is among the league’s leading scorers with 50+ points.

By Emily M. Albert  
The Catholic Witness

A large section along the third base line at the Harrisburg Senators game cheered slightly louder than the rest of the baseball enthusiasts in attendance at the April 21 game, as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden stepped up for the night’s first pitch at Metro Bank Park on City Island.

Parishioners and students from several Catholic schools arrived that evening to participate in a special Catholic Schools Night. The evening began with Bishop McFadden’s first pitch and the National Anthem sung by St. Francis Xavier School’s principal Rebecca Sieg and her daughter.

With a rain cancellation of the previous night’s game, the students in attendance were able to enjoy a double header. Groups from St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg; St. Catherine Labouré, Harrisburg, and St. Theresa, New Cumberland and others enjoyed the fun of hotdogs, popcorn and the occasional third base line foul ball to catch. It was a great sunny spring evening for pastors, religious sisters, parents, and students who participated in the first annual Senators Catholic Schools Night.

MCDEVITT LAX CROSSES IMPORTANT BARRIER

By Emily M. Albert  
The Catholic Witness

Bishop McFadden Throws First Pitch

Students from St. Theresa School in New Cumberland anticipate the Senators’ next play.

Evan Rickert cradles as he looks for a dodge.

Attack Nick Suknaic tries to get his hands free for a shot.

Attacker Nick Suknaic tries to get his hands free for a shot.

Kevin Willis avoids a pole as he sprints to the Wildcats’ goal.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
This image of Mary, Mother of God and Theotokos (God-Bearer), originates from the Eastern Catholic liturgical tradition. It commemorates a vision of Mary beheld by St. Andrew when enemies besieged the capital of Constantinople. People of the city, terror-stricken, gathered in the Church of Mary at Blachernae where her mantle had been preserved. There, the people prayed all night, after which St. Andrew saw the Blessed Mother in radiant light. She removed from her head a luminous veil and stretched it out over the people. News of the vision spread, the enemy retreated, and the city was saved. Mary continues to protect us by covering us with her holy mantle, keeping us free from enemies visible and invisible. Eight other Marian symbols surround her on the great window, which was commissioned by St. Matthew’s Parish.

The central image of Mary the Protectress depicts an image of Our Lady surrounded by twelve stars. These stars represent the graces and privileges she received from God. The image of the dove above Mary is symbolic of the Holy Spirit representing the Annunciation to Mary as the Mother of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Assumption Lily is a symbol of virginity and purity. This flower blooms in mid-August, during the time when we celebrate Mary’s Assumption into Heaven. The Pear represents the fruit of her womb, Jesus. As Queen of the Rosary, Mary lets us, the faithful, participate in the life of Christ. In the title Gate of Heaven, Mary is seen as an entryway through which the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, has come to us and through which we pass to unite with God in Paradise. The name Ark of the Covenant symbolizes Mary as guardian of the Word made flesh. At the Annunciation, the Archangel Gabriel told Mother Mary she would be the Mater Dei, the Mother of God. God’s physical presence would dwell in Mary’s womb in a way never before seen: Jesus as the second person of the Trinity would take upon human nature and become Incarnate. Mary as Mystical Rose emphasizes her mystical participation in the Holy Trinity as Heaven’s Rose. Our Lady as Immaculate Heart refers to Mary’s interior life—her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections, and, above all, her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus, and her compassionate love for all persons. Blessed Virgin Queen of Heaven and Earth, Regina Caeli, Mary, is a title derived from the ancient Catholic teaching of the Assumption. Through this title, we remember Mary’s life on Earth and that at the end of this earthly life, she was bodily and spiritually assumed into Heaven. There she remains honored as Queen. (Text derived from the Dedication Mass program of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Church in Dauphin. The Rose Window is located above the church entrance, and can be viewed from the choir loft. Photo by Chris Heisey, The Catholic Witness.)