With a growing population in the area, and flourishing numbers of students in the parish school and religious education program, St. Joseph Parish in Hanover ushered in a new chapter for Catholic education with the dedication of St. Joseph School and Education Center this month.

The addition on the parish’s Grandview Road campus will house the entire PreK-8 St. Joseph School, with upwards of 180 students, as well as some 450 students in the parish’s School of Religious Instruction.

The $1.8 million addition also opens additional space for adult study programs, Scout meetings and the parish’s Hispanic Ministry.

See pages 8 and 9 for coverage of the dedication.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Lesley Maurer, a teacher at St. Joseph School, and her daughter Avalyn rejoice during Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hanover Aug. 13 for the dedication of the parish’s new addition, St. Joseph School and Education Center.

Bishops Ask for Peace after White Nationalist Rally Turns Deadly

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

In the aftermath of a chaos- and hate-filled weekend in Virginia, Catholic bishops and groups throughout the nation called for peace after three people died and several others were injured following clashes between pacifists, protesters and white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, Aug. 11 and 12.

A 32-year-old paralegal, Heather D. Heyer, was killed when a car plowed into a group in Charlottesville Aug. 12. Various news outlets have identified the driver as James Alex Fields, who allegedly told his mother he was attending a rally for President Donald Trump. Reports say the car allegedly driven by Fields plowed into a crowd during a white nationalist rally and a counter-rally the afternoon of Aug. 12.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said early Aug. 14 the “evil attack” meets the legal definition of domestic terrorism and suggested pending charges for Fields, who was in custody and has been charged with second-degree murder, among other charges. He was being held without bail.

The bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, was one of the first to call for peace following the violence in Charlottesville late Aug. 11, which only became worse the following day.

On the evening of Aug. 11, The Associated Press and other news outlets reported a rally of hundreds of men and women, identified as white nationalists, carrying lit torches on the campus of the University of Virginia. Counter-protesters also were present during the rally and clashes were reported. The following day, at least 20 were injured and the mayor of Charlottesville confirmed Heyer’s death later that afternoon via Twitter after the car allegedly driven by Fields rammed into the crowd of marchers. Two Virginia State Police troopers also died when a helicopter they were in crashed while trying to help with the violent events on the ground.

“In the last 24 hours, hatred and violence have been on display in the city of Charlottesville,” said Richmond Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo in a statement on the afternoon of Aug. 12. “I earnestly pray for peace.”

Charlottesville is in Bishop DiLorenzo’s diocese. Virginia’s governor declared a state of emergency Aug. 12 when violence erupted during the “Unite the Right” white nationalist protest against the removal of a statue of a Confederate general, Gen. Robert E. Lee. But the trouble already had started the night before with the lit torches and chants of anti-Semitic slogans on the grounds of the University of Virginia.

More VIRGINIA VIOLENCE, page 10

Bishop Waltersheid was born in Ashland and baptized and raised in St. Joseph Parish in Locust Gap. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg on July 11, 1992, by Bishop Nicholas Datilko. He served the diocese for 19 years, including as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle and as Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life.

“Every priestly assignment that I have had has been the best years of my life. And that’s because every priestly assignment is about falling in love with God’s people,” he said in his homily. Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Waltersheid as Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh in February of 2011, and he was ordained a bishop on April 25 of that year in St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

“A priest’s eyes must always be on the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. His eyes are fixed every time he raises the host or the chalice, and it is in that holy moment that a priest comes face to face with Christ,” Bishop Waltersheid said.

“Keep your gaze on Jesus and all will be well…. A priest is not a priest for himself. We are priest for all of you – the faithful. We are all in this together, after all,” he said.

Bishop Waltersheid Returns to Diocese to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood
The Catholic Church wants to hear candidly from youth and young adults about their engagement with the faith, ahead of a Synod next fall on young people and the faith.

“Synod 2018 on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment” will commence next October, and the Vatican has released a questionnaire to elicit responses that will be incorporated into a working document for the international gathering of bishops.

At the Synod, the assembly of bishops from around the world will discuss how the Catholic Church can better support young people on their faith journey. In preparation, Pope Francis is asking young people ages 16-29 to tell him about their engagement with the faith, via a survey.

“The Church wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways of announcing the Good News,” said Mr. Rob Williams, Director of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, who helped to formulate the Synod 2018 questionnaire.

“Their responses will help Bishop Ronald Gainer to shape what happens locally, and eventually also be shared with the pope and the bishops of the world,” he said.

The Vatican survey can be found via a link at www.hbgdiocese.org/synod2018.

The diocesan surveys will be open until Sept. 15, 2017. Links to the diocesan surveys can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/synod2018.

The results will be used to answer questions of the Synod of Bishops and to better serve youth and young adults within the diocese.

“I am very hopeful that the youth and young adults will take the three or four minutes to use the survey to give the Church feedback,” said Rob Williams, Director of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, who helped to prepare the local surveys.

