April 3, 2015 VOL. 49 NO. 6

The Newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Hosanna!

Dear Friends in Christ,

“When Christ your life appears then you too will appear with Him in glory” (Col. 3:4). This assurance from Saint Paul in his Letter to the Colossians contains the word that captures best what our Easter celebration is all about. That word is LIFE. Throughout the world Christians gather in churches today to celebrate the Easter truth that Jesus of Nazareth – battered, beaten and then executed on across as a criminal – rose again to glorious life and, most wonderfully of all, is present with us today and for all eternity. Jesus lives! That is the essence of Easter.

The very season of the year in which Easter always comes, spring, at least in our hemisphere, is the season of new life. Trees bud, flowers bloom, and crops are planted and begin springing up. Even the secular symbols of Easter – bunnies and eggs – speak of birth and new life. It was in a cave in Bethlehem that Mary brought forth her newborn Son. Now at Easter we rejoice that Jesus again came forth from a cave, a tomb – living, risen and glorified. On this Feast of Feasts we thank God for the gift of His Risen Son, Jesus. We praise God for the new life we received first in Baptism. We welcome with great joy all those who were received into our Catholic community through the Initiation Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Easter invites us to ponder and celebrate the triumph of divine love. Christians do not linger at the empty tomb. Jesus is not confined to the past nor among the dead. The mystery of Christ’s resurrection impels us to move forward with confidence, to be where Christ is. In Baptism, the journey to Eucharist begins; in the Eucharist, the covenant of Baptism is sustained. Steady participation in the Eucharist is essential for life in Christ. The risen Jesus wants to arise anew in us.

Despite the many forms of darkness, violence and sin that tear at our hearts, Easter calls us to choose the risen Lord and celebrate His victory faithfully in the Eucharist.

+ Ronald W. Fink
A Year of ‘Very Rich Blessing’  

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness  

A staple in the Diocesan Department of History and Archives and a familiar face to diocesan Center employees on dates connected to bishop’s anniversaries, diocesan churches and feast days.

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Father Messner Improves

From Diocesan Office of Communications

Father Michael Messner continues to make good progress in his recovery from a fall at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster on Feb. 22. He was admitted on March 5 for post trauma care, to a rehabilitation facility in Lancaster County. At press time on Tuesday, that transfer was scheduled to take place on April 1.

Service Select at Holy Spirit Hospital was pleased with his progress, and consider him to be in a stable condition. While there, he made significant progress and began the physical and cognitive therapy necessary for his recovery.

At the rehabilitation facility, Father Messner will continue the physical and cognitive therapy and begin occupational therapy.

At this time, Father Messner has no memory of the incident. It was his practice to go out on to the balcony that overlooked the parking lot to check weather conditions and the safety of the lot during snowy and icy weather. Currently, there is no timeline for his return to ministry, as he continues to focus on his full recovery. Father Messner has indicated that he is very interested in returning to parish ministry when his condition allows, saying, “I am praying for all those at Sacred Heart Parish and the wonderful students at Sacred Heart School. I very much look forward to getting back in the saddle.”

Visitors are not encouraged, but prayers and cards are most welcome. They should be sent to his attention at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 558 W. Walnut St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

Msgr. Richard Youtz, a retired priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg who previously served at St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster, is in residence at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and continues to fulfill the parish Mass and liturgical schedule.

Job Opening: Secretary for Catholic Life and Evangelization

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

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

Requirements:

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

Benefits:

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

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

Closing date for applications FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2015

Principal Opportunities in Harrisburg

Diocesan Schools For 2015-2016

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

Annunciation, McSherrystown (K-5/8) www.abvmschool.org

Minimum Qualifications:

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

Preferred Qualifications

• 3 years of Administrative experience
• Master’s Degree in Educational Administration

Desirable Leadership Characteristics:

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

Send résumé and letter of interest to

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

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Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

April 3 – Good Friday Confessions, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, noon; Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, St. Patrick Cathedral, 3 p.m.

April 4 – Celebration of the Easter Vigil, St. Patrick Cathedral, 8 p.m.

April 5 – Celebrate Mass for Easter Sunday, St. Patrick Cathedral, 9:30 a.m.

April 10 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, New Oxford, 7 p.m.

April 11 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Annunciation BVM Church, McSherrystown, 10 a.m.

April 12 – Celebrate Mass at Divine Redeemer Church, with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Mother Kaupas House, Mount Carmel, 10:30 a.m.

April 14 – National Merit Scholarship Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon.

April 16 – Holocaust Day of Remembrance, Lancaster Catholic High School, 9 a.m.; Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Francis Xavier Church, Gettysburg, 7 p.m.

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

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

April 20 – Celebrant & Homilist at 90th Annual HDCCW Convention, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.

Representatives of the Father Henry Strickland Council #14333 of the Knights of Columbus from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall recently presented a donation of items for the mothers and infants of Lourdeshouse Maternity Home. A program under the auspices of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Lourdeshouse – located at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg – provides comprehensive maternity care and residential services to pregnant women, and to new mothers and their infants. The items – including diapers, formula, infant clothing and laundry detergent – were donated by members of Sacred Heart Parish through a drive conducted by the Knights. Shown from left in the photo are Christopher Meehan, Director of Development for Catholic Charities; Dr. Mark Tolaro, Executive Director/CEO of Catholic Charities; and John Horstick and Thomas McClain from the Father Henry Strickland Council of the Knights of Columbus.
A Glimpse of The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius are a religious institute dedicated to apostolic works. The Congregation was founded in response to the influx of immigrants from Slovakia to the United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Rev. Matthew Jankola, a Slovak priest from the Scarton Diocese, founded the Congregation for the purpose of educating the children of Slovak immigrants in parish schools. The Congregation began its existence when five young Slovak women were accepted by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarton, Pa., to begin their initial formation in religious life. In 1909, the Congregation received canonical approbation and the first three sisters pronounced their vows.

Throughout most of its history, the Congregation was primarily focused on teaching, but the Sisters also cared for orphans at Jednota Home in Middle-town, Pa., and senior adults at St. Anne’s Home, also in Middletown. Currently, the Sisters serve in numerous ministries, including schools, health care facilities, parishes, retreat centers and national offices as educators, pastoral associates, as directors of religious education, chaplains, nurses, principals, counselors, artists, musicians, and support staff, and related parish activities. All of the ministries carry forward the intention of Father Jankola, whose commitment to the life of the people of the parish addressed the full spectrum of both spiritual and social needs. The special interest in educational endeavors has also characterized all our service. Today, we have Sisters serving in these varied ministries in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius believe that the Kingdom is in our midst. We are sensitive to contemporary needs, especially justice and peace, and we reach out in compassion to evangelize and teach, to care for the elderly, the young, the sick, the poor, and lonely wounded families and immigrants, and to work and pray for the unity of Christians so that the gospel vision of the Kingdom may be fulfilled.

