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“To live in Christ is to draw upon the limitless love of Jesus to fortify us against the temptation of fear,” it continued. “Pray that our engagement in the debate over immigration and refugee issues may bring peace and comfort to those most affected by current and proposed national policy changes.”

The bishops urged Catholics to pray for an end to the root causes of violence and other circumstances forcing families to flee their homeland to find a better life; to meet with newcomers in their parishes and “listen to their story, and share your own;” and to call, write or visit their elected representatives to ask them of Jesus to fortify us against the temptation of fear,” it continued. “Pray that our engagement in the debate over immigration and refugee issues may bring peace and comfort to those most affected by current and proposed national policy changes.”

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**Plight of the Refugees**

Mel Nagy, a third grader at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township, enjoys an educational program on one of his classroom’s Chromebooks. Third- and fourth-grade teachers Tara Novak and Ann Czeponis are part of a Global Teaching Partnership that granted the Chromebooks for creative use of technology in the classrooms. Lourdes Regional is also venturing into a four-year biomedical science program that will offer students an in-depth curriculum on medical-related careers. See pages 8 and 9.

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**U.S. Catholics Asked ‘to Accompany’ Migrants, Refugees Seeking Better Life**

By Julie Asher

Catholic News Service

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**Pope: Risen Christ Calls All to Follow Him**

By Cindy Wooden and Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

Jesus is the risen shepherd who takes upon his shoulders “our brothers and sisters crushed by evil in all its varied forms,” Pope Francis said before giving his solemn Easter blessing.

With tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square April 16, the pope called on Christians to be instruments of Christ’s outreach to refugees and migrants, victims of war and exploitation, famine and loneliness.

For the 30th year in a row, Dutch farmers and florists blanketed the area around the altar with grass and 35,000 flowers and plants: lilies, roses, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, birch and linden.

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Month’s Mind Mass Remembers Cardinal as Faithful Servant

By Jen Reed

There were many titles on the résumé of the late Cardinal William Keeler, but “first and foremost was a faithful servant to God and his Church,” Father Paul Helwig said during a Month’s Mind Mass on April 23 to remember the cardinal.

The custom remembers the faithful departed a month after their passing from this world. The liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, and gave thanks to God for the life and ministry of Cardinal Keeler, who served as priest and bishop in the Diocese of Harrisburg before his appointment as Archbishop of Baltimore in 1989.

Though Cardinal Keeler, who was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 1994, hadn’t served in the Diocese of Harrisburg for some 28 years following his departure for Baltimore, he is well and fondly remembered by many here.

“I could always tell how holy he was whenever I was in his presence. He called all of us to be the same,” Karen Balaban told The Catholic Witness.

She and her sister, Beth, longtime friends of Cardinal Keeler, served as lectors at the Mass.

They fondly recalled momentous occasions they spent with him, including a trip to the Eucharistic Congress in Kenya in 1985; and to Rome for his installation as a cardinal in 1994, as well as for the beatification of St. Teresa of Calcutta in 2003.

“It was very thrilling to accompany him on pilgrimages and have him lead us to various sites where he knew so much about their history,” said Beth. “He was a priest of the people. When we walked around the Vatican, everyone knew who he was. Often because of that, he could give us special tours.”

During a visit to the Sistine Chapel, for example, Cardinal Keeler took the group to pray in the chapel where cardinals pray during a conclave.

“We were extremely fortunate to be there. He wanted us to have that experience, and what a gift it was,” Beth said.

“He had tens of thousands of friends,” Karen said. “Everybody had a connection with him. You’d have to almost try hard to not have a connection with him.”

In his homily for the Mass, celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday, Father Helwig spoke of the three personages connected to the day’s liturgy: St. Thomas – presented in the day’s Gospel – the apostle who remained unconvinced of Jesus’ Resurrection until he touched the Lord’s wounds; St. Faustina Kowalska, to whom Jesus appeared in the image of his Divine Mercy; and Cardinal Keeler, who Father Helwig recalled as a “mild-mannered man who was unquestionably dedicated to God and the Catholic Church.”

“In the center for all of them stood Jesus, their source of strength and inspiration,” said Father Helwig, who once served as then-Bishop Keeler’s master of ceremonies. He is now pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg.

While Cardinal Keeler never had a physical experience with Jesus as St. Thomas did, or a mystical experience as St. Faustina did, he “committed himself to follow Jesus and accepted the Lord’s call to serve him and his Church with his life,” Father Helwig said.

The day’s Mass, he remarked, presents us the opportunity to offer three acclimations: “An acclimation of faith from Thomas: ‘My Lord, My God!’ An acclimation of hope from St. Faustina: ‘Jesus, I trust in you.’

“With Cardinal Keeler, it’s not a one-line verse that comes forward,” Father Helwig continued, “but a life of dedication and service to God and the Body of Christ, the Church, which evokes a grateful prayer that moves us all to say, ‘Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.’”
Bishop Recognizes State Champs

The state champions in girls’ CYO basketball and a two-time state wrestling champion at 220 lbs. were recognized by Bishop Ronald Gainer and the Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools during a luncheon at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on April 19. The luncheon is part of a long running tradition in the diocese of honoring outstanding achievements by students, both academically and athletically.

The Lady Saints’ Girls Varsity Basketball team of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland was recognized for winning the Pennsylvania State Catholic Youth Organization title at the CYO State Championship Tournament, hosted by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and held at the Montgomery County Community College in March. The Lady Saints beat St. Thomas More from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, 39-25, in the finals. The team won its 11th diocesan title this year, giving them back-to-back championships in 2016 and 2017.

Cole Nye, a senior at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, won the 220-lb. PIAA wrestling final on March 11 at the Giant Center in Hershey, besting Bishop McCort’s Josiah Jones, whom Nye had defeated in last year’s final. It was Nye’s second straight State Wrestling title. Nye was a lynchpin for Bishop McDevitt’s wrestling team, which won the District 3 AA team title this year, and has committed to wrestle for Michigan State.

JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

• April 29 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, York, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
• April 30 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.
• May 2 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
• May 3 – Seminary Visit to St. Charles Borromeo, Wynnewood, Pa.
• May 4 – College of Consultants Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.; Sacrament of Confirmation, Corpus Christi Church, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.
• May 5 – Holy Family Radio Fundraising Dinner, Sheraton Hotel, Harrisburg, 6:30 p.m.
• May 6 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Mount Carmel, 10 a.m.
• May 7 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Fairfield, 10:30 a.m.; Closing of 40 Hours Devotions, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.
• May 9 – Golden Apple Awards Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.
• May 11 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Mark Church, Greencastle, 7 p.m.
• May 12 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Berwick, 10 a.m., and St. Columbia Church, Bloomsburg.
• May 14 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lewistown.

Above: The Lady Saints’ basketball team of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland displays their state CYO gold medals in a photo with Bishop Ronald Gainer.

Left: Cole Ney, 220-lb. back-to-back state wrestling champion from Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, with Bishop Ronald Gainer prior to a luncheon on April 19.

JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Volunteer Opportunity

How would you like to become a member of the Diocesan Building Commission (DBC)?

The DBC is a commission consisting of professionals from the construction industry to include, but not limited to...

ARCHITECTS
ENGINEERS
DESIGNERS
PROJECT MANAGERS
HVAC CONSULTANTS
ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS
ETC...

The purpose of the Commission is to provide a constructibility review of major capital projects as a schematic design and subsequent final design for the Diocese of Harrisburg. The DBC meets at the Diocesan Center (4) times per year. A typical meeting lasts 2 hours and is scheduled from 10 AM-12 noon and includes a catered lunch. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Terry Conner, Director of Buildings and Properties at (717) 657-4804, x-358 or tconner@hbgdiocese.org.

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Ask the Bishop

Bishop Ronald Gainer will be taking questions from listeners during a special live radio program on Holy Family Radio, AM 720. This will happen on Monday, May 8 from noon-1 p.m.

The theme of the lunch hour broadcast will focus on ways that people can increase the practice of their faith and grow closer to Jesus. Those interested in asking Bishop Gainer a question will be able to phone in their questions during the hour that the station is on the air at 717-525-9110. Questions can also be sent in advance via e-mail to: Communications@hbgdiocese.org.

Everyone is invited to tune in and listen to what promises to be a lively hour of conversation and advice. The station can also be heard live online at www.720whyf.com.