“Your responses will help Bishop Ronald Gainer to shape what happens locally, and eventually also be shared with the pope and the bishops of the world,” he said.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Vatican and Diocesan Surveys for Youth Open Until September 15

The Catholic Church has elected to examine how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways of announcing the Good News. In conjunction with the 2018 Synod and the Vatican survey, the Diocese of Harrisburg is also undertaking surveys of youth and young adults ages 15-39, and is encouraging those who identify as Catholics, as well as those who do not, to participate in the online questionnaires it has prepared.

There is a survey for youth ages 15-18, and a separate survey for young adults ages 19-39.

Job Opening
HCAS – Accounts Payable Associate

Harrsiburg Catholic Administrative Services is looking for a full-time accounts payable associate to work in a fast-paced, close-knit, team environment. Candidates must enjoy working with numbers and possess excellent data entry speed with a high level of accuracy to be able to manage a high volume of weekly transactions within strict deadlines.

Responsibilities include

- Responsible for addressing routine inquiries from vendors as well as assisting in-house and outside customers. Patience, tact, diplomacy, customer service and time management skills are essential. Excellent Microsoft Office skills are required, especially in the use of Excel. High school diploma or general education degree (GED), preferably with a business major. A basic understanding of the accounting cycle, chart of accounts and general ledger. One/two years related accounts payable experience would be helpful but not necessary, as on-the-job training is provided.
- Competitive salary and benefits offered.
- Send résumé and cover letter to: employment@hbgdiocese.org
- Or: Human Resources
- 4800 Union Deposit Rd
- Harrisburg, PA 17111
- Closing date open until position is filled

Send résumé and cover letter to: employment@hbgdiocese.org

ANNUAL WHITE MASS

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Harrisburg,
Celebrate and Homilist

Sunday September 17, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.
St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

Please RSVP for reception to kneri@hbgdiocese.org

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Harrsiburg Catholic Administrative Services is looking for a full-time accounts payable associate to work in a fast-paced, close-knit, team environment. Candidates must enjoy working with numbers and possess excellent data entry speed with a! high level of accuracy to be able to manage a high volume of weekly transactions within strict deadlines.

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The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association
For Us Our Trespasses

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Every once in a while, as I begin to write an article, I stare at the blinking cursor on the page and declare to myself, “I got nothing!” With that, I usually save the document and then close it. After all, one can never force a story to be shared before it has been lived. Completely exhausted over this situation, I usually decide to try it again on another day. Other times, for other articles, I have to “live” with an idea for an article for a few days and then let the story surface either from my memory or from a lived experience.

As I began the part of the Lord’s Prayer, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” I experienced the first scenario described above. After several days of chewing on an idea for this article, I still couldn’t bring anything to the table. Walking through the lobby of the Cardinal Keeler Center, I was watching my feet pound the tile floors and whispered to myself, “I need an angle! Can You help me out here?” As I voiced that prayer, I perused the “free cart” of books that permanently “live” in the lobby.

Scanning the titles, I came across a book by Scott Hahn, “Understanding Our Father: Biblical Reflections on the Lord’s Prayer.” “I thought, “I wonder what he has to say about this part of the Our Father?” As I flipped to the chapter that dealt with this part of the prayer and began to skim the pages, I was not disappointed; I got something!

Scott Hahn explains that we should not think of each part of the Lord’s Prayer “as it were thematically separate from the others.” In order words, “Give us this day our daily bread” is intricately linked to forgiveness and our ability to forgive others as God forgives us.

Hahn goes on to explain, “The Mass is a sacrifice, and so the ‘daily bread’ is a daily offering for sin, like those prefigured in the Temple of ancient Israel. St. Justin Martyr spelled this out in one of his apologetic works around A.D. 150, in language that echoes the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus’ offering of fine flour, he wrote, ‘which was prescribed to be presented on behalf of those purified from leprosy, was a type of bread of the Eucharist, the celebration of which our Lord Jesus Christ prescribed, in remembrance of the suffering which He endured on behalf of those who are rified in soul from all iniquity, in order that we may at the same time thank God … for delivering us from the evil.’”

Delivery from evil and forgiveness of sin are actions that only God can do. Over and over again, we encounter the definitive act of Jesus confronting his enemies in his claim that he could forgive sins. By praying, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” Jesus is asking us to begin to live the life that we have been made to live: being in the image of God, forgiving like he does this. This forgiveness is only accomplished by loving the individual with one’s entire being. Loving like God is only completed through personally living the Eucharistic mystery.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this way (2844-2845, 132?): “Forgiveness is a highly Christian prayer; only hearts attuned to God’s compassion can receive the gift of prayer. Forgiveness also bears witness that, in our world, love is stronger than sin. … Forgiveness is the fundamental condition of the reconciliation of the children of God with their Father and of men with one another. There is no limit or measure to his essentially divine forgiveness. … This is lived out in prayer, above all in the Eucharist. … In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: ‘Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.’”