Legal Subscription

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius invite you to help us celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life

Sundays: April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17
Meet a Sister; Pray with us.
Refreshments at 3:30 p.m.
Evening Prayer at 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA 17821
Call beforehand - 570-275-0910

The Catholic Witness
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE Diocese of Harrisburg
Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer: Publisher
Jennifer Reed: Managing Editor

Consecrated Life: Looking at the Past
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Some time ago, I was visiting my congregation’s convent for our aged and infirm Sisters. One of the Sisters came to me and gave me her rosary and made me promise that if I ever visited her in the convent, she would visit the grave of her blood sister, who was also a religious Sister. After we prayed at her grave, we began to walk among the others who were buried there with her. As we passed each tombstone, the Sisters who journeyed to God before I entered the congregation were tender and sweet. She shared with me that each legacy that each Sister gave to my congregation and to the Church, and the love she had for all of them. She indicated that me how much this woman’s heart was full of love. This was the legacy that she shared with me. The hope which I choose to pass on to others as well.

You might be wondering, “So, what is legacy and why is it important?” According to Susan Borsak, “Legacy is fundamental to what it is to be human.” She goes on to say, “The world isn’t connected by molecules. It’s connected by stories, traditions, memories, hopes, and dreams. We are connected by the legacies passed down from those who went before us and the legacies we pass down to those who come after us.” (http://www.legacyproject.org/quotes/whatislegacy.html)

For me, a legacy means hoping for a future that learns from the past. It is developing and passing on a heritage that represents the timeless part of an individual, the part that contains the fingerprint of God.

I could not help thinking of this as I read the apostolic letter by Pope Francis in which he expresses the Year of Consecrated Life. He calls the entire Church “to look to the past with gratitude.” For within the history of the Church, the past points to individuals who translated the Gospel into a particular way of life, and read their signs of the times with eyes of faith as they responded creatively to the needs of the Church. (1) The past points to how God was present and is calling us to deepen our faith.

We can find examples of this in Scripture. In the Book of Jeremiah, the prophet looks back to blessings his people received by the hand of God. “You [Lord] performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all my nations, and have given the remnant that is still yours. You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror. You gave them this land you had sworn to give to their ancestors, and Bowing to our God, as our patrons.

Our patrons are Saints Cyril and Methodius, who were born in Thessalonica and were the menordined by Pope Leo III, along with their brother正处于 around 867. In 868, they were consecrated bishops and missionaries of the Eastern Slavic people. They stepped into history when they were asked to help the people of religious life. In 1909, the Congregation received canonical approbation and the first three sisters pronounced their vows.

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Thoughts from a Catholic Educator
Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

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During the Year of Consecrated Life, which opened on November 30, Pope Francis calls upon all Catholics to thank God for the gifts that members of religious orders have given to the Church, and to join them in prayer and support them in their ministry.

“Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them. "We send a letter issued for the special year, which will conclude on February 2, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

In observance of the Year of Consecrated Life, The Catholic Witness will offer a series of articles by Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC, who will reflect on the beauty and ministry of consecrated life. This series will be accompanied by information highlighting various communities of consecrated life in our diocese.

For additional information and resources about the Year of Consecrated Life, visit the Web site of the National Religious Vocation Conference at www.nrvc.net.
Gabriella Vacanti and Jada Ali practice CPR and learn about the use of automated external defibrillators during the event at Trinity High School, which provided area students with information on sudden cardiac arrest and screenings as a means of early detection for heart-related issues.

**EKG Screening Honors Trinity Student Athlete**

By Emily M. Albert

The Catholic Witness

How is success measured when the end result could determine that a young person has, or is at risk, for a heart complication? These were the thoughts of Julie Walker, foundation director of The Peyton Walker Foundation, and also the mother of the late Peyton Walker.

Peyton was a 2012 graduate of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, who passed away unexpectedly from sudden cardiac arrest at the young age of 19. The foundation created in her honor hosted a free EKG screening clinic for area students age 14-19 on March 28 at Trinity. Echocardiograms were also offered free of charge for students who were identified as needing additional testing. Pinnacle Health partnered with the foundation to offer the screenings.

Halfway through the program, one student had been identified with a heart condition and was sent for an Echocardiogram. The screening clinic also offered opportunities for practicing CPR and learning about the use of AED devices. For more information, or to contribute to the foundation, visit www.peytonwalker.org.

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**Our State Doesn’t Need to Rely on Execution, and It Shouldn’t**

By Amy B. Hill

Special to The Witness

(NOTE: This article is a reprint of an op-ed by PCC’s communications director that appeared in the February 22, 2015, Lancaster Sunday News.)

Last week, Gov. Tom Wolf made a bold decision to grant a temporary reprieve to inmate Terrance Williams, who was scheduled to be executed on March 4, 2015. The governor vowed to grant other reprieves, in effect declaring a moratorium on executions in Pennsylvania.

Williams would have been the first “involuntary” execution in Pennsylvania since 1978. Three others who waived their appeals have died by lethal injection since then, the last in 2013. Three others who failed to show that respect for others. The antidote to violence is love, not more violence.

Catholic opposition to the use of the death penalty should not be construed as a lack of compassion for those who have been affected by violent crime. People convicted of capital offenses must be punished effectively and appropriately for their crimes. Family and friends of victims, and society as a whole, demand this; but can true emotional, spiritual and even physical healing be found in vengeance?

Governmental authority has the right and duty to assure the safety of society, and to punish criminals by means of suitable penalties. Keeping the peace could require the imposition of the death penalty if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor. If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people’s safety, the authority should limit itself to such means.

Our society can appropriately punish without having to rely on execution. We can imprison and isolate offenders to promote the safety of citizens, correctional officers, and other inmates. The finality of a life sentence without the possibility of parole, as opposed to decades of drawn out appeals and hearings, could help to reduce victims’ families to begin their healing.

Further, a life sentence gives the inmate time to focus on repenting of his crime instead of mounting his next appeal.

Some say that the possibility of the death penalty acts as a deterrent. Studies comparing murder rates in states that have the death penalty with states that do not conclude that the death penalty has no effect in dissuading murder. In fact, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, the murder rate in states that do not have the death penalty is consistently lower than states that do.

Nationwide 150 people have been exonerated from death row, including six in Pennsylvania. As Bishop Gainer has said, this is too many to “pretend that our criminal system is so precise and exact and just that we can be confident with the sentence of the death penalty.”