Many years ago, in the pre-cell phone era, I was determined to not only surprise my father, but also follow in his footsteps by signing up for flying lessons. There was a small airport about a 25-minute drive from where I grew up. Even though I was a senior in college and was heading to the convent, I was fully committed to getting my pilot’s license this summer. So, the day my dad got home was on my “bucket list” and I REALLY wanted to have it done before I entered.

One beautiful spring day during break, I began the journey to the airport. But as I tried to start my car, I discovered that the battery was dead. Being completely in- dependent, I used my mom’s car to jump mine. Once I got it started, I cleaned up the tools, pulled my mom’s car and headed out to the airport. After a quick walk from my home, my car died once again and the battery light came on. The alternator had failed. I allowed the car to roll to the shoulder of the road and began to change the tire. When I put the full-sized spare on, and lowered the car off the jack, I was completely overwhelmed by the fact that the spare tire was also flat! Since we didn’t have AAA, I had to walk 30 minutes to the nearest gas station and call my father once again, who brought another spare. The rest of the day was spent in a tire store waiting for new tires for my mom’s car.

Day three. Since my mom was using her car, I asked to borrow my dad’s. Once again, I started out for the airport. About a block from it, the house to the radiator blew, causing the car to overheat. I parked it on the side of the road, and the steam rising from it mimicked Old Faithful. I cried out, “Come on, God! I so want to be “a flying nun!” This time, I had a 45 minute walk to the nearest gas station. Every step I took I dreaded the moment in which I had to call my dad. When I did call home, no one picked up the phone. So I took a cab home and swallowed the $15 fare. When I arrived home, I discovered that my dad was fast asleep. I stood at the foot of the bed and thought, “Should I wake him?” Looking back on my self-absorption now, I can embarrassedly say that I did!

“Dad?” I called. He woke and stared at me. “Dad, I have a problem.” Rubbing his eyes, he sleepily said, “What? What kind of problem?” I explained the situation. His eyes glared at me. He very calmly proclaimed, “Hey there, are you fighting God?” I retorted, “I must be!” “What are you doing?” he responded. I said, “I wanted to surprise you. I wanted to sign up for flying lessons, but I guess God doesn’t want me to fly.” Simply he announced, “You would probably crash. And, I just finished fixing your car!” He jotted down the type of hose that I needed and told me to go and purchase one and pick him up and we would fix his car and bring it home.

This story brings to mind the part of the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains this part of the Lord’s Prayer in paragraphs 2822-2827. Let’s unpack it.

First and foremost, God commanded “that you should love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34). This commandment summarizes all the others and expresses his entire will. (2822)

It is Jesus who teaches us how to God follow the will of God. “In Christ, and through Christ, God reveals his will to me” (2823). We know where we are failing, the author states, when we are not doing the will of God.” (2824)

I can hear you asking, “Yes, Sister, I get this! But how am I to know God’s will for me?” I believe that one can know the will of God by answering three questions.

**Question one:** Are you in the state of grace? If not, then get to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you are in the state of grace, read on.

**Question two:** Are you doing everything well? Let me explain. We are all called to live out a particular vocation; a particular purpose to our life. The living out of that purpose is done moment by moment, day by day, in the work of the day. Each job, at the moment, is work at a desk job, do it in the best way you know how. If your job is to shop for food for your family, do it the best way you know how. If your job is to study in school, then do it the best you can. Wherever you are, do what you do with your full attention. In order words, don’t be on your phone corners or multi-task! Remember St. Therese of Lisieux taught her sisters that if they picked up a dust bunny out of love, then heaven could be present on earth!

If you are like me, this question should be asked as we examine our conscience on a daily basis. How easy it is to take the path of least resistance and just “make do.”

**Question three:** Are you praying? The Catechism says, “By prayer we can discern what is the will of God” and obtain the endurance to do it.” … If anyone is a worshiper of God, he asks the things that are pleasing to God. (2826)

Our dear God watching over us all, especially those who lose loved ones on this day. May he comfort you and give you the peace you need. This is the goal of the Catechism: “It is God’s blessing to experience certain events in such a way that they serve as a means of growth.” (2827)

Harriscburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Invites all women of the Diocese to the Seventh Annual Retreat

Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD

June 9-11 (Friday evening until Sunday noon)

Retreat Master: Father Alfred Sceski

Pastor St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey

Father Al Sceski was ordained to the priesthood in 1991, and has served the Diocese of Harrisburg for 26 years. He strongly believes that we are called to be saints no matter what our state in life, and has chosen the four women Doctors of the Church as the topic for the retreat. Their example is relevant for all of us in our modern age.

Registration deadline is May 22

Contact Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 or FranBarbMcc@aol.com with questions or to register.
Refugees

Continued from 1

to fix our broken immigration system in a way that would safeguard the country’s security and “our humanity through a generous opportunity for legal immigration.”

The statement opened with a passage from Chapter 19 of the Book of Leviticus: “The word of God is truly alive today. When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.”

The bishops urged Catholics to “not lose sight of the fact that behind every policy is the story of a person in search of a better life. They may be an immigrant or refugee family sacrificing so that their children might have a brighter future.”

“As shepherds of a pilgrim church,” they wrote, “we will not tire in saying to families who have the courage to set out from their despair onto the road of hope: We are with you.”

Those families could include “a family seeking security from an increased threat of extremist violence,” they said, adding that “it is necessary to safeguard the United States in a manner that does not cause us to lose our humanity.”

The bishops said that “intense debate is essential to healthy democracy, but the rhetoric of fear does not serve us well.”

“When we look at one another, do we see with the heart of Jesus?” they asked.

Their pastoral reflection comes at a time when the Trump administration’s rhetoric and its policies on national security, refugees and immigration are in the headlines almost daily. Those policies have sparked almost nonstop protests in various parts of the country since President Donald Trump’s Jan. 20 inauguration. In some cases, the anti-Trump demonstrations have turned violent.

In their reflection, the bishops said that all in this country find “common dreams for our children” in their “diverse backgrounds.”

“Hope in the next generation is how the nation will realize its founding motto, ‘out of many, one,’” they said. “In doing so, we will also realize God’s hope for all his children: that we would see each other as valued sisters and brothers regardless of race, religion or national origin.”

Christ, as the word made flesh, “strengthens us to bring our words to life,” they said, and suggested three ways Catholics, “in our own small way,” can “bring our words of solidarity for migrants and refugees to life”: by praying, welcoming newcomers and writing to their elected representatives urging them to support humane immigration policies.

“Pray for an end to the root causes of violent hatred that make mothers and fathers to flee the only home they may have known in search of economic and physical security for their children,” the bishops said.

They asked Catholics to meet with newcomers in their parishes, and to “listen to their story and share your own.”

The bishops noted parishes across the country have programs for immigrants and refugees “both to comfort them and to help them know their rights.”

They also urged Catholics “to reach out in loving dialogue to those who may disagree with us. The more we come to understand each other’s concerns the better we can serve one another. Together, we are one body in Christ.”

Finally, Catholics should call, write or visit their elected officials urging they “fix our broken immigration system in a way that safeguards both our security and our humanity through a generous opportunity for legal immigration.”

The reflection ended with a quote from Pope Francis: “To migrate is the expression of that inherent desire for the happiness proper to every human being, a happiness that is to be sought and pursued. For us Christians, all human life is an itinerant journey toward our heavenly homeland.”

Catholic Religious Call on Congress to Support Refugee Resettlement

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

A group of more than 4,000 religious sisters and clergy, including priests, brothers and deacons, sent a letter to every U.S. senator, member of Congress and President Donald Trump voicing support for the refugee resettlement program.

“Our nation has long prided itself on providing refugee families an opportunity to start a new life and the chance to contribute to the continued flourishing of our country. Now, when the need is so great, is not the time to waver in our commitment to this tradition of welcome,” said the recently released statement by the Franciscan Action Network in Washington.

Through executive action, President Trump has sought to suspend the refugee resettlement program as part of a temporary travel ban affecting some majority-Muslim countries. Different federal judges have temporarily halted the ban, even after revisions were made to it, and asked for an extension in March to keep it from going into effect saying that it discriminates based on religion.

Even as the future of the executive order is decided, Catholic agencies and organizations that work with refugee resettlement or advocate for refugees, are bracing for what could happen should the ban be upheld.

Quoting the Bible verse Matthew 25, and pointing to the teachings of Jesus, the letter cites the Catholic tradition of welcoming the stranger.