Bottom line: in order for us to be forgiven, we must accept the grace that He willingly offers. We must accept the grace that flows to us from the Eucharist. It seems that I do indeed have something after all!


(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director for Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professions Development Programs. Every day learning through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Seminarians’ Works of Mercy and Evangelization Bring Christ to People of Appalachia

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Stepping back to examine his first drywall job in eastern Kentucky, Joseph Gonzalez titled his head in doubt of his effort. He thought to himself, “It looks better than it did before, but it doesn’t look the way of the walls of my house look.”

Joseph turned to the homemaker, an 87-year-old woman, and saw tears streaming down her face. They were tears of joy.

“He reaction said it all. She couldn’t thank the volunteers enough for putting walls up in her home,” Joseph said.

Joseph and fellow diocesan seminarian Damon Tritle spent ten weeks this summer at the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center in Louisa, Ky., bringing the love of Jesus Christ to the impoverished people there.

The two served there as part of their seminarian summer project, marking the first time that the Diocese of Harrisburg has sent young men in formation to the center, established in 2006 as an apostolate of the Diocese of Lexington by Bishop Ronald Gainer, who was Bishop of Lexington from 2003-2014.

Joseph and Damon, who begin Pre-Theology II studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., this semester, worked alongside several other seminarians as interns, performing manual labor, leading volunteer teams, conducting reflections and being present to the people served by the center.

The mission center, named for the late Msgr. Ralph Beiting, who founded the ministry in 1991, welcomes volunteer groups to express their solidarity with the poor by working in their homes and in the center’s thrift store and warehouse.

The counties of eastern Kentucky are among the most destitute in the United States. Once fertile with natural resources, mining companies stripped every ounce of resource they could from the verdant hills there, leaving communities jobless.

According to the Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council, the poverty rate for eastern Kentucky is nearly 1.5 times the national rate. At $11,957, the area’s per capita market income is 60 percent less than the national figure of $29,945.

“When we first arrived at the mission center, we decided that for the summer, we were going to pray to St. Joseph the Worker because we would need his intercession,” said Damon. “That set the tone for our work. We’d sit with the people, talk to them, be Christ to them, and see Christ in them.”

He recounted lending a sympathetic ear to a husband and father diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and unable to continue his work as a carpenter to support his family.

“He kept saying he didn’t know what he was going to do,” Joseph said. “One day, we’re going to be called ‘Father,’ and people will look to us to lead them.”

Damon also approached his service at the mission center as a way to develop his leadership in a charitable manner.

“Leadership is not just bulldozing and giving orders. I want to be pastorally sensitive while still maintaining order,” he said.

He developed that skill by working with people who are not Catholic.

When one woman, for instance, told him that she didn’t understand why Catholics pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Damon compared the practice to the woman’s own effort of praying for her children.

“The analogy clicked for her, and that instantly made me realize why we were there,” Damon remarked.

Although a vast majority of the people Joseph and Damon served in Appalachia don’t attend church, they do consider themselves Christian, and have a deep gratitude for the help that they’ve received from the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center, the seminarians said.

“When we went into their homes, they would invite us to sit and talk, or take whatever we wanted from their refrigerator. Sometimes that was just a few slices of bologna, some white bread and cheese, but they offered it all to us,” Damon said. “They gave from nothing.”

“I think some of that gratitude originates from their very central belief and love for God,” Joseph observed. “We saw inspirational signs posted around town about God’s love, and they lived it.”

Ultimately, the work at the mission center was about evangelization.

“We’d sit with the people, talk to them, be Christ to them, and see Christ in them,” Damon said. “Yes, we were there to help them materially, but their spiritual care is much more important.”

Damon recounted the thoughts he had when he first arrived at the mission center: “What are these people going to teach me? Most of them don’t go to church. They talk about God and read the Bible, but what can they teach me that I don’t already know?”

“It became apparent,” he said. “They taught me to see Christ day-to-day in all these difficult situations, and have faith and gratitude despite them.”

For Joseph, a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Quarryville, the summer assignment offered an opportunity to further his leadership skills, especially in leading other adults.

“It was a great experience for this pastoral skill. It’s unique to have someone two or three times your age ask you for guidance, but this will happen once, God-willing, we become ordained.”

The homes, most of them trailers, were in various states of disrepair, with leaky roofs that resulted in rotten walls and floors.

“In some of the homes, people were falling through the floor, and bugs and animals were coming up into the floor. There was no barrier between them and the elements,” said Damon, a member of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg.

Still, physical labor was just a portion of their responsibility, and the seminarians grasped the assignment as a way to evangelize and to grow in formation.
Young Women of Grace Study Encourages Girls to Realize their Call in the Church

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Young Women of Grace study program is on a mission to spark the feminine genius. Like its namesake, founded and popularized by Johnnette Benkovic, the program celebrates the dignity and vocation of women as daughters of God, and affirms them in their gift of authentic femininity. And it’s being offered here in the diocese, at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.