A few years ago, the world watched as the families of the Amish students in Nickel Mines, Lancaster County, demonstrated profound forgiveness by supporting the widow of the man who murdered their children. They taught us that peace is not separate from the demands of justice, but it is fostered by mercy and love.

The Task Force and Advisory Commission on Capital Punishment, established in 2011, will soon release its findings on the practice in Pennsylvania. Whether it recommends abolishing the death penalty or not, it will likely confirm that our current system of state sponsored executions is flawed, ineffective, unjust, and expensive.

The death penalty creates a potentially greater harm to society by reinforcing the idea that violence is a solution to society’s problems. The death penalty will not eradicate violent crime any more than abortion is a solution to unwanted pregnancy.

We, the people of Pennsylvania, have the power to abolish the death penalty and reinforce a modern penal system that provides alternatives to taking the lives of the guilty. Punishment should reflect our belief in the inherent human dignity of each person, and taking a life to avenge the death of another does not create a culture of life.

The death penalty isn’t necessary. We can do better.

(Hill is the Director of Communications of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.pacatholic.org.)
Diocesan Schools Bring Mary Poppins, the Music Man and Cinderella to Life

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

High school musical season is in full swing, and several diocesan schools are debuting their productions in April.

For a sweeping good time, last’s year Apollo (high school dramatic awards) winner for best musical, Bishop McDevitt High School is performing Cameron Mackintosh’s “MARY POPPINS,” a musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film. For the first time in McDevitt history, they will be using a professional flying company to lift Mary Poppins and her umbrella to new heights. Director Sally Keaveney looks forward to sharing some other magical scenes on the stage from her cast and crew.

“The show closes with a distinct message. Anything can happen if you let it and have faith in yourself,” and Ms. Keaveney looks forward to sharing this message with the school’s audience. Moira Brennan, a junior at Bishop McDevitt, is playing Mary Poppins. This is not her first run with acting, as she has participated in shows at Youth for Christ, St. Catherine Laboure and the past two years with Bishop McDevitt. This is her first big lead, and she enjoys acting in high school because, “it helps express yourself. We can be creative and do something beautiful.”

Mary Poppins runs at Bishop McDevitt High School April 17 & 18 at 7:30 p.m. and April 19 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $12 for adults, $8 for senior citizens aged 65 and over and $5 for students.

In the Shamokin area, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School is excited to present their Elementary Spring musical. This year’s production is Disney’s “Cinderella, Kids.” There will be an opportunity of prayer, and Bishop Gainer will address those gathered.

Lancaster Catholic to Hold Holocaust Remembrance Day

Lancaster Catholic High School will hold a day of prayer and remembrance in honor of Holocaust victims and survivors on Thursday, April 16 from 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m. in Berger Gymnasium.

This event, hosted by Bishop Ronald Gainer, is free of charge, and will feature speakers Ernie Gross, Don Greenbaum and Randi Boyette from the Anti-Defamation League. Mr. Gross is a Holocaust survivor, and Mr. Greenbaum served in the 283rd U.S. field Artillery Battalion that discovered the Dachau concentration camp.

In addition, a group of LCHS students will perform a one act play — I Never Saw Another Butterfly. There will be an opportunity of prayer, and Bishop Gainer will address those gathered.

Guests are asked to pre-register by contacting Deb Waters at dwaters@lchsyes.org or 717-509-0315 x 123.
St. Michael’s Guard Offers Diocesan Men Opportunity to Serve at Mass

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

“Courtney, I have something for you.”

Courtney Abel recalled a December evening five years ago, when he was awakened at 3 a.m. by a voice.

“To tell you I was freaked out is beyond words,” he said. “I very much like to look at myself and see the similarities of St. Paul or St. Augustine. I had this very big conversion experience at 30, a very dramatic conversion experience. So I’m six months into being 30, and God says, ‘Hey, I have something for you.’

That night, ‘I remember saying, ‘You know what, I’m really busy.’ And I heard nothing else and thought, ‘Oh that was easy.’

But it wasn’t the end.

A week later, Mr. Abel was startled again by the voice of Our Father, who said, ‘Courtney, I have something for you.’

Mr. Abel decided to respond differently this time. He said, ‘OK, if you give me the tag line, Father, I will do it for you.’ And he was answered with, ‘Servant in the house of the Divine King.’

Coming from a bit of a business background, Mr. Abel thought to himself, “Boy, that’s really good.” He went to his writing desk that evening and began to draft the pages that would form the guidelines for what came to be known as St. Michael’s Guard.

St. Michael’s Guard has served in parishes through the Diocese of Harrisburg since Holy Thursday 2011. Members serve as altar servers during Mass, as masters of ceremony for the diocesan bishop and assist priests and deacons in many liturgical needs.

Now, four years later, after approval from the late Bishop Joseph McFadden, continued support from Bishop Ronald Gainer and priestly support from Father Philip Burger, Father David Danneker, Father Joshua Brommer and Father Luis Rodriguez, the 68 active members of St. Michael’s Guard follow their mission statement written that December morning:

“To provide the highest level of discipline, reverence, and humility serving at the Lord’s Holy Altar, with fervent study and practice of the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. The guardmaster’s dedication to knowledge, discipline, reverence, and humility assists the celebrant in entering more deeply into communion with Christ and draws the congregation into the majesty and beauty of the sacred mysteries."

Membership is open to men who are 18 years of age and older, in good standing with the Church, who are physically able to serve the Mass and who have shown proof of their desire to conform to the spirituality of the guard.

There are several steps in preparing to be a guardman. First, the men are Candidates. They show interest in joining, but have no formal training. Next, they become Postulants. According to the guidelines, “once a Candidate makes a statement of desiring to join he enters into an eight-week Postulant period, during which he is trained in how to serve the Mass, and is introduced to the spirituality of the Guard.” After a Postulant receives vestments (a uniform), he becomes a Novice. This period lasts one year, during which Novices continue their education of the liturgy as well as about the spirituality, mission and charism of the Guard. “Novices are allowed and encouraged to serve at any liturgy the Guard participates in, and to take part in all Guard events.” Finally, at the end of the Noviate period, the title of Guardman is taken and is the base rank for all full members of St. Michael’s Guard. Upon reaching this status Vespers services are held twice a year for installation: on the feast day of St. Michael. A uniform is presented during the instillation of the new guardmen. The symbol of this uniform is removing of self and becoming a brother of the Guard. The crest of St. Michael’s Guard includes – among other elements – a Cross with the Fleur-de-lis, crossed swords to remind the guardman to be at the ready, and a Monstrance with the Eucharist.

A member of St. Michael’s Guard is seen serving at the altar as Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrates a Lenten Vespers service at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg last month.