“As leaders in the Church, we are deeply committed to Jesus’ teaching to welcome the stranger and to protect those who are marginalized and vulnerable. With some 65 million people worldwide displaced from their homes due to war and other forms of violence, the United States has a moral responsibility to remain a safe haven for children, women, and men fleeing persecution and possible death,” the letter says.

The country already has a strict vetting process in place for refugees and because the Catholic Church in the U.S. is concerned with the persecution of religious minorities, the signers say they reject “any proposal to prioritize refugees of certain religions over others.”

The Web site for the Office of Refugee Resettlement says Congress “enacted the first refugee legislation in 1948 following the admission of more than 250,000 displaced Europeans” and later provided admission of an additional 400,000 displaced because of world conflict.

Subsequent waves of refugees have come from Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Korea and China, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and central America.

The first executive order president Trump signed just days after his inauguration put the refugee resettlement program on suspension for 120 days and gave priority to some religious minorities over others. It also allowed for just 50,000 refugees to be resettled in the United States in the 2017 fiscal year compared to 110,000 the previous year.
In an interview with Catholic News Service, he said that the focus of much media reporting has been on assessing blame for the catastrophe or analyzing the response of governments in the region with little attention paid to the plight of the people uprooted from their homes.

Bishop Mansour critiqued the media for focusing blame and then doing little in the way of solutions. “Pope Francis got it right: The media people, many of them just antagonize, make the situation worse. They’re not doing what CRS is doing,” he said.

The Maronite leader has been an outspoken advocate for persecuted Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East. He visited Lebanon since the 1980s and Jordan and Egypt more recently. At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ fall general assembly in Baltimore in November, he called on his brother bishops to focus greater attention to the plight of people who are in the region.

However, he explained to CNS that he has kept his advocacy for the rights of persecuted people separate from his role as a CRS board member since 2012 and promoting a purely humanitarian response to people in need. Even so, he sees both as equally important.

The U.S. bishops’ overseas development and relief agency’s work around the world is often carried out in collaboration with members of the Church’s worldwide network of Caritas humanitarian agencies. Its work often focuses on leveraging its expertise in helping develop venues where disaster victims can take on the work the Baltimore-based agency has done.

Bishop Mansour cited CRS’ support of Adyan in Lebanon as an example. Adyan, an Arabic word meaning religions, was formed by a Maronite priest and Sunni Muslim woman and a team of staffers and volunteers.

Adyan’s work led Lebanon to declare a joint Christian-Muslim holiday, observed March 25, the feast of the Annunciation. Bishop Mansour described the day as the only one of its kind in the world. It allows Muslims and Christians, young and old, “to find a common interest in humanitarian, in cultural and in religious dialogue,” he said.

It’s not only the Middle East where CRS’s work is making a difference. Bishop Mansour wants to make sure Catholics in U.S. parishes who contribute to the agency understand the positive results of its work. He cited, for example, the positive results of “impact investing” that would loan a small sum of money to a man knowledgeable about car repair so he can obtain the tools necessary to open a business in his town, or allows a poor family to buy equipment to make cheese from the milk of goats they own so they can sell the product at local markets.

He also pointed to the Faithful House program that helps married couples in developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. He said the program helps husband and wife “understand the mystery of marriage, the beauty of the fidelity of marriage” and know the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases while promoting natural family planning so that they understand “a healthy form of family planning.”

Bishop Mansour noted that CRS also receives funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development as well as other humanitarian and development organizations. He stressed that any CRS work carried out falls in line with Catholic teaching.

For the incoming family to have local income is perhaps the best thing, Mansour added, is for the incoming family to have local families and communities, like a parish, reach out and help integrate them into the local culture.

While the world struggles to find a solution to the refugee crisis, “we need to support the programs that are making their lives less miserable,” such as those run by Catholic Relief Services and Jesuit Refugee Service, Archbishop Tomasi said.

“Compassion fatigue should have no room at this moment,” as millions of people are still in need, he said.
Roshan’s Story: From Refugee Camp to Refugee Counselor

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

The conditions at the Sambischar Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal were dreadful. Families lived in bamboo huts that were less than 1,000 square feet. The scant dwellings lacked heat, electricity and plumbing. Rain trickled through the inadequate roofs, turning the huts’ interiors to mud.

Water came from taps that discharged twice a day for two hours at a time. Proper clothing was scant. Food was rations by the number of members in a family, often five kilograms (just over 11 pounds) per person every two weeks.

Malnutrition and disease threatened the wellbeing of refugees, as did the occasional fire or flood.

The Sambischar camp is one of six camps established in Nepal by the UNHCR in the early 1990s, in response to the tens of thousands of Bhutanese people forced to flee their native land.

Known as Lhottshampas (“southerners”), this group of Nepali language-speaking Bhutanese people had registered in the refugee camps during the ethnic cleansing carried out by the king of Bhutan, who enacted a “One Nation, One People” policy in an attempt to eradicate the culture, religion and language of Bhutan’s minority groups.

Faced with imprisonment, loss of livelihood, torture and even death if they rejected the king’s policy, more than 107,000 Lhottshampas sought refuge in the camps of Nepal.

Among them was Roshan Khadka.

In 1992, Roshan arrived at Sambischar with his parents and brother. He was eight months old. He would remain at the camp for 18 years, knowing nothing but life as a refugee, until resettlement through Catholic Charities brought him to an utterly new life in Harrisburg.

Known as a “very miserable childhood. Very deprived,” Roshan told The Catholic Witness during an interview at Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services’ offices in Harrisburg. “I would never have imagined this life. I couldn’t even envision it!”

In 2007, the UNHCR and various partners announced plans to resettle the Bhutanese refugees into various receiving countries. The International Organization for Migration began screening the refugees and receiving preferences for where they would like to resettle.

Roshan’s parents, formerly successful farmers with plentiful land and cattle before fleeing their homeland, opted for the United States. When they arrived in Harrisburg in 2009, they were greeted by Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services. The program provided the family with an apartment, furnishings, clothing and food, access to immunizations and social benefits, as well as practical lessons like using appliances and calling for taxi service.

“I remember that we didn’t know how to turn on the stove. We didn’t understand what a freezer was. They had to show us how to work the toilet,” Roshan said.

“There was a huge gap as far as logistical advancement. All of a sudden, we were here, and it was very hard to adjust from life in a camp. Imagine our surprise when we got into an elevator.

“We were amazed at how easy it was to get all this food whenever you wanted it, how to drive, learning the road system,” he said. “Here, there is everything you could want. If you work hard, you can get a computer, a car, a home. You can get an education if you work for it.”

Catholic Charities assisted Roshan’s father and brother in securing a job so that the family could get on the path to self-sufficiency. The program’s goal is for resettled families to be self-sufficient within three months of their arrival. Ninety percent of the refugees resettled through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg are gainfully employed within their first 90 days, according to the program’s statistics.

The program resettles refugees from such countries as Bhutan, Nepal, Syria, China and South Korea, with the goal of self-sufficiency. It works with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which identifies with the Department of State, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services to classify and vet refugees.

Roshan, who was taught English through the U.N. and the Red Cross in the refugee camp’s school — which he attended until tenth grade — enrolled at Central Dauphin East High School shortly after his family’s arrival. After graduating in 2016, he took classes at Harrisburg Area Community College for two years before transferring to Penn State Harrisburg.

He received a degree in psychology from its School of Behavioral Sciences and Technology in December.

“It’s the main reason why our parents decided to resettle in the United States, and why our family decided to come to America,” he said of the U.N. and the Red Cross in the refugee camp’s school — which he attended until tenth grade — enrolled at Central Dauphin East High School shortly after his family’s arrival. After graduating in 2016, he took classes at Harrisburg Area Community College for two years before transferring to Penn State Harrisburg.

He received a degree in psychology from its School of Behavioral Sciences and Technology in December.

“It’s the main reason why our parents decided to resettle in the United States, and why our family decided to come to America,” he said.

Newcomers must respect the laws of their host countries and be assisted in integrating into the life of their new communities, he said in the interview published April 7. And members of the receiving community must be educated to understand the real causes of migration and the desperate situations of those who feel forced to flee their homes.

The news media play a big role, Pope Francis said. They should explain the human rights violations, violence, poverty and catastrophes that lead so many people to flee.

But, especially, he said, the media must report responsibly and not simply “indulge in negative stereotypes when talking about migrants and refugees.”