Women of Grace launched the study program, “Young Women of Grace: Embrace Your Femininity,” in January for girls ages 13 and older, and Holy Name became one of the first 15 or so parishes in the country to implement it.

“Young Women of Grace is a beautiful Catholic program that teaches young girls what it means to be a daughter of God and discern the mission that he has for them,” said Ann Marie Lapkowicz, the program’s facilitator at Holy Name. As the mother of seven children, including two daughters – one of whom participates in the Young Women of Grace Program – she recognizes how critical the program is in today’s world.

“The program challenges the girls to think about their special call from the Church, Mrs. Lapkowicz said, pointing to the Second Vatican Council’s closing message: “...the hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of woman is being acknowledged in its fulness, the hour in which women acquire in the world an influence, an effect and a power never hitherto achieved. That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with a spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid humanity in not falling.”

Presenting the teachings of the Church in a dynamic, magazine-style workbook, the Young Women of Grace study program teaches girls what it means to be a daughter of God, how to discern purpose and mission in the world, and to find true fulfillment.

The program’s eight chapters – with five lessons in each – introduces participants to the lives of women saints, modern-day female role models, prayer life, the sacraments, and practical ways to implement the Catholic faith into daily life.

Interactive lessons encourage the girls to consider such provoking questions as:
• The virtue in which they most wish to grow
• The person they trust the most
• Obstacles that prevent them from saying “yes” to God
• Ways in which they have brought the gift of life to others
• How they promote peace within their own circles

The program leads the girls in looking at the vocation of a woman, and it talks to them about their divine call that God asks them to fulfill,” Mrs. Lapkowicz explained. “It talks to them about being spiritual mothers, and wants them to understand that the example of perfect womanhood is the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

“Communicating this message to young girls – that they are completely woman in body and soul, and that the Church needs them to fulfill their special role – is so providential in our time,” she said.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish began its first Young Women of Grace program in January, with sessions on two Sundays per month. In addition to the study’s workbook, the program also brought in Catholic women as guest speakers, and encouraged the girls to select mentors to whom they could ask questions about such topics as vocation discernment and prayer life.

“Through this study, the girls were challenged to examine their three interior dispositions: receptivity, trust and surrender. Receptivity to God’s action in their life, trust in his never-failing help, and surrender to his holy will,” Mrs. Lapkowicz noted.

As the sessions went on, she observed their growth in the realization of their call in the life of the Church.

“They said they particularly enjoyed studying about the women saints, being together with other girls, and the camaraderie of developing Catholic friendships. Within the program, they can explore their faith with other girls their age, and discuss issues that are pertinent to them,” she said.

“I had loved coming to the Young Women of Grace class every other Sunday over at Holy Name,” said participant Anna Phelan, adding that the class “really made me think sometimes about the topics.”

Holy Name of Jesus Parish will offer the program again, with sessions on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 4-5:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 10.

Mrs. Lapkowicz encourages girls ages 13-17 to participate in the program, and hopes that additional parishes and schools begin offering it as well.

“The Vatican Council challenged them to aid humanity in not falling. They’re told that because the world needs God so much today, they can be very much like the Virgin Mary in Nazareth,” she said. “All of Heaven is waiting for their response.”

(Learn more about the Young Women of Grace study program at www.youngwomenofgrace.com.)
Flea Market at St. Margaret Mary
Parish Finds Value in Evangelization

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Don’t let the name fool you. The St. Margaret Mary Flea Market is more akin to a thrift shop than the Saturday-morning-yard-sale image that its name portrays.

The longstanding weekly flea market is a ministry of the Harrisburg parish, and it supports both parish and community with its efforts.

Follow Herr Street into Penbrook, and you’ll find the indoor flea market tucked away in the basement of the parish center, just across the street from St. Margaret Mary School.

Signs point the way to the rear entrance off the alley, as do the friendly volunteers who staff the flea market – sorting and pricing items at the donation shed outside, and arranging displays and welcoming shoppers inside.

Rows of shelves, display cases, hangars and hooks separate donated items by section.

Pieces range from the brand new and the gently used, to the vintage finds: men’s and women’s clothing, jewelry, small household appliances and kitchenware, stemware, dishes, lamps, photo frames, vases, artwork, books, toys and purses.

Look closely. You might find a surprise bargain, like a brand new Dooney & Bourke bag for $10.

Most of the items are priced to purchase for a few quarters or a couple dollars. The goal here is to use donated items to raise funds for the parish mortgage. – St. Margaret Mary’s new church was built a few miles away in 2010 – and to help those in need in the community.

“We consider the flea market to be an outreach to the community,” said Elizabeth Kelley, who serves as a tri-chairperson of the program, along with Julia Becoskie and Ted Sanderson.