Members of St. Michael’s Guard process to the altar at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg for a Lenten Vespers service. Members serve as altar servers during Mass, as masters of ceremony for the diocesan bishop and assist priests and deacons in many liturgical needs.

Guardsmen are seen actively serving and helping deacons and priests during Holy Week. They have been invited to Cardinal Timothy Dolan’s Divine Mercy service, and two guards were called to assist during ordination in Rome. They also ran a camp July 11-19 for young men, ages 10-17. This camp, “Camp Call and Duty,” teaches young men what it means to be modern day knights.

Through bringing that liturgical life back home, back to the domestic Church, these become examples for our sons, our neighbors and hopefully it blossoms vocations. That is really what we want: we want to enhance the domestic Church. The guardman truly tries to live out the liturgy in his life.

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Though it is not a requirement to be married, nearly 98% of the guardmen are. And their wives play an active role by organizing activities for the families to come together. There is a strong sense of brotherhood in St. Michael’s Guard. Mr. Abel explained the closeness of the brothers to be there for one another and to be a part of one another’s spiritual growth.

St. Michael’s Guard started with only six men and in just four years has grown to 68. And as Mr. Abel understands that this is all under God’s will, he hopes the Lord will allow them to finalize the status of the Guard as an Association of the Faithful and be recognized under Canon Law and continue to gain more members and do the Lord’s will.
There are no bystanders on Palm Sunday. There are no onlookers," Bishop Ronald Gainer told the hundreds of diocesan youth gathered on the steps of the state capitol.

With palms in hand to celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the teens from parishes throughout the diocese raised their voices in song and joyfully participated in praise and worship music from the capitol steps in Harrisburg.

Here, the bishop blessed the palms, and, following a Gospel reading, offered a reflection on their gathering, telling the youth that they made a pilgrimage to the Palm Sunday celebration “to enter into the procession that commemorates Our Lord Jesus’ victorious and triumphant procession into his capital city, the holy city of Jerusalem.”

“We participate, we walk with Our Savior in this triumphant procession to our cathedral, to celebrate the mysteries of our salvation in the Eucharist,” Bishop Gainer said. “We are not doing so as an audience, as onlookers, but as those who have been touched by this Mystery transformed and who give our lives to Jesus.

“Let this walk be a public expression of our fidelity, our loyalty and our love for Our Savior,” he continued. “May our ‘Hosanna’s’ that we cry out today never become angry shouts of ‘Crucify him!’ through sin. Let us remain loyal, loving and obedient to the Father’s will, and obedient as Christ was to his Cross and the glory of Easter.

On Palm Sunday, Teens Give ‘Public Expression of Fidelity’ to Christ

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

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The Chrism Mass, celebrated on Monday of Holy Week, offers the faithful a solemn occasion to witness the blessing of the oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the coming year.

Also at this Mass, the priests of the diocese stand before the bishop and the congregation to renew the commitment to priestly service that they made on the day of their ordination.

The Oil of the Catechumens is extended to those preparing for Baptism. Candidates for baptism are strengthened by the anointing with this oil to renounce sin and the devil.

The Oil of the Sick offers a remedy for the illness of mind and body, so that persons may have strength to bear their suffering, resist evil and receive the forgiveness of sins.

Chrim takes its name from Christ, “the anointed one of the Lord.” The Sacred Chrism is used in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the anointing of priests in the Rite of Ordination, and in the dedicated of new altars.

“The holy oils and the Sacred Chrism are visible, tangible, natural signs of an invisible, intangible, supernatural reality – the Mystery of the Church,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily.

“You and I, all of us together, live in a sacramental unity, a bond forged by grace. This communion of grace forms the Church by the anointing of all believers to show that we have all been christened, ‘Christ-end,’ anointed to be more like Christ for the salvation of the world.”
More than 825 Faithful
Hear Bishop Gainer’s
Thoughtful Keynote
Address at Men’s Conference

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness


Bishop Ronald Gainer delivered the keynote address to begin the day, which featured more than 20 breakout workshop sessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Gainer.

In his deeply engaging keynote, Bishop Gainer spoke to what it means to be a warrior, not so much as being engaged in warfare, but rather being a person of faith that “shows great vigor and courage” in today’s world.

“Battle language is the foundation of St. Paul’s language in Scripture,” Bishop Gainer said. “We are up against a spiritual battle today that at times can be quite terrifying… Every believer must put on the armor…”

Bishop Gainer explored the four aspects of manhood models: King, Warrior, Magician, and Lover. Does a warrior have stamina and energy, resolve and focus, or is he a black knight who is egocentric, violent and dark, Bishop Gainer asked the nearly full auditorium. “The challenge is to tame the black knight in all of us…to allow the Holy Spirit into us to keep the black knight at bay,” the bishop said.

In addition, Bishop Gainer shared the story of St. Christopher with the attendees, noting how he was driven to serve the powerful and strong and those placed in high position. But it was St. Christopher who carried the Christ child across the raging river to safety, where he found the most powerful: Christ the King.

“The key is not to use power of masculinity to bring fear, but rather to bring good to others,” Bishop Gainer said. “It is the strongest who bears the weakest to the most dangerous.”

In the final part of his address, Bishop Gainer spoke of the Blessed Mother and how she is a model in so many ways. “She was the first to hear the Word of God and keep it… She was a woman who was able to ponder – to think things deeply through… Pondering puts a filter on what comes out…. Mary is the ideal disciple at the foot of the cross.”

(Bishop Gainer’s inspiring keynote address is available for audio download on the “Bishops Homilies and Statements” page of the Diocesan Web site at http://www.hbgdiocese.org/bishop/homilies-and-statements/)

Catholic Perspective

Radio

Conversations on Faith

How would you like to have the opportunity to have a conversation with Bishop Ronald Gainer on a faith-related topic of current interest? That is exactly what takes place during four weeks of Lent each year for seniors of the seven Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg. The approximately hour-long sessions, called “Conversations on Faith,” began in 2011 as a teaching tool of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. It was an excellent way to utilize the new Diocesan Wide Area Network that interconnects most of the schools in the diocese. These live interactive sessions, held via a video conference, allow for the presentation and discussion of important topical religious and social issues. The classes are taught from the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

The live sessions are only available to high school students; however the classes are most suitable for viewing by the general public and recordings are available on the Diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org/conversationsonfaith.

Topics planned for 2015 include: How Can We Say That the Catholic Church is the Church Founded by Christ?, Christianity and Islam: Is There a Connection?, The Big Bang and Genesis: Are Science and Religion Enemies?, and Can You Meet the Challenge of Staying Catholic in College? Topics that were covered in 2014 include: The Supernatural, Discerning God’s Will in Your Life, Same Sex Marriage, and Prayer.