 Asked about his 2016 trip to refugee camps in Lesbos, Greece, with leaders of the Orthodox Church, Pope Francis said it was a sign of “fraternal responsibility.”

“We are all united in wanting to ensure a dignified life for every man, woman and child who is forced to abandon his or her own country,” he said. “There is no difference of creed that can outweigh this wish — in fact, quite the contrary.”

Pope Francis said he wished the political leaders of every nation would show the same kind of joint concern for “the cries of the many innocents who ask only for a chance to save their own lives.”

As for anti-immigrant feelings and fears among some Europeans, the pope urged everyone to remember what Europe was like after World War II.

“Millions of Europeans immigrated to South America or the United States, he said. “It was not an easy experience for them, either. They had the burden of being seen as foreigners, arriving from afar with no knowledge of the local language.

“The process of integration wasn’t easy, but for the most part it ended in success,” Pope Francis said.

States, even though they didn’t know the language. They sacrificed their social life in order to see their children in school and learning to make a better life,” Roshan said.

According to the UNHCR and the U.S. Refugee Processing Center, more than 92,000 Bhutanese refugees have resettled in the United States, representing 10 percent of the 108,532 who were taken for third-country resettlement after the program was introduced in 2007. Today, approximately 10,000 Bhutanese refugees remain in the camps, most of whom are the elderly who have lost their support network through the resettlement of family members.

Members of the Bhutanese community in Harrisburg continue to make progress, working steady jobs, owning businesses, and furthering their education. Language and cultural differences remain a challenge, and are among the reasons why Roshan now serves at Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services two days a week, where he assists refugees in job development.

“I want to make a difference in communities, in families, in society,” he said. “It is very hard when you do not know where to call or for services, how to call for a job where to go to apply for a job. When I completed high school, there was no one I could ask in Nepal, in my culture, which college to go to, and how to do that. That’s why I decided to come to Catholic Charities to help other people.”

(For more information on the work of Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services, visit www.ccshbg.org/get-help/immigration-refugee-services.)
Biomedical Program at Lourdes Regional Will Cultivate Students’ Skills in Healthcare Fields

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

On their first day of school this fall, students at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School will walk into a crime scene.

The Pre-K-12 school in Coal Township is embarking on an innovative and hands-on Biomedical Science Program through Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that empowers students to develop and apply in-demand skills for real-world challenges.

Lourdes Regional is the only school in a 75-mile radius of its campus to offer the program.

The four-year biomedical program will commence with freshmen students at the start of the 2017-2018 academic year, and will incorporate upcoming ninth-grade classes in subsequent years.

Lourdes Regional is introducing the program in response to its statistical finding that more than 50 percent of its students opt to pursue medical-related education and careers after graduation.

What’s more, Geisinger Health System is a lead employer in the surrounding community – its medical center in Danville is less than a half-hour drive from Coal Township, and its clinics and urgent care centers dot the region.

“These are careers that students are familiar with, and Geisinger often has to reach out of our immediate area to fill so many positions. We felt it would be a service to our students and to the community to have them well-prepared for biomedical and healthcare careers,” said Amy Polites Feese, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Lourdes Regional.

While searching for an innovative and hands-on program for high school students, Mrs. Feese landed on the Web site of Bel Air High School in Maryland, which has Web site of Bel Air High School in Maryland, which has three students have applied for the program, which utilizes an algorithm for applicants. Lourdes can accept up to 24 students into the program.

The four-year program will roll out this fall, the first course being Principles of Biomedical Science. Twenty-three students have applied for the program, which utilizes an algorithm for applicants. Lourdes can accept up to 24 students into the program.

Students will take their required science course in addition to the biomedical course.

The Principles of Biomedical Science course will revolve around a crime scene, investigating, documenting and analyzing evidence to solve a case on the death of a woman.

The first year’s units will include activities and curriculum on proper investigation, evidence-based facts, chronic diseases and nutrition, DNA analysis, infection, dissection of a heart and metabolic tests to determine the cause of death.

Subsequent year courses are Human Body Systems, which will focus on kinesiology and joint dissections; and Medical Interventions, which will examine blood, viruses and bacteria. The senior year course is Biomedical Innovation, which will require students to complete a capstone project in which they create a system or a physical object, taking, communication, collaboration and a new physical therapy technique to an innovative prosthetic joint.

Mrs. Feese, for example, pointed out that a senior at Bel Air High School developed a blood therapy innovation being used and further developed by John Hopkins scientists.

“The goal of the program is to build skills in student independence and give them the tools they need to build their own projects and prototypes,” said Kelly McCarthy, who teaches math and physics at the school.

The senior year course also requires students to connect with a professional on an internship project.

“The program will give students leverage when applying for college, and when they finish their four years here, there is an opportunity to get college credits,” Miss McCarthy noted.

The Biomedical Science Program will benefit from an Advisory Board that will assist in achieving program recognition, supporting teachers’ ongoing professional development, connecting the program to local businesses, and providing teachers and students with real-world industry insights.

Board members include professionals affiliated with Bucknell University’s Biomedical Engineering Program, a cardiologist, a physical therapist who teaches at Penn College, a pharmacist, a professor of health science at Lock Haven University, and the Executive Vice President at Geisinger – several of whom are Lourdes graduates.

The Biomedical Science Program is not just for students considering medical doctorates.

“Yes, they can be nurses and doctors. But there are many things they can be in the health field – pharmacists, speech therapists, physical therapists, dental hygienists,” Mrs. Feese said. “The field allows for multiple levels of involvement. We could have students working as CNAs, occupational therapists. It’s going to be challenging, but for so many of our students, it’s something they can do no matter how they see their future. Maybe they want a two-year program as physical therapist assistants. This program is not only for students looking to achieve an eight-year medical degree; it’s inclusive.”

Aside from biomedical lessons, the course will also help students develop skills in time management, proper note taking, communication, collaboration and critical thinking – skills necessary in today’s job market.

Teachers who will conduct the courses over the four-year program will be fully immersed in training through Project Lead the Way through a series of two-week summer courses for certification.

Mrs. Feese will be certified this summer in the Principles of Biomedical Science course that she’ll begin teaching this fall.

The goal is to deliver an activity-based and problem-solving curriculum to our students in order to be facilitators of an education that includes exploration into biomedical careers,” Mrs. Feese said.

Lourdes’ Elementary Students Collaborating for Success in the Global Community

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

STEM education is a hallmark at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township, and the elementary school students’ ventures into the global community have resulted in markedly improved fluency in the English language.

Take the fourth-grade class, whose participation in the online game-based Reflex Math program has resulted in meaningful gains from 35 percent to nearly 80 percent fluency in the subject.

“The difference in their computation skills is remarkable,” said Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Maureen Donati, Elementary School Principal. “For a number of the students, the improvement took place in a very short time. As a result of their success, their self-esteem and their leadership skills are growing.”

Reflex Math is a motivational program that offers students a variety of games that facilitate the learning process. It offers an array of engaging games that send students back to areas that they need to work on. It builds on the individual student’s strengths in math to keep them engaged and motivated to work on their weaknesses.

Fourth-grade teacher Ann Czeposin was instrumental in obtaining Lourdes’ grant for the program, which included 35 licenses for 12 months, and two hours of professional development.

Reflex Math has been so positive for the students that Sister Maureen has approved for a site license – purposed by a benefactor – so that all students in grades 2-6 will have access to the program beginning with the upcoming school year.

In third-grade classrooms, students’ venture into the Google Docs program and the online Wonders series has resulted in improved aptitude in spelling, grammar and writing.

With access to Google, students are learning about topics and then engage using Google Docs to put what they’ve learned into their own words in a research paper.

“The Google Docs program tells the students when a sentence is incomplete, or if they aren’t using a word in the proper tense. As a result, I have seen an improvement in their writing skills, including using a word in the proper context. As a result, I have seen an improvement in their writing skills, including using a word in the proper context.”

Third-grade teacher Tara Novak observed.

With the online Wonders program, students read stories and then engage in games that use the words in those stories, learning new words and how to use them in the proper context.

“These opportunities are changing the way students learn. They are enhancing the students’ learning skills and improving their confidence with technology,” said Mrs. Novak.

The third- and fourth-graders are accessing the online programs with Chromebooks obtained through the JDO Foundation of Littleton, Colo., in which Mrs. Czeposin and Mrs. Novak are members of a global fellowship. More SUCCESS, page 9
Success

Continued from B

The global partnership facilitates the creative use of technology in classrooms and builds friendships between students around the world.