Mrs. Kelley’s mother helped start the flea market in the late 1960s. Initially, it was held a few times a year in the school cafeteria, and later took place annually at the parish festival.

Eventually, the flea market moved into a large metal shed behind the parish center before being moved to its current space.

All the money raised goes directly to the parish mortgage. In 2016, that amounted to some $16,000.

This year, the ministry is on track to reach that figure again, having raised $8,660 through July.

Moreover, the flea market is an outreach to the community. “In this neighborhood, there are a lot of people who can use these quality and discounted items. We have great pieces here that they couldn’t afford to buy in a store,” Mr. Sanderson said.

The volunteers ensure that money is not an obstacle to someone’s needs.

“If a young couple comes in, for example, and it’s obvious that they need some help, we might give them some items at no charge,” Mrs. Sanderson said.

The ministry has given small appliances, pots and pans to families in need, and has donated walkers and crutches to community agencies.

When Mrs. Kelley saw a homeless man trying to make a backpack out of his pillowcase and shoelaces, she gave him a backpack filled with items from the flea market.

In 2016 and 2017, the ministry also gave items at no charge to St. Margaret Mary School, teachers in the Harrisburg School District, Community Aid, the Silence of Mary Home, Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction, the Legion of Mary, the Holy Family Flea Market, Morning Star Pregnancy Services, the Dillsburg Veterinary Center, Kindred Hospice, and the Ronald McDonald House.

“We see our outreach as responding to Jesus’ call to help one another,” Mrs. Becoskie said. “We have some very poor people in this area, and this ministry is our effort of giving back what we’ve received.”

The flea market is also a means for evangelization. A number of religious items, although not for sale, are placed throughout the shop, and often serve as conversation starters among visitors.

“We don’t ask them to open up about their faith or their beliefs, but some of the religious images here and the flea market as a ministry of St. Margaret Mary can certainly open their heart to God,” Mrs. Becoskie said.

The three chairpersons expressed their gratitude for the support of St. Margaret Mary Parish, the flea market’s 15 faithful volunteers, and those who donate items – including donors from area Catholic parishes and other faith communities.

“Without all of their help and effort, we wouldn’t be able to help the parish or the community as we are,” Mrs. Becoskie said. “As far as I’m concerned, this is what we’re here to do.”

The St. Margaret Mary Flea Market reflects support for both parish and community.

Shop ~ Donate ~ Volunteer

2821 Herr Street, Penbrook
Every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m.-Noon
First Saturday of the month from 8 a.m.-Noon
Third Thursday of the month from 3-7 p.m.

Donations accepted during business hours. Tax receipts available. Large furniture items and televisions are not accepted. Follow them on Facebook at St. Margaret Mary Flea Market.

The flea market is actively seeking additional volunteers, as well as a volunteer to construct a permanent roof or enclosure above the outdoor sorting area.

For more information, call 717-329-4123.
The Catholic Witness • August 18, 2017

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Preparing for the dedication of St. Joseph School and Education Center, Msgr. James Lyons, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Hanover, said he couldn’t be more proud of the parish community.

“This is a positive time for us. There is a lot of growth here, and a lot of parishioners involved in countless activities,” he told The Catholic Witness.

The latest endeavor is the $1.8 million expansion on the parish’s Grandview Road campus, situated on a sprawling vista just south of town.

The new addition is the St. Joseph School and Education Center. Bishop Ronald Gainer dedicated it on Aug. 13, celebrating Mass for the parish community before blessing the new facility.

The completed project includes eight new classrooms that will be shared by St. Joseph School and St. Joseph School of Religious Instruction (SRI), as well as new offices for the school principal and SRI coordinator, and a new computer lab, library and playground for all students receiving Catholic education there.

“The first word that I must share with you is ‘Congratulations,’” Bishop Gainer told the parish community in his homily. “This addition…is a great tribute for all of you.”

“A project like this is like an invitation to walk on water like Jesus did to Peter in the Gospel reading today… A project like this requires taking a great risk, and that risk requires trusting each other, which you clearly do in this parish. This is a new chapter for Catholic education in the Hanover area,” he said.

Some 450 youth are enrolled in the parish’s School of Religious Instruction; approximately 180 students attend St. Joseph School, which welcomes students in grades PreK-8.

The new facility allows the school to have all grades on one campus. The school building on Baltimore Street downtown, which previously housed PreK-5, is now closed, as the elementary students will move into the Grandview Road facility at the start of this academic year.

“We’re excited to have a brand new campus, where all of our children of God are placed in our care,” said St.
**New Film on EWTN Recalls Faith, Sacrifice of Chaplain Killed in Vietnam**

By Beth Griffin

**Catholic News Service**

Fifty years after he put himself between a wounded Ma- rine and fatal enemy gunfire, the story of Maryknoll Father Vincent Capodanno’s faith and sacrifice is being retold in a new movie.

His memory is cherished by those who knew him, his cause for canonization promoted by those with whom he served and a new generation of young Catholics in his old neighborhood has come to know the Staten Island native.