Catholic Perspective

Radio

Tune in to Catholic Perspective. This weekly program features news and information about current events and topics in a magazine format. Listeners will hear from the following contributors who present timely and topical information. These include, Bishop Ronald Gainer; Father William Weary; James Gontis, Diocesan Director of Religious Education; Micaiah Bilger of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; and correspondents Rose Atkinson and Eleanor Rossman.

Information on this week’s edition can be found online at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholicperspective.

Catholic Perspective

Radio

Catholic Communication Campaign

Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese and AM 720 WHYF where it is heard on Sunday at 3 p.m. and Monday at noon and on Sunday mornings on WHVR-AM 1280, However, at 8 a.m., WKKK-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIZE-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WVEC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available on line at www.OldiesRadio1620.com at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WISL1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. It can also be heard on line at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Spiritual Directors Sought

The Diocese of Harrisburg is looking for certified spiritual directors to be involved in a program that will train others to be spiritual directors.

For information, contact Sister Geraldyn Schmidt, SCC, at: 717-657-4804, ext. 254, or srgschmidt@hbgdiocese.org via the Diocesan Office of Formation for Permanent Deacons

“SAVE THE DATE”

5th Annual Women’s Weekend Retreat

Hosted by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

It will be held at beautiful Mount St. Mary’s University Emmitsburg, Maryland

June 12 – 14, 2015
Retreat Master
Very Reverend Robert M. Gillelan, Jr., V.F.
Pastor at Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton, PA
Contact Barbara McCarthy at FranBarbMC@aol.com or 717-534-1858 for information and housing availability.

More details will be published soon.
April 3, 2015 • The Catholic Witness

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Is it possible to ship one Pringles potato chip in such an engineered manner that the popular snack food arrives to its recipient intact?

“Ship the Chip” is an engineering project with which fourth- and fifth-grade students at Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg were recently challenged – and the results were positive.

The students were paired into groups of two, and presented with several rubrics to follow regarding the design and dimensions of the boxes that would carry each single Pringle. They were given the opportunity to incorporate into the box their own choice of protective packaging elements, such as bubble wrap, Styrofoam and cotton balls.

The project allows students to explore ways in which engineers develop packaging design and evaluate external stresses on product and packaging design.

Students also accompanied their boxes to the local post office to learn shipping regulations and practices. Connecting with their teachers’ professional development partners, they mailed their chips to Northeast Nodaway School in Ravenwood, Missouri; Forest Lake Technology Magnet School in Columbia, South Carolina; and James Burd Elementary School in Shippensburg.

To view the results of their engineering applications, the students held a Skype session to watch as their counterparts at the three schools opened the boxes.

A vast majority of the Pringles arrived intact, noted fifth-grade teacher Amy Fetterhoff.

The Corpus Christi students were scored on their project, earning points for the design process, adherence to criteria for the dimensions of the box, successful delivery of the package, and the condition of the chip, ranging from intact and slightly damaged to significantly damaged and “potato dust.”

Ultimately, the project offered lessons in planning, design, engineering and problem-solving.

“Ship the Chip was a terrific exercise in controlling variables that could be controlled, and anticipating variables – like package handling – outside of their control,” Mrs. Fetterhoff said. “It also was a lesson in collaboration and communication, as students worked with each other on solving problems and agreeing on the steps they would take.”
**Obituaries**

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

**BERWICK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Frederick J. Davis, Emma Jane Marie Nizmek, Janice Petroff, Helena Shenala; St. Joseph: Lenna Cerullo, Michael Vorce.

**BLOOMSBURG** – St. Columba: Maria Teresa Delinis, Verna F. Kasinowski, Helen Kramer.

**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Louis J. Alfery, Deores Balos, Dorothy Bondura, Ruth Gontz, Lawrence Joyce, Gail O'Brien, Christopher M. Pillson, Therese Schmitt.


**DANVILLE** – St. Joseph: Dr. August Esquibel, John Lyons.

**ENOLA** – Our Lady of Lourdes: Veronica M. Kanish.

**GETTYSBURG** – St. Francis Xavier: Rose Marie Shaffer.


**LANCASTER** – Assumption BVM: Helen Cargas, Angelene Rose Pritz.


**HARRISBURG** – Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Marie McLaughlin; St. Catherine Laboure: Anna May Shaffer.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Jacqueline Bennett.

**KULPMONT** – Holy Angels: Joseph R. Cesari.

**LANCASTER** – Assumption BVM: Helen Cargas, Angelene Rose Pritz.

**LEBANON** – Assumption BVM: Aaron Neubauer.

**LITTLESTOWN** – St. Aloysius: Dora Louise Wenderoth.

**MechaNSBurg** – St. Joseph: Susan Daisley, Clement Haas, Collette Hubbard, Genevieve Pugh, Madeline Reed, Jane Elizabeth Siffer; St. Katharine Drexel: James V. Boyle, Sylvia Clouser, Gilda Fenili.

**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows BVM: Paul Brown, Ronald J. Hauer, Carmella Kelle.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Dorothy A. Korzeniecki, Therese Zukiw; Our Lady: Thelma Linetty.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. Theresa: Madelyn Kauffman, Medard Kowalski, Michele Fuchs Johnson, Barbara Rysz, Virginia Venier.

**NEW FREEDOM** – St. John the Baptist: James P. “Jim” Grilloy.

**ROARING CREEK** – Our Lady of Mercy: George Miller.

**STEELTON** – Prince of Peace: Anthony Bucher, Steve Gorse, Frances Olak, Anna Orris, Jean Ann Wydra, Barbara Zapic.

**WAYSNEBORO** – St. Andrew: Loretta Tarsa.

**YORK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Jim Munchel, Mary Schrum, Rosemarie Wetzler; St. Peter: Norma Dotzel, Angela Leese; St. Rose of Lima: Lois V. Wherley.

**REMEMBER OUR DECEASED CLEGGERY**

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

- Deacon Alphonse Formica, 1991
- Msgr. Joseph Hager, 1992
- Msgr. Bernard Mattern, 1992
- Deacon Halmmon Banks Sr., 1993
- Msgr. Donald Adams, 1996
- Father Patrick D’Alessandro, 1996
- Deacon Arthur Colonell, 1996
- Father Anthony Burakowski, 2002
- Father Curtis Delarm, 2005
- Father Mark Matthew Casey, OMI, 2007
- Father Gerald Lytle, 2012
- Deacon Charles Clark, 2012.

**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 Easter, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Father’s Day and for early autumn.

This year, the Diocesan Office of Catholic Cemeteries is offering an expanded selection of silk arrangements, which will be placed at graves in advance of the holiday. Flower arrangements may be ordered for one or more of the dates indicated. Selection and purchase, at the price of $34, can be made at one of our Diocesan Cemeteries offices or online at www.hbgdiocese.org/cemeteries.