As such, the third- and fourth-graders have connected with their counterparts from St. Brigid Primary School just outside of Belfast, Ireland.

Each student has a “partner” student with whom they’ve communicated throughout the school year. They send e-mails on a weekly basis and are required to connect face-to-face on the Chromebooks once a month, but have done so on a more frequent basis.

The connection allows students at Lourdes and at St. Brigid’s to learn together.

For example, in a combined lesson on measurements, the students produced an online cookbook featuring Easter recipes. As part of their assignment, they interviewed their family’s Easter dinner cook, wrote a paragraph about the significance of the dish, and provided the recipe. The project allowed the students to examine different foods and traditions, and the differences in measurements for the recipes.

In December, Mrs. Czeponis’ fourth-graders teamed up with their counterparts in a Catholic Charities project to donate funds for a man in Kenya who is raising chickens in order to send his children to school.

“The global program through the JDO Foundation has allowed the students to see that kids all over the world have feelings just like they do,” Mrs. Czeponis remarked. “It has given them a broader world view. When they see kids in need all over the world, they think differently about them. In its essence, it is a peace-making mission, where the kids get to see the global impact of kindness.”

“We are preparing the students to be members of the global community,” Sister Maureen said. “They are working and partnering with others, and doing it with a faith foundation.”

The JDO Foundation has selected Mrs. Czeponis’ class to be part of a Global Heroes Project, encouraging them to create a project with a positive impact on the community. As a result, the fourth-graders are embarking on a worm composting project at the school to help save on food scraps and work toward a greener environment. And, because the project is student-centered, the children created a presentation to seek approval from Sister Maureen, and are now in the process of writing letters to the cafeteria, maintenance and athletic department staff to express their needs regarding food disposal and compost location on campus.

Fourth graders Louis Catino, Abigail Czarnecki, Kaden Hine and Ava Carnuccio participate in ReflexMath games. The program has resulted in 80 percent fluency in math among the fourth-grade class.

Lourdes also offers an after-school STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program for students in the Mount Carmel and Shamokin school districts through a partnership with the local IU and PBS Learning Media partnership. The six-week program has ventured into crime scene investigation units, canning and jarring of foods, and robotics. It has attracted upwards of 40 students.

Enrollment continues to increase at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, from 350 students six years ago to 525 today. There are SMARTBoards in all the classrooms, Chromebook workstations, and state-of-the-art biology and physics labs that were installed two years ago.

“Everything we do is for the future of the school,” said Deacon Martin McCarthy, School Administrator and High School Principal. “We are always striving to get better, grow and anticipate. We have tremendous teachers, alumni, and people in development to help make it happen.”

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RICHARD JAMES LYONS
KENNETH CHARLES ROTH
TIMOTHY JAMES SAHD

Saturday • May 20, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA

THE 2017 ORDINATIONS

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JOSHUA ROBERT CAVENDER
KEVIN JOSEPH COYLE
MICHAEL GEORGE METZGAR

Saturday • June 3, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA
National Parks: Places of Wonder, History, Culture, Spiritual Refuge

By Nancy Wiechec and Chaz Muth

Catholic News Service

From the dramatic vistas of the Grand Canyon in Arizona to the glistening waters of Cape Cod in Massachusetts, national parks have stood as places of wonder, history and culture.

John Muir, considered the father of our national parks, petitioned U.S. lawmakers to set aside such places for preservation. Parks have stood as places of wonder, history and culture.

President Woodrow Wilson created the National Park Service in 1916 to protect and regulate all federal parks and monuments. Under the Department of the Interior, the Park Service was charged with the conservation of scenery, wildlife and natural and historic objects and to “provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

To meet the needs of Catholic visitors, Catholic clergy and laypeople lead weekend liturgical services inside some of the largest parks – Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, Zion and Glacier – during the busy summer season. Two Catholic chapels, Sacred Heart in Grand Teton and El Cristo Rey at the south rim of the Grand Canyon, not only offer Mass but are open daily for visits and prayer.

Parishes in park gateway communities, such as St. Mary’s in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, also cater to throngs of national park visitors. A majority of those attending Mass at St. Mary’s are visitors of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the most visited of the national parks with an estimated 10.7 million people annually, said Carmelite Father Antony Punnackal, pastor of the parish.

“We call this parish ‘the parish of the Smokies,’ because it’s basically for the visiting parishioners,” Father Punnackal told CNS.

Though the church has about 200 registered families who live within the parish boundaries, an average of 700 people attend Mass each weekend from the spring through fall, he said.

Mount Moran is seen in this view from Oxbow Bend in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Ed Willis of Delaware, Ohio, said his trip through the Great Smoky Mountain National Park offered him a spiritual experience while witnessing “the creation of God,” a vision that stayed with him as he worshipped at St. Mary’s after leaving the park for the day.

“Having this park and church within reach has deepened my relationship with God,” he told CNS after attending a Saturday evening Mass.

The National Park Service not only preserves America’s top wilderness areas, but its cultural and historical places as well, including such sites as the Washington Monument, the White House, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Independence Hall.

“Most of the national parks are cultural sites,” said Kathy Kupper, spokeswoman for the Park Service. “They tell the story of who we are collectively as a people and as a society.”

That story includes the role of Catholicism in the building of the nation.

“There are many connections between the National Park Service and the Catholic Church,” Kupper told CNS. “Perhaps the most famous Catholic Church association is at the San Antonio Missions.”

Established as a national historical park in 1978, it includes Concepcion, San Jose, San Juan and Espada missions and represents a unique collaboration between the park service and the church. The Park Service maintains mission buildings, landscapes and visitor centers, while the Archdiocese of San Antonio cares for the mission churches and oversees religious services. Visitors can learn about Spanish Colonial Texas and also attend Mass in the still active missions.

In the mix of national parks and monasteries, are those that tell the stories of some prominent Catholics.

Kalapapa National Historical Park in Molokai, Hawaii, a memorial to the secluded settlement of people banished from their homes for having Hansen’s disease (leprosy), tells the story of the community and those who served as its caregivers, including St. Damien of Molokai (Father Damien de Veuster) and St. Marianne of Molokai (Mother Marianne Cope).

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, is the Catholic president’s birthplace and boyhood home. A reproduction of the baptismal gown worn by JFK and his siblings is among the religious items on display. (The original gown is retained in storage for preservation.)

Tumacacori National Historical Park south of Tucson, Arizona, contains the ruins of a mission founded by Jesuit Father Eusebio Francisco Kino in 1691. The park imparts the accounts of European missionaries, settlers and soldiers and the native O’odham, Apache and Yaqui people they met in their explorations and ministry.

Cesar E. Chavez National Monument, located northeast of Keene, California, is the home and burial place of the Latino labor leader and civil rights activist. With the rallying call “Si, se puede!” (“Yes, we can!”), his movement led to better working conditions and higher wages for farm workers. The monument is part of the Chavez property known as Nuestra Senora Reina de la Paz (Our Lady Queen of Peace).

The National Park Service also manages the National Registry of Historic Places, which includes more than 400 Catholic churches. Among them are the California missions established by Spanish Franciscan missionary St. Junipero Serra.
Tennessee Catholic Parish Gets Energy from Nearby National Park

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

When Huntsville, Alabama, resident Patrick Eads prepared to take his family on a trip to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park last August, he made sure to pack necessary vacation items, which included the address to the nearest Catholic church.

Eads and his wife, Rachael, made the 250-mile drive to Gatlinburg with their 1-year-old son to experience nature's glory.

Rachael, noticeably pregnant, eagerly joined her husband and son on the long hikes along the Appalachian Trail to find the best views of the mountains and said the majestic vistas, the sounds of the summer insects, the feel of the warm sun on her face and the scent of the wildflowers growing along their route, energized her.

After a day of navigating the Smokies, Patrick was feeling the need for spiritual nourishment, so the lucky, bearded redhead packed up his family and headed to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for the 7 p.m. Saturday Mass.

A Google search before leaving home helped him locate the parish and he was thrilled that it was conveniently located near the town's main strip.

The Eads are among thousands of visitors who cross St. Mary's threshold each year and they are a driving force in the 80-plus-year-old parish, said Carmelite Father Antony Punnackal, pastor of the church.

“St. Mary’s can seat 525 people if the church staff opens up its parish hall and daily chapel, both of which can be exposed to the main altar. But, it’s not unusual for 800 people to attend a Mass during the peak park visiting times, Father Punnackal told Catholic News Service.