Father Capodanno’s story and work with “his Marines” and “his Marines” when he was wounded during a North Vietnamese ambush in the Que Son Valley Sept. 4, 1967.

Despite his injuries, he went to the aid of a fellow corpsman who was pinned down by an enemy machine gunner. While he administered medical and spiritual attention, the man who was pinned down by an enemy machine gunner.

The priest was serving a second tour of duty in Vietnam as a Navy chaplain to U.S. Marines when he was wounded.

His story and faith continue to inspire people now, 50 years after he died.

In 2013, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services presided over the formal renewal of the opening of the cause and announced that at that time that the newly established Father Vincent Capodanno Guild would serve as the petitioner.

“After a 50th anniversary Mass for Father Capodanno at St. Joseph Church in Hanover, Father James Lyons, pastor, distributes Holy Communion to Mary Beth Hockenberry.

Baltimore Street are to be commended. “The parishioners have been generous in their support of this effort,” he said.

“A lot of people have stepped up and responded, and the capital campaign is going very well.”

St. Joseph Parish is home to some 7,800 parishioners.

“Our hope is that we can attract people who are moving in, as there has been a great deal of growth in this area,” Msgr. Lyons said. “We want them to know that we’re here, as we ourselves continue to grow.”
Educators Undergo Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

As many as one in five children in the United States has a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, according to a recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For educators looking at the demographics within their classroom, twenty percent of their students will, at some point in their school career, experience a mental health issue: anxiety, depression, panic disorder, and even suicidal thoughts among them.

The dioce's Department for Catholic Schools hosted a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for educators, through the McDowell Institute at Bloomsburg University, established in 2012 to enhance teacher preparedness to facilitate social, emotional and behavioral wellness of PreK-12 students.

“The Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is designed much like First Aid training for physical health,” explained Tim Knoster, Executive Director of the program at Bloomsburg. He and Danielle Empson, Director of the program’s School-Based Behavioral Health, co-presented at the training session, held Aug. 7 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

As in physical health, “the more people who have a higher level of mental health literacy and some skills in terms of how to support someone experiencing a mental health situation, the more likely the person with a mental health issue will experience a successful outcome,” he said.

The training helped teachers learn how to increase mental health literacy, and in that vein, focused on defining mental health and its different types within the context of typical adolescent development. It also led teachers in building skills by applying the Youth Mental Health First Aid Action Plan called “ALGEE:”

- Assess for risk of suicide and harm
- Listen non-judgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other forms of support

“The application of the skillets in the action plan is applicable for a student who is in minor distress, such as having a panic attack, all the way up through someone who is suicidal in nature,” Mr. Knoster remarked. “It covers the whole continuum.”

The eight-hour training session engaged the educators in interactive lessons and activities, including a simulation in which they role played in asking a student, “Are you thinking about suicide?”

“Just getting them comfortable in uttering those words is critical,” Mr. Knoster said.

Nationally, the McDowell Institute has trained nearly 800,000 people, including first responders, educators, and community members. The goal is to train one million by 2018.

The program at Bloomsburg University offers 25-30 of those training sessions each year.

Tim Knoster, Executive Director of the McDowell Institute at Bloomsburg University, delivers a presentation during the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Aug. 7. "Twenty percent of a classroom might have a behavioral health concern. Even if you do a really great job teaching math or English, there will be other things that will impede students’ ability to learn. Mental health is a non-academic barrier to learning, and you can’t lesson-plan your way out of it,” Mr. Knoster remarked. “Educators need to be fluent in order to identify the indicators and broker their students to find appropriate help. “There is still a stigma that comes with behavioral health issues,” he added. “The more that educators can be aware of warning signs and get kids access to service, the better off those kids will be.”

Learn more about the McDowell Institute at Bloomsburg University at www.bloom.edu/mcdowell.

Virginia Violence

Continued from 1

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, of Galveston-Houston, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued the following statement in response to the violent protests:

"As we learn more about the horrible events of yesterday, our prayer turns today, on the Lord’s Day, to the people of Charlottesville who offered a counterexample to the hate marching in the streets. Let us unite ourselves in the spirit of hope offered by the clergy, people of faith, and all people of good will who peacefully defended their city and country.

We stand against the evil of racism, white supremacism and neo-nazism. We stand with our sisters and brothers united in the sacrifice of Jesus, by which love’s victory over every form of evil is assured. At Mass, let us offer a special prayer of gratitude for the brave souls who sought to protect us from the violent ideology displayed yesterday. Let us especially remember those who lost their lives. Let us join their witness and stand against every form of oppression.”

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Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg Pennsylvania 17111

We believe your child is a gift from our loving God.
Catholic Relief Services Looks to Change Concept of World's Orphanages

By Chaz Muth

Catholic News Service

Catholic Relief Services has released an emotion-filled video as a way of starting a conversation about the world’s orphanages.