Flowers will be placed on the dates below:

- March 30, 2015 for Easter (April 5)
- May 4, 2015 for Mother’s Day (May 10)
- May 18, 2015 for Memorial Day (May 25)
- June 15, 2015 for Father’s Day (June 21)
- August 24, 2015 for Fall Flowers (September 7)

**Landings Program Offered for Those Seeking to Return to Church**

It’s been a long cold winter! Does the promise of spring, the green leaves and the glory of Easter flowers prompt you to think of the God who brings all that into existence? Do you long for the memories of your offering Communion and that loving faith that you were raised with? There’s a “welcome home” process that just might make you feel comfortable enough to talk about those feelings, why you have them and what you can do about them.

It’s called “Landings,” a process that allows you to meet with a few kind-hearted Catholic volunteers who are eager to listen to your story and answer your questions. Through “Landings,” many non-practicing Catholics have found a no-nonsense way to return to the Church of their birth.

The “Landings” process will begin at Immaculate Conception Parish in Mary Parish in Abbottstown in just a few weeks. Two sessions will be offered, and an evening session that will begin Monday, April 13 at 10 a.m. and run through May 1, and an evening session that will begin Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m. and run through June 4.

For more information about “Landings” or to register, contact Bernadine at 717-259-9006.

**EWTN’s Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle Coming to New Oxford**

Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle, host of EWTN’s “Everyday Blessings for Catholic Moms” and “Catholic Mom’s Café,” will speak at an event on May 2 at Immaculate Conception Parish in New Oxford.

Donna-Marie is a wife, mother and speaker. She has been a frequent guest on EWTN television and radio, and regularly discusses Catholic family and parenting issues. She was blessed to know Blessed Mother Teresa for ten years and is the author of numerous books on faith and family, including The Micurious Medal: Stories, Prayers and Devotions; Catholic Saints Prayerbook; Mother Teresa and Me; Ten Years of Friendship: Bringing Lent Home with Mother Teresa; and the forthcoming Bringing Lent Home with John Paul II, as well as an additional donation for spring 2015. Learn more by visiting her website at www.donnacooperobylo.org.

The event on May 2 will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. Donna-Marie’s first talk, “Loving Like Jesus in Initation of Mother Teresa,” will take place from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and will be followed by a break and then her second talk, “Taking Our Faith to the Streets: Mother Teresa’s Lessons of Love.” Following lunch, the third talk, “Being Nourished at the Well of Prayer,” will take place from 1-2 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at 3 p.m., followed by Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Cost for the day is $15 per person, and includes lunch. Contact event coordinator Pete Socks to register via email at pete.socks@gmail.com or phone (leave a message) 717-634-4961. Please indicate your choice of sub: American cold cut, turkey or Italian.

**Squires Donate Funds to St. Jude’s**

Pennsylvania State Chief Squire Robert Bradina recently presented a check for $4,000 to Brittany Clark, representative of St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. The funds were presented on behalf of past State Chief Squire Brett Becker from donations raised by the Squire Circles of Pennsylvania during 2013-2014. An additional donation is expected to be made in spring for the business year 2014-2015.

The Pennsylvania Squire Circle has supported St. Jude’s for the past three years, and are currently in their fourth year of raising funds for the children’s research hospital. Mr. Bratina is shown in the photo presenting the check to Ms. Clark. Kneeling are Nick Bratina, current Pennsylvania State Notary Squire, and Kevin Bratina, a member of Squire Circle #5260, the Father Daniel Mahoney Circle from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.

For more information about the Squire Circles of Pennsylvania, visit www.squirecircle.org.

**Beginning Experience Weekend Offered for Those Who Have Lost a Spouse**

Are you someone who has experienced the death of your husband or wife? Have you had the devastating experience of a failed marriage? A Beginning Experience may be what you need. A participant from the last Beginning Experience Weekend writes:

“I am a parishioner at St. Joe’s in Mechanicsburg. I want to tell you about the Beginning Experience Weekend. It is a ministry dedicated to healing the pain of those dealing with the loss of a spouse by separation, divorce or death. Beginning Experience is an intense weekend of reflection in community with those who fully understand your pain. Led by self-proclaimed ‘wounded healers’ who have also suffered similar losses in their own lives, our goal is for participants to start or continue on the path to healing.

“I can tell you that my encounter with the Beginning Experience weekend has brought me greater peace and given me an extended family of lifelong friends who I feel comfortable enough to talk about those feelings, why you have them and what you can do about them.”

Beginning Experience weekends are an approved Roman Catholic program. Contact the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team at harrisburpeg@gmail.com or 717-512-2718. The next weekend is scheduled for May 1-3, 2015, from 8 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, check the diocesan Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org and click on “Family Life” or go to www.beginningexperience.org.
and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, 2015. The event is funded by donations from the parishes in the diocese of Harrisburg. Confessions will start at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast, music and hand blessing. The day’s activities and scheduled demonstrations will be made available on the church website.

Parish Office

For more information, call Father Keith Carroll at 717-439-7683 or visit the church’s website at stcatharines.org.
Msgr. Kujovsky
Continued from 2

grad school and Lebanon Catholic High School, from which he graduated in 1948. First discerning a religious vocation with the Bene- diciniates, he attended St. Propucius College in Lisse- III, from 1948, and was ordained for the Diocese of Harrisburg, studying at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md., from 1951-1957. He was ordained a priest by Bishop George L. Leech on May 11, 1957.


Msgr. Kujovsky was appointed Honorary Prelate to His Holiness John Paul II and given the title of Monsignor on Sept. 22, 1983. He served at Villa Vianney, a priests' retirement home in Lebanon, and as administrator of St. Co- lumbas Parish in Bloomsburg and St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown. Prior to his service in the diacon- es, Archives, Msgr. Kujovsky was Secretary to the Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg. In recent years, he lived at the Priests Retirement Resi- dence in Harrisburg.

It was as a young priest in the early 1980s that Msgr. William King, current pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, first met Msgr. Kujovsky, and was immediately impacted.

“I think every young priest was attracted by Msgr. Kujovsky’s wit and warmth. He was a priest who was very easy to get to know, and extremely cordial and welcoming, especially to young priests,” he re- called. “I learned from his experience in the priest- hood, and came to admire his wit, charm and deep spirituality.”

“He was a master storyteller. Particularly for a young priest to hear his stories of the legendary priests of old was inspirational, educational and en- tertaining all at once,” Msgr. King said.

He pointed out that Msgr. Kujovsky spearheaded the first consolidated elementary school in the coun- try with the formation of Holy Spirit Consolidated School in Mount Carmel.