People stand in the back, the side of the church and even stand outside when a Mass is really packed, he said.

“We only have about 200 families registered in the parish, but you’d never know that if you came here for Sunday Mass,” Father Punnackal said. “That’s why we call this parish ‘the parish of the Smokies.’ It’s basically for the visiting parishioners.”

During Saturday evening Mass, the priest asked members of the large congregation to raise their hand if they were travelers visiting the park. A majority of the worshipers lifted their arms to signify that they were indeed visitors.

Father Punnackal, referring to the visiting parishioners, “because he considers them to be members of his church community, even if only for an evening.”

“They are the majority,” he said, “and they treat this church like it’s their home parish. They support this church like it’s their home parish. They are tremendous contributors when the collection basket is passed around.”

The parish is in solid financial shape because of the reliably generous support of the visitors, Father Punnackal told CNS.

St. Mary’s Parish dates back to 1935 when a Knoxville couple donated a log cabin to become the first Catholic Church in Gatlinburg, then a little-known valley of English and Scotch-Irish settlers.

Shortly after President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1940, visitors to the area began overcrowding the 40-seat log cabin, prompting the parish to build its current church, which was completed in 1953 and later expanded to include a parish hall and rectory.

The city of Gatlinburg, with an estimated population of about 4,000, also benefits from the nearly 11 million visitors who travel to the Great Smoky Mountains annually, by far the most visited national park in the U.S.

Mass in Yellowstone ‘an Experience of God Unlike Any Other,’ Says Jesuit

By Nancy Wiechec
Catholic News Service

Jesuit Father Rick Malloy very much enjoys summers in Yellowstone National Park.

“I am a fanatical fisherman,” he admitted. “And a good one, too.”

But exceptional fishing is not the main thing that brings him to Wyoming summer after summer. He said it’s the privilege and beauty of park ministry that keeps him coming back.

Mass in Yellowstone is “an experience of God unlike any other,” he said. “It’s a real privilege to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with people here in the park.”

Father Malloy is a cultural anthropologist, professor and chaplain at the Jesuit-run University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, for the past seven summers, he has gone west to draw for recreational visitors, the world’s largest collection of geothermal features, including its remarkable geysers. Roaring waterfalls, crystal-clear lakes and a great diversity of wildlife are big draws for recreational visitors.

Priests have been coming into the park to celebrate Mass since the 1920s when yearly visitors numbered less than 200,000. Today, with 4.1 million annual visitors, Yellowstone has the potential for more than 600,000 Catholic vacationers a year.

Catholic services – Mass if a priest is available and Communion service if one is not – are held Saturdays at the Canyon campground, and Sundays at Yellowstone Lake Lodge and Old Faithful Lodge mid-June through mid-September.

St. Anthony’s, the nearest Catholic church to much of the park, is a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Old Faithful, and that’s if traffic in the park is moving.

Father Malloy waits several extra minutes before he starts each Mass. He knows there could be people stuck in a buffalo jam. The omnipresent bison have the right-of-way on park roadways and often cause rubbernecking delays.

“The air smelled of pine, fallen rain from a day earlier and campfire smoke.”

Yellowstone is among America’s best-loved national parks. Its 3,500 square miles of wilderness showcase the world’s largest collection of geothermal features, including its remarkable geysers. Roaring waterfalls, crystal-clear lakes and a great diversity of wildlife are big draws for recreational visitors.

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“It’s literally a chance to preach to the whole world. You have no idea who will be here each Sunday.”
Pope Benedict Celebrates Birthday with Bavarian Guests, Beer, Pretzels

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

A bit of Bavaria, including German beer and pretzels, came to the Vatican to help celebrate Pope Benedict XVI's 90th birthday.

"Thank you for bringing Bavaria here," he said, his hands, commenting on the beauty of gathering together under a blue Roman sky with white clouds — colors that "recall the white and blue flag of Bavaria" and how "it is always the same sky" no matter where one finds oneself in the world.

The Bavarian-born pope's birthday fell on Easter Sunday, April 16, so a small in-formal party was held April 17 outside his residence, the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican gardens. Pope Francis visited his predecessor April 12, before the start of the Easter Triduum, to offer him birthday greetings.

Special guests at the Bavarian party included: Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, the retired pope's 93-year-old brother; Archbishop Georg Ganswein, the retired pope's personal secretary; Birgit Wiesing, a longtime administrative assistant; and the consecrated laywomen from Memores Domini, who assisted at Mass.

A German delegation was present, led by the minister president of Bavaria, Horst Seehofer, and including a group of men dressed in the traditional uniforms of the "Mariana" soccer club with dark green wool hats decorated with feathers, pins and sprigs of greenery.

Pope Benedict said his heart was filled with gratitude "for the 90 years the good Lord has given me. There have been trying and difficult times, but he always guided me and pulled me through." He thanked God for his beautiful homeland "that you now bring to me," and which is "open to the world, lively and happy" because it is rooted so deeply in the Christian faith.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI raises a glass of beer with Bavarian Prime Minister Horst Seehofer during the former pontiff's 90th birthday celebration April 17 at the Vatican. Also pictured is Archbishop Georg Ganswein, prefect of the papal household, in rear. The pope's birthday was the previous day.

Steelers Chairman Rooney Recalled for Quiet Strength Based on His Faith

By John Franko
Catholic News Service

One reason there is such affection for Dan Rooney, said Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, is that he was clearly a man of the people, a person of western Pennsylvania and a quintessential Pittsburgher.

"Whether he was Ambassador Daniel Rooney, Hall of Fame Pittsburgh Steelers president or just Dan, he reflected so well the qualities of this part of the world," the cardinal said. "He worked hard, he was a loyal friend, a good neighbor, he took seriously his duties to his family, his obligations to the community, his commitment to the Steelers, his love of the game, the need to be straightforward, honest and caring. He was a Pittsburgher. He was the best of us."

Cardinal Wuerl reflected on the beloved chairman of the Steelers in celebrating his funeral Mass April 17 at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

The congregation of more than 1,500 included former President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State John Kerry, U.S. Sen. Robert Casey and numerous local officials. Dozens of current and former Steelers were in attendance, as well as former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

Concelebrating with Cardinal Wuerl were Pittsburgh Archbishop David A. Zubik; Benedictine Archabbott Douglas Nowicki of St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe; Father Kris Stubna, rector of St. Paul Cathedral; Benedictine Father Vincent Zidek, pastor of St. Peter Parish on Pittsburgh's North Side; and Benedictine Father Paul Taylor.

Bishop Zubik spoke of a man who was a friend to the rich and not-so-rich, a man who had great vision as a businessman.

"He knew what it meant to be loyal to his country and to exercise God's many gifts in service to his country," he said.

Rooney's appointment as U.S. ambassador to Ireland was not only something he cherished but carried out in a highly effective manner, Cardinal Wuerl said. Rooney visited every county in Ireland in his role, the cardinal said, and it wasn't an exaggeration to say that he was beloved as much in Ireland as he was in Pittsburgh.

But through it all, Cardinal Wuerl said that Rooney never lost "his common-man touch or the sense of his roots." He noted that when the two would speak by phone, the cardinal would answer, "Hello, Mr. Ambassador," but Rooney always replied, "It's Dan."

"Dan, while he traveled all over the world, never really left the North Side," Cardinal Wuerl said.

He spoke of Rooney's commitment to St. Peter Parish as an expression of his love for his faith. While he never wore his faith on his sleeve, Cardinal Wuerl noted, he certainly carried it in his heart.

And while much has been made of Rooney's sense of fair play and his respect for others and their dignity, he continued, the late Steelers chairman would be the first to pay tribute to his faith and the religious principles that grounded his life. The cardinal pointed to the "Rooney Rule," which stipulates that NFL teams must interview at least one minority candidate for top coaching positions.

"He grew up learning on the streets of the North Side and the halls of North Catholic High School that you judge people by who they are, not the color of their skin or their national origin," he said.

Rooney's death, Cardinal Wuerl said, brings us "face to face" with the faith that guided his life.

Rooney is survived by Patricia, his wife of 65 years; four brothers; seven children; 20 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

His daughter Kathleen died in 1987, and his daughter Rita died in 2012.