Children once orphans in war zones, in the United States, and officials at CRS want a world where there is no longer a need for such institutions.

They are not advocating shutting down orphanages in poor countries and turning the children out onto the streets. CRS officials said their vision is to transform orphanages in countries like Haiti and South Sudan into family resource centers, offering families the support they need to keep their children at home.

To help people rethink the concept of orphanages, the international Catholic aid organization has gathered stories of children, raised in and out of orphanages, to employ a film crew, hired actors, and gathered locations to tell the stories of a poverty-stricken mother in need of help and a heart-breaking decision to send her daughter to an orphanage, said Sean L. Callahan, president and CEO of CRS.

Though these institutions are called orphanages, Callahan said few of the children raised in them are actually orphans. Most children are between 80-90 percent of children in orphanages have at least one living parent and, in most cases, poverty or disability is the reason they are there, he told Catholic News Service in an August interview.

CRS hopes the video, released Aug. 10, will help drive home this point, particularly to well-meaning donors who think they are helping children by supporting orphanages.

“We are battling a false perception that is deeply ingrained in the public psyche,” Callahan said. “If we are to break the orphan myth and return children to their families, we need to tell the all-too-common story of how children, sadly and unwillingly, come to live in an orphanage. That’s why we made this important video.”

The video is a departure from CRS’ traditional visual storytelling style. Typically, the organization films subjects in areas where it works, producing a short documentary form to show how people are affected.

“For this topic, we wanted to show the emotional response of a parent and child separating at an orphanage, and we didn’t see a way of authentically capturing that with a real family,” said Mark Metzger, branded content producer for CRS. “We needed to recreate that ourselves.”

The group created characters in the video, the scenes were written from first-hand accounts of CRS colleagues who have witnessed the gut-wrenching events, Metzger told CNS.

Callahan said although donors in countries like the U.S. often support orphanages for the right reasons, too many of the institutions they support do little more than raise money, leaving actual child care as an afterthought.

Children in orphanages are at greater risk of sexual abuse and violence than those in family care, he said.

CRS, and its partners Lumos – founded by author J.K. Rowling – and Maestral Internacional are committed to helping what they call “orphans in the world” by improving and working, country by country, to replace orphanages with family care centers for more than 8 million children now in institutions throughout the world.

The CRS video, “Changing the Way We Care,” can be viewed at https://youtu.be/unZx3biKdBo, and Metzger said he is encouraging people to share it on social media.

“We want to get the word out,” he said. “We want to educate people about who we are and what we do, so we can so they can understand the struggles and difficulties that families are living through, day in and day out.”

Pope Francis had promised to visit Colombia once a peace accord was in place, but his visit Sept. 6-10 is less than a week away and he will urge them to “take the first step” toward reconciliation, the theme of the visit.

In the Gospel of St. John, the apostle Peter is the first to enter the empty tomb after Jesus’ Resurrection, the bishops wrote. In a similar way, St. Peter’s successor, the pope, will visit Colombia, which they described as “a testament to how that ‘tomb has been crushed by armed conflict, drug trafficking, insecurity and inequality.”

Looking at Pope Francis’ previous visits to places trying to overcome civil strife, violence and division – the Holy Land, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Central African Republic – it is clear Pope Francis recognizes that making and keeping peace require courage and sacrifice.

The people of Colombia are right to celebrate the 2016 peace accord that came after the suffering of 52 years of civil war. Pope Francis obviously will praise that accomplishment, but his visit Sept. 6-10 is less than a week away and he will urge them to “take the first step” toward reconciliation, the theme of the visit.

After a conflict in which at least 220,000 people died and more than 6 million were uprooted from their homes, it won’t be easy. A small rebel group that was not part of the 2016 accord still exists, and the country faces a host of challenges toward reconciliation, the theme of the visit.

As the people of Colombia work to overcome five decades of conflict and build a stable peace, Pope Francis wants to be with them and offer his support as they rally the courage needed to take the next step.
Pro Soccer Player Attributes His Strength to His Faith

By Matthew Peaslee
Catholic News Service

Taylor Washington, a defender for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds soccer team, says he keeps God at the center of his life and that even during games when he’s in a competitive mindset, he often prays a Hail Mary or a Glory Be.

“He’s in a competitive mindset, hell often be a waste. I’m not going to be a professional athlete forever, so I think God has called me to help in kids’ lives. In turn, they help my life more than I am helping them.”

Washington also has aspirations to play soccer at the highest level possible.

“People will tell me that what I’m doing is so great, but it’s not really what I’m doing, it’s God working through me. I’ve been given such a blessing to have the platform to do this. I feel like if I weren’t doing these things, it would have to be a waste. I’m not going to be a professional athlete forever, so I think God has called me to help in kids’ lives. In turn, they help my life more than I am helping them.”

Washington also has aspirations to play soccer at the highest level possible.