“He worked on pulling together the various par- ishes in Mount Carmel to consolidate their elemen- tary schools. He did it without rancor or turmoil, which speaks volumes about his personality. He also did it with confidence that it was the Lord’s will,” Msgr. King said.

And that trust in God’s will is what Msgr. King said will be his lasting impression of the late priest, especially during his physical struggles in the past few years.

“St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Hebrews about Jesus having learned obedience through suffering. I think of Msgr. Kujovsky, whose obedience to God only became more perfect in the suffering of his last years. He was always obedient to God in his priest- hood, but it was made perfect through suffering,” Msgr. King said. “That obedience brought him great joy and peace, and everyone who met him recog- nized that.”

Dr. Houghton reflected on the way in which Msgr. Kujovsky genuinely cared for those he met.

“What touches me most, and the way I will re- member him, was that he took a personal interest in everyone he met,” she said. “He was very welcom- ing, warm and personable to people. I think every- one who met him, after they met Monsignor, they felt better about themselves. In that sense, he had the heart of a pastor. Even in his later years when he didn’t have a parish per se, he still had the heart of a pas- tor.”

“Msgr. Kujovsky was a good friend and a mentor, and we’re all going to miss him,” she said.

(Letters of condolence may be sent to Msgr. Kujovsky’s sister, Mrs. Ann Kury, 434 East Guilford Street Lebanon, PA 17046.)

Papal Ecology: Protecting All God’s Creatures, Respecting God’s Plan

By Cindy Woodren

Catholic News Service

The Catholic Church supports the efforts of scientists to study the causes and effects of climate change and insists governments and busi- nesses must get serious about specific commitments for protecting the envi- ronment.

But Pope Francis, like his predeces- sors, does not pretend to have a tech- nical solution to the problem. How- ever, he does feel a responsibility to remind Christians of their religious obligations to safeguard creation, begin- ning with human beings who are created in the image and likeness of God.

Clearing his calendar for a week in late March, Pope Francis rolled up his sleeves to put the final touches on an encyclical letter about the envi- ronment; building on what he and his predecessors have said, the document – planned for publication early in the summer – is expected to present ecolog- ical teaching for the ultimate good, even as the Church cheered the actions of the new pope.

For Pope Francis, like Pope Bene- dict XVI, safeguarding creation is not simply about protecting plants and animals, or just about ensuring the air, water and land will support humanity, but it is a matter of how we treat the environment in terms of the natural order.

Defending marriage is the lifelong union of a man and a woman, Pope Francis told a conference in Novem- ber, “the crisis of the family has pro- duced a human ecological crisis, for social environments, like natural en- vironments, need protection.”

“The book of nature is one and indi- visible; it includes not only the envi- ronment but also individual, family and social ethics. Our duties toward the environment flow from our duties toward the person, considered both individually and in relation to oth- ers.”

In his 2008 encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate,” Pope Benedict wrote that the Church “must defend not only the rights of man, but also the rights of the environment, like natural en- vironments, need protection.”

“Human ecology” was a phrase often used by retired Pope Benedict XVI, who was known for “green” initiatives, including installing solar panels at the Vatican. He taught that “the book of nature is one and indivisible; it includes not only the environment but also individual, family and social ethics. Our duties toward the environment flow from our duties toward the person, considered both individually and in relation to others.”

In his 2009 encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate,” Pope Benedict wrote that the Church “must defend not only human rights, but also human rights – self-destruction. There is need for what might be called a human ecol- ogy, correctly understood.”

“The encyclical is an echo of the Pope’s teaching about the natural order,” said Cardinal Turkson.

Echoes of Pope Benedict’s thought can be found in Pope Francis’ frequent denunciations of the “throwaway cul- ture.” He sees people increasingly at ease throwing away not just plas- tic and paper, but wasting food at a rate when so many people are sti- ffering. Even more seriously, he has said, people have a similar “throwaway” attitude when it comes to people they don’t find useful – including the un- born, the sick and the elderly.

Meeting with U.N. officials in May 2014, Pope Francis insisted the de- fence of the family, the defense of the poor and protection of the environ- ment are part of the same agenda of ensuring the survival and thriving of humanity.

The international community, he said, must address “the structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protect- ing the environment, ensure digni- fied and productive labor for all and a fair appropriation of the environ- ment, which is an essential element in sustainable human and social de- velopment.”

As often happens when things go wrong, Pope Francis has said, the poor pay the highest price for the destruction of the environment: the seas and rivers no longer provide fish; landfills send their makeshift dump trucks into the desert; the deserts expand, robbing sustenance farmers of even a meager diet.

Flying from Sri Lanka to the Phil- ippines in January, Pope Francis told reporters accompanying him that Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and a team from his office had prepared drafts of the ecology docu- ment.

During an early March visit to Ire- land, Cardinal Turkson spoke about the principles underlying the pope’s upcoming letter, insisting “this is not some narrow agenda for the green- ing of the Church or the world. It is a vision of care and protection that embraces the human person and the environment in all possible dimensions.”

All people are called to be “pro- tectors” of the environment and of one another, especially the poor, the cardinal said. The responsibility and obligation of care is both a matter of justice and a matter of faith, it is the natural result of being in a right re- lationship with God, with others and with the earth.

“When Pope Francis says that de- stroying the environment is a grave sin, when he says that it is not large families that cause poverty but an economic culture that puts money and profit ahead of people; when he says that we cannot save the environment without also addressing the profound and new forms of violence, he is making a very solid argument,” the cardinal said. “He is rather restating ancient biblical teaching.”

At the heart of the “integral ecol- ogy” Pope Francis is calling for, he said, “is the call to dialogue and a new solidarity, a changing of human hearts in which the good of the hu- man person, and not the pursuit of profit, is the key value that directs our search for the global, the universal and the common good.”
Imagine a science classroom where a 3-D version of a Mars rover appears in a student’s hand, or a chemistry lab where students examine the virtual model of a molecule on their desks.

This educational technology is not part of a futuristic classroom; rather, they’re cutting-edge tools are available today through Augmented Reality (AR).

Brad Waid, an industry leader in educational technology, introduced Augmented Reality to diocesan educators during the annual Tech’Ed Out Conference, held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg March 25.

“It’s a technology he first brought into his own classroom two years ago.”

“The kids just lit up – and so I knew I was on to something,” he told The Catholic Witness of the reaction to Augmented Reality. Through AR technology, the information about the surrounding real world becomes interactive and can be digitally manipulated.

More familiar examples of this technology can be found in sports telecasts, including the yellow first-down line in football, telemetry system information on race car broadcasts, and advertisements overlaid on playing surfaces.