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Dan Rooney, then vice president of the Pittsburgh Steelers, smiles as quarterback Terry Bradshaw holds up the pen he just used to sign his first contract with the Steelers in 1970. Rooney, a lifelong Catholic, died April 13 in Pittsburgh at age 84. The longtime Pittsburgh Steelers chairman helped shape the modern National Football League.

Cardinal Wuerl had known Rooney for some 50 years from his time as a priest and bishop in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. In his homily, he spoke of "the wonderful story of a man with a huge and caring heart."

It began, he noted, with the great love Rooney had for his wife, Patricia. The cardinal spoke of a man who held his family close to himself, and personified the Rooney family as the Steelers family.

He recalled visiting Heinz Field with Rooney a few weeks before construction was completed in 2001. While the workers were friendly in greeting the then-bishop of Pittsburgh, Cardinal Wuerl noted, their real desire was to get a picture with the Steelers chairman.

"He symbolizes the quiet strength, character, resilience and joy of Pitts-burgh," Cardinal Wuerl said.

But as much as Rooney was involved in Pittsburgh history and the story of the Steelers, the cardinal spoke of how proud Rooney was of his Irish heritage. He pointed to Rooney's efforts with the Ireland Fund that engaged both Protestant and Catholic youths in Ireland in educational efforts and community building programs.

Cardinal Wuerl also noted Rooney's support of North Side Catholic schools and his founding role in the Extra Mile Education Foundation that provides edu-ca-tional opportunities for underprivi-led children.
Pope Francis Heads to Egypt

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

At press time April 25, Pope Francis was scheduled to meet with the leader of one of the world’s leading Sunni Muslim institutions, the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church and the two leaders will greet more than 300 young people who made a trip following an invitation from St. John Paul II, at the patriarch’s residence April 28, the two leaders will go together to the nearby church of Sts. Peter and Paul, which had been bombed during a Sunday Mass in December 2016, killing 24 people and injuring at least 45 others.

They will pray “for all the victims from these past years and months, pray for Christians killed,” Burke said.

The two will leave flowers outside the church, light a candle and then have a moment of prayer for the victims from the December attack, the Vatican spokesman said.

Soon afterward, the pope will go to the apostolic nunciature, where he will be staying, and will greet a group of children who attend a Comboni-run school in Cairo and later will greet more than 300 young people who made a pilgrimage to Cairo to see the pope, he added.

Spokesman: Tight Security is ‘New Normal’

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

Despite the ongoing risk of terrorism, Pope Francis planned to travel to Egypt as a sign of being close to the people there, said Greg Burke, Vatican spokesperson.

Heard security is part of the “new normal” in many countries, but even in the wake of the Palm Sunday attacks in Egypt, it is the pope’s desire “to go ahead, to also be a sign of hope,” Burke said that after Pope Francis’ private meeting with Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II, at the patriarch’s residence April 28, the two leaders will go together to the nearby church of Sts. Peter and Paul, which had been bombed during a Sunday Mass in December 2016, killing 24 people and injuring at least 45 others.

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Easter

Continued from 1

Preaching without a prepared text, Pope Francis began – as he did the night before at the Easter Vigil – imagining the disciples desolate because “the one they loved so much was executed. He died.”

While they are huddling in fear, the angel tells them, “He is risen.” And, the pope said, that Jesus “gives his blessing ‘urbi et orbi,” to the city of Rome and the world.

Before reciting the blessing, he told the crowd that “in every age the risen shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. With the marks of the passion – the wounds of his merciful love – he draws us to follow him on his way, the way of life.”

Christ seeks out all those in need, he said. “He comes to meet them through our brothers and sisters who treat them with respect and kindness and help them to hear his voice, an unforgettable voice, a voice calling them back to friendship with God.”

Pope Francis mentioned a long list of those for whom the Lord gives special attention, including victims of human trafficking, abused children, victims of terrorism and people forced to flee their homes because of war, famine and poverty.

“In the complex and often dramatic situations of today’s world, may the risen Lord guide the steps of all those who work for justice and peace,” Pope Francis said. “May he grant the leaders of nations the courage they need to prevent the spread of conflicts and to put a halt to the arms trade.”

The pope also offered special prayers for peace in Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Congo and Ukraine, and for a peaceful resolution of political tensions in Latin America.

The pope’s celebration of Easter got underway the night before in a packed St. Peter’s Basilica.

The Easter Vigil began with the lighting of the fire and Easter candle in the atrium of the basilica. Walking behind the Easter candle and carrying a candle of his own, Pope Francis entered the basilica in darkness.

The basilica was gently illuminated only by candlelight and the low light emanating from cellphones capturing the solemn procession.

The bells of St. Peter’s pealed in the night, the sound echoing through nearby Roman streets, announcing the joy of the Resurrection.

During the vigil, Pope Francis baptized 11 people: five women and six men from Spain, Czech Republic, Italy, the United States, Albania, Malta, Malaysia and China.

Among them were five of Bethlehem and the Holy Land, represented by a bishop, two of them representing the Coptic community in Palestine, one of the women at the tomb who have seen Jesus who is risen, and the women who went “with uncertain and weary steps” to Christ’s tomb.

The pope said the faces of those women, full of sorrow and despair, reflect the faces of mothers, grandmothers, children and young people who carry the “burden of injustice and brutality.”

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Easter
The Harrisburg Catholic Community invites all to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima

Charismatic Healing Retreat

The Harrisburg Catholic Community invites all to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima

Healing retreat Friday May 12, English 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg
Special guest
Father Daniel Gagnon
Healing Mass
Tickets and information: Lori Rieh: loririeh@yahoo.com Or Rosy Gonzalez: 717-903-1111 or gonzalezrozy@hotmail.com

Good Shepherd Student is Grand Champion of Engineering Fair

Good Shepherd School 8th grader Zachary Yaninek recently won the Grand Champion Award of the CASEF (Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair). This is the very highest honor presented to Zachary’s age group. Zachary’s project was among more than 250 junior high division (grades 7 and 8) projects in CASEF this year. The CASEF brings together public and private school students from across 38 counties throughout the midstate.

Zachary’s winning chemistry project was entitled, “Fire after the Dryer: The Effect of Fabric Softener on the Flammability of Fabrics.” He tested the effects of different types of fabric softener (liquid, dryer sheets, and Dropps (a mineral-based fabric softener pod) on the flammability of various fabrics commonly used for garments. The results indicated that the liquid softeners increased the flammability of all of the tested fabrics, whereas the dryer sheets and Dropps pods had no significant effect on the flammability of the fabrics.

Zachary was not only Good Shepherd student excelling at CASEF this year. Gloria O’Neil’s project earned second place in her category and both Ava Green and Patrick Cauffman secured third place recognition in their categories. Congratulations also go to Good Shepherd teacher Ms. Stephanie Miller who has taught this talented group of young scientists since sixth grade.

St. Theresa School Receives Scholarship Donation

St. Theresa School in New Cumberland recently received a check in the amount of $4,000 for scholarship assistance through Reilly Insurance, LLC, of Camp Hill. The donation was made possible through the business’ participation in the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and allows businesses to make donations to scholarship organizations via a tax credit. Mark T. Reilly, Principal of Reilly Insurance, LLC of Camp Hill participates in the EITC program for Saint Theresa School.

“I am excited to participate in the EITC program,” said Mark T. Reilly of Reilly Insurance. “The process is simple and powerful. The program allows you to send your tax dollars to the school of your choice on their approved list. We, as donors, receive a Tax Credit up of 90% of contribution. I am excited to send a donation of $4,000 to St. Theresa School located in New Cumberland to benefit the students attending there. I am able to take $400 and turn it into a $4,000 donation.”

Pictured from left to right: Michelle Zeroni, EITC manager for St Theresa School; Mark T. Reilly, Reilly Insurance; Hannah Miller and Liza Levin, 8th grade student council members; and Matt Shore, Principal St. Theresa School.

Resurrection Students Give a Token of Encouragement to Cancer Patients


These are some of the sentiments fourth grade students at Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster are sharing with patients at the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute through a special project inpired by a more than 40-year friendship.

When Cindy Redman Haldeman, an executive assistant at Lancaster General Health, was facing a cancer diagnosis, her old high school friend Sylvia Buller, a teacher at Resurrection, reached out offering prayers and support. But Buller didn’t stop there.

Each year, Buller leads her class in a service project. This year, in honor of Cindy and other friends and family members facing the challenges of cancer, students chose to paint rocks with colorful designs and words of comfort and inspiration. Students are shown here with Deacon Peter Joplin. Students presented their gift to Cancer Institute representatives who will distribute to patients receiving chemotherapy and other services at the center’s Infusion Center.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

We remember with love:

Sister Teresa Urda

Sister Teresa Urda (formerly Sister M. Jonathan), a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, died at Maria Hall in Danville on April 2. She was 74.

Born in Torrington, CT, she attended Sacred Heart School in Torrington and her junior year at Torrington High School. Her three other high school years were spent at St. Cyril Academy, Danville, where she graduated in 1960. Sister Teresa entered the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville in 1961. In her years in education ministry, Sister Teresa taught at schools in South Carolina, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Indiana. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught English at Lebanon Catholic School.

For 11 years, Sister Teresa was Director of Maintenance at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Sister was particularly interested in environmental concerns. She was a volunteer at the House of Care at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, for many years. Sister Teresa had a gift for writing and editing. Each week, she sent out the Focus, which apprised the Sisters of the congregation’s activities and achievements. She did the publicity for the activities of the St. Cyril Spiritual Center, one of the congregation’s ministries located in Danville. As moderator of the St. Cyril Academy Alumni Association, she compiled news for the Challenge, the newsletter of the organization. Her most important achievement was writing the history of the first 100 years of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at Maria Hall. Burial was in the Sisters’ cemetery, Danville.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Remember our deceased clergy

Please pray for the following clergy who died in May during the past 25 years:

Msgr. George Lentocha, 1997
Father John Smith, 1999
Msgr. Hubert J. McGuire, 2003
Father John Campion, 2010
Father Richard P. Waldron, 2011

Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishies. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ABBOTTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Ronald Cameron, Dorothy Schallahan, Marie Schachtar.
BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Stacey Fulton Karador.
CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Shirley Bostdorf, Patricia Brode, Ray Torquato.
COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Betsy Richardson, Dorothy Troutman.
COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Charles (Skip) Newcomer.
HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Laborde: Elizabeth Pavelski.
LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Anna M. Hohenwarter.
LEBANON – St. Cecilia: Anna Hirschbock, Anita Snyder.
LEWISTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Grace Heindl.
LYKENS – Our Lady Help of Christians: Jennifer Hofman-Bugguy.
MCHSRYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: George Gans, Stephen Krichten.
MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Anna Quigley, Mary Yost.
MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: Josephine Feudale.
NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Therese: Katherine Brandt.
SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Joseph Bettici, Jooye Hager, Thomas Kowalski, George Kowalewks, Albert Paservage.
TREVORTON – St. Patrick: Marlene Reck.
WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Paul G. Guila, Beverly Tabiolsa.
YORK – St. Patrick: Dolly Koltesack; St. Rose of Lima: Mary McGowan.

Tickets or gonzalezrozy@hotmail.com or con
Music begins at 6:30 p.m. with a Mass at 7. The Mass is sponsored by celebrated Wednesday, May 17 at St. Rose of Lima Church, York. 

includes a prayer service, table sharing, Holy Mass, breakfast/lunch and in the Spirit prayer groups. For information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-1871.

Donald Bender on May 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Church in New of the Fatima Apparitions

Director for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

and Junior High Band. Admission is free.

Catholic and are exposed to pencil drawing, canvas painting, marker designs, portraits, linoleum block prints, watercolors, charcoal draw-

are holding a Chinese Silent Auction on April 29 in the parish hall. Doors open at 11 a.m., the auction begins at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available.55 in the door provides you with 25 tickets. Additional tickets will be available for gift baskets and larger items. You need not present to win any items.

If you have ever dreamed of taking a European river cruise, you are cordially invited to learn more about a pleasant European River Cruise offered by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg, Md. D’Errico, the parish’s music director, will lead the group on a informational meeting on Tuesday, July 9, at 8 p.m. in the parish’s McMillin Hall. If you are interested in attending the informational session to learn more and get signed up, please call 610-216-8771 or e-mail njenni@comcast.net so we can plan for seating and materials.

A Charismatic Mass with Prayers for Healing will be celebrated Wednesday, May 17 at 7:30 a.m. at Lima. York, Father Eddie B. Demo, pastor, will be the celebrant. The public is invited to attend York Catholic’s

Of the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Assumption

in grade 12 are showing a compilation of their work from throughout

of the school year, while students in grade 11 are showing their work completed during this school year, while students in grade 11 are showing their work completed during this school year.

explores our Lord through prayer, praise, worship and music. A reception will follow an 8 a.m. Mass. All are invited.

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Event is June 4 with 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Early bird registration is $20.00; registration after May 30th is $25.00. The ticket includes a luncheon and a silent auction.

Of the 100th Anniversary of the Lady of Fatima in Portugal, which started on May 13 at 11 a.m. For more information, call 717-703-3053 or e-mail dwalker@resurrectioncathedral.net.

Our Lady of Fatima in Jonestown will host a celeb-

big sale on Saturday May 13 from 9 a.m. - noon. This is the final clean out sale. Our huge list of items include:

Our Lady of Fatima in Jonestown invites the faithful to Thirty Friday Devotions of Atonement of the Most Blessed Sacrament & Intercessory Prayers. May the 5th is 6:30 p.m. The 8th is 7:30 a.m. Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; 8 a.m. Holy Rosary prayed for intentions of our members and guests. Young People: 10 a.m. Prayers for Our Parish Ministry and those assisted. 11 a.m. Divine Mercy Chapel and Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The public is invited to attend the Anointing of the Sick on May 13 at 11 a.m. in the chapel. For information, call 717-818-3851.

The Knights of Columbus will hold a fundraiser for Undefeated Courage on May 2 at 6 p.m. at The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. The public is invited to attend York Catholic’s Annual Fundraising Banquet on May 12 at the Hoss’s restaurant in Enola. Participants must present a form to be donated to Undefeated Courage.

In case of rain, the event will be held at St. Joan of Arc School in Camp Hill.

In Frederic Hall. Breakfast will follow an 8 a.m. Mass. All are invited.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a Reunion Blast May 20 from 6-11 p.m. in the school gym. Friends and family are invited to this event.

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In Frederic Hall. Breakfast will follow an 8 a.m. Mass. All are invited.

San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster will hold a first Gala fundraising event, “GALA DE FE” (“GALA of Faith”) on May 20. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the keynote speaker, and there will be a charity art sale featuring Haitian Leabigand Lithographs, with wine and cheese, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

A Heart to Heart Catholic School in Lebanon will host a second gala fundraising event on May 12 at 6 p.m. All are invited.

The public is invited to attend York Catholic’s Annual Fundraising Banquet on May 12 at the Hoss’s restaurant in Enola. Participants must present a form showing that you have paid the $50 registration fee.

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346-3328 for a full job description.

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Affectionately referred to as America’s Catholic Church, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., has been a century in the making since the laying of its foundation stone in 1920.

The Bishops of the United States have approved a special one-time second collection to take place in parishes across the nation on Mother’s Day, May 14, to support the mosaic ornamentation of the Trinity Dome, the crowning jewel of the Basilica of the National Shrine.


The special collection to be taken up at Masses on Mother’s Day weekend is an opportunity to support this spectacular initiative to help complete America’s Catholic Church in advance of its 100th anniversary.

The dome will be adorned in mosaic and will depict the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, and a procession of saints who have an association with America and the Basilica. The Nicene Creed will enircle the base of the dome, while the dome’s pendentives will feature the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Trinity Dome will complete the work of the Great Upper Church according to its original iconographic scheme and bring to a close construction of the Basilica as it approaches its centennial in 2020.

The collection will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg on May 14.

For additional information, visit www.trinitydome.org and www.nationalshrine.org.

Collection Set for Trinity Dome, ‘Crowning Jewel’ at National Shrine

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
SPRING/FALL FLOWER PROGRAM

As a service for those who are unable to visit the graves of loved ones in Diocesan Cemeteries, a program is offered each spring for flowers to be placed at gravesites. Floral arrangements are placed for Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Father’s Day and for early autumn.

Selection and purchase, at the price of $34, can be made at one of our Diocesan Cemetery offices or online at www.hbgdiocese.org/cemeteries.

Flowers will be placed on the dates below
May 8, 2017 for Mother’s Day (May 14)
May 22, 2017 for Memorial Day (May 29)
June 12, 2017 for Father’s Day (June 18)
August 21, 2017 for Fall flowers (September 4)