“The dream is to play in Europe,” he said. “I believe that through prayer and steadfastness, it can happen.”

On his Twitter account, @TBMMW4, Washington posts regular prayers and Bible verses.

“Tweeting about things like Christ’s love, God’s mercy and Church teachings are nothing compared to all the things that he’s done for me,” Washington said, adding: “The little things I do every day don’t amount to any worthiness to him, but I try to honor him in everything I do.”

1,400-Mile Nautical Pilgrimage Draws Attention to Fatima

By Michael J. Johnson
Catholic News Service

Rowing an 18-foot-long open canoe solo along the Intracoastal Waterway from Miami to New York City, Greg Dougherty hopes to draw attention to the centennial of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal.

The craft named the Santa Maria de Fatima packed with bags of food, clothes, emergency gear and a statue of Our Lady of Fatima looks both cramped and small for such a long voyage.

His 1,400-mile nautical pilgrimage began June 13 and at press time Aug. 15, he was 10 miles south of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, he told Catholic News Service. He also said he hoped to arrive in New York by late September or early October.

The Southern Cross, newspaper of the Diocese of Savannah, caught up with Dougherty in early August on the 47th day of his pilgrimage. He had arrived at Thunderbolt Marina in Thunderbolt.

Dougherty’s canoe outfitted with tandem sliding seats enables him to use his legs and arms as he repeatedly pulls on the oars throughout the day.

Rowing on his own “is exhausting,” said Dougherty, “and that is a good thing.” At night, he sleeps in the forward section of the two-man canoe.

The monotony of rowing all day has become an opportunity for prayer and meditation. “When I’m alone out there I’m praying,” said Dougherty. “I say the Rosary. I pray the whole time, especially in severe weather.”

His small craft attracts attention both on the water and when he pulls into a marina to have a hamburger and restock his supplies. Mark Bouy, a member of Blessed Sacrament Church in Savannah, met Dougherty at a marina in St. Augustine, Fla., and offered Dougherty a room, a shower and good food when he dropped anchor in Savannah. He spent three restful days with his host.

Dougherty is former president of Our Lady’s Blue Army/World Apostolate of Fatima USA in the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky. The lay group’s purpose is to promote the message of Fatima and to encourage the faithful to pray the Rosary every day as Mary requested.

In his interview with The Southern Cross, Dougherty quickly pointed out the purpose of his pilgrimage is to spread awareness of Fatima. He said, “I don’t want anyone to hear more onto this trip than what it is – just a way to lead people to Christ through his mother’s message.”

“I’ve met so many who have fallen away from the Church,” Dougherty said.

“What’s encouraged me on this trip is the curiosity of our Protestant brothers and sisters. I think the ocean or the rowing intrigues them. Often they’ll ask me what Fatima is and “I explain that just as the Lord sent his angels and prophets, in 1917, he sent his mother to deliver a message to the world.”

And don’t you know,” he added, “the majority of hearts have been opened to that message. Lives have been touched, so this has been a beautiful journey so far.”

CNS/COURTESY PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS Pittsburgh Riverhounds soccer player Taylor Washington, right, plays in a United Soccer League game against the New York Red Bulls II at Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh. Washington went to Iona Preparatory in New Rochelle, N.Y., for three years, where he developed a greater appreciation for his Catholic faith and started praying more to deepen his relationship with God.

Washington feels is still constantly evolving in his life, he transferred to George Mason University in Virginia, where he continued to play soccer and earned All-Conference honors. When he graduated in 2016, he was named George Mason’s Student-Athlete of the Year.

Off the field, Washington became involved in George Mason’s Catholic campus ministry team and served as the large-events coordinator for the student ministry team.

“That was a complete blessing to be around people my age who shared the same Catholic faith,” he said. “It was a very humbling experience because they keep you in check. I had to make a lot of adjustments in my life.”

Last December, Washington signed a one-year deal with a club option for 2018 with the Riverhounds.

He said he has been able to enjoy the Catholic environment of Pittsburgh and has gotten to know a few priests.

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On most of his off days, he spends time volunteering at Children’s Hospital of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

“People will tell me that what I’m doing is so great, but it’s not really what I’m doing, it’s God working through me. I’ve been given such a blessing to have the platform to do this. I feel like if I weren’t doing these things, it would be a waste. I’m not going to be a professional athlete forever, so I think God has called me to help in kids’ lives. In turn, they help my life more than I am helping them.”

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Stress in Your Marriage? Retrouvaille Can Help!

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness, Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Retrouvaille is under the auspices of the Office of Family Ministries.

For confidential information about, or to register for, the next program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 15-17 in Mechanicsburg, call 800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOur Marriage.com.

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, divorced people who wish to marry Catholics, parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and those who have a vested interest because of family or friends.

Presentations will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4804 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

The fall schedule is as follows:
- September 11 at 7 p.m. – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- September 14 at 7 p.m. – St. Joseph Parish