“With augmented reality, we can bring things into the classroom that we’ve never done before,” Mr. Waid remarked. “We can bring the planets in 3-D on the students’ desks, a beating human heart, the human body and its systems. This isn’t the future – it’s available now, and we need to find out how to use it education.”

Still, this technology can be overwhelming to implement, so Mr. Waid travels the country to show educators exactly how to get started with it.

He is a co-founder of AR Detroit, a monthly meet up where industry leaders and visionaries talk about the application and future of Augmented Reality. He is also a co-founder of “Two Guys and Some iPads” blog, and a co-host of “Two Guys Show” on the EdReach Network.

“Technology has made such a difference in my kids’ learning and in my teaching. I’m so passionate about it because I’ve seen it first-hand,” Mr. Waid said. During the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Tech’Ed Out Conference, he offered a keynote presentation on inspiring innovation by fostering collaboration and creativity.

“We’re teachers because we want to educate kids, and now these advances in technology give us another tool to engage the students,” he said. “It doesn’t matter what subject you’re teaching, or the ages of the kids in your class, there are tools that can engage every child.”

Diocesan educators at the conference also participated in breakout sessions on coding, personal learning networks, integrating faith into the use of technology, STEM education and multimedia messaging services.

Mr. Waid offered a workshop on three of his favorite “game-changing” apps for the classroom, including one called “Three Ring,” which allows educators to create a digital profile of each student. “This app brings parents into the classroom,” Mr. Waid explained. “I can take a photo of a student working on a project and share it with his parents. I can keep digital records, snapshots of tests and notes. Then, during parent-teacher conferences, I can show a student’s test scores, photos, assessments, writing samples and projects. One parent told me, “It’s like being a fly on the wall in my child’s classroom.”

Mr. Waid said he has been heartened over the past several years to see educators embrace and grow with the use of technology in their classroom, and encourages them to keep pace as new technologies continue to develop. “Educators are getting more comfortable with technology, and they’re bringing things into their classrooms to change the culture of education. It’s all about doing what’s best for the students,” he said.

(Read more about Brad Waid, his blog and his technology show at http://www.best-keynote.com/brad-waid/.)
St. Leo’s Breaks Ground to ‘Build His Kingdom’

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Church, school and business leaders break ground at St. Leo the Great School. From left are Ralph Simpson Jr., CEO of Warfel Construction; Dale Yoder, President of Cornerstone Design Architects; Frank Kuchinski, Parish Manager of St. Leo the Great; Father Peter Hahn, pastor of St. Leo the Great; Bishop Gainer; Father Edward Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education; Livia Riley, Diocesan Superintendent; Michael and Julie Abel, Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign; and Gene Musser, President and CEO of Kirby-Smith Associates and Parishioner of St. Leo the Great.

Damming hardhats with their school uniforms and jackets on a brisk March 23 afternoon, students from St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown filed from their classrooms to the lot behind their school on the parish campus and rightfully took their place among the Church and business leaders, parish and school administrators, teachers and parishioners gathered for a much-anticipated event: the ground-breaking ceremony for the expansion and modernization of the school facility.

With bulldozers and backhoes as a backdrop, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the groundbreaking rite, and joined Father Peter I. Hahn, pastor, and administrators and business leaders in shoveling ceremonial dirt placed at the construction site.

The 11,000 square-foot school expansion project will add eight new classrooms to accommodate two classrooms per grade level at St. Leo School, which serves students in PreK-8. It will also allow for a more authentic junior-high experience, with lockers and open classroom concepts for collaboration.

The 24,000 square-foot modernization and renovation aspect of the project will include energy efficient upgrades, new floors, ceilings, and doors, a canopy at the main entrance, and upgrades to make the school handicap accessible – which will be critical for the instructional support program that has already accepted students for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Construction is expected to be completed in September of this year.

The $4.1 million project will accommodate the needs of the growing school, which also serves students in the parish’s religious education program.

“We are blessed that our school enrollment has increased dramatically over the last four years, from 225 students to an enrollment next year in excess of 315 students in grades K-8,” Father Hahn told The Catholic Witness.

“That shows our families’ desire for Catholic education, and calls us to then serve them. The faith of our people has driven our need to expand the school and make necessary renovations,” he said.

Plans for the building project – which will involve several additional phases for the parish – began in 2009, Father Hahn noted. The parish began its capital campaign, “Building His Kingdom Among Us,” in conjunction with the celebration of its 50th anniversary in February 2014.

Parishioner support of this project has been nothing short of remarkable,” Father Hahn said. “We have pledges in excess of $3.25 million. I am personally inspired by the great outpouring of those in our parish. It shows their great belief in the importance of Catholic education.”

In particular, Father Hahn expressed his gratitude for Frank Kuchinski, parish manager; Mike and Julie Abel, capital campaign co-chairs; and Christine McLean, principal of St. Leo the Great School.

“Our teachers are so dedicated and filled with the love of Christ,” Father Hahn said. “Their efforts are what makes our school a wonderful place of learning and sharing God’s light.”

In an interview with The Witness, Mrs. McLean connected the school’s increased enrollment to its commitment to its mission statement:

“As part of the Middle States reaccreditation process we completed late last year, we needed to analyze our mission statement. It reads, in part: ‘As a school community, we endeavor to strengthen the covenant between school and family to educate the whole child spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially.’ There is no coincidence with the listing of how we educate the whole child. Our students are holy spiritual beings, made so at their Baptism, and must be educated as such. They are reminded to look for and see signs of God’s love around them, and become instruments of God’s grace in their classrooms, cafeterias, bus rides, their own neighborhoods and the world.

Developing a sense of ‘Sacramental awareness’ is a priority for our school community. Obviously as a school community we are committed to educating the intellectual dimension of our students as well. Our students are given the academic tools and attention needed to excel in a world of opportunities. The staff and faculty at St. Leo the Great prepare students for the day when they will bring both their gifts of faith and reason to the challenges of the world.

“But we don’t do it alone. I think our climbing enrollment is a result of our commitment to the first part of the mission statement: ‘As a school community, we endeavor to strengthen the covenant between school and family.’ Mrs. McLean continued, ‘To give the whole child, include staff and families work for the common good of our students and children. We are successful because there is common spirit of trust….and now we are back to the concept of spirit. After all, it is the Holy Spirit that is the most active, prevailing and even rampant person of the Godhead in our day-to-day lives….and we remind each other to look for and see this.’

(For information on St. Leo the Great School, visit www.stleoschool.org or call 717-392-2441.)

A student embraces Bishop Ronald Gainer at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Above: Students look on during the groundbreaking, which will result in an expanded and modernized school.

Left: Youngsters gather around one of the shovels used in the groundbreaking for St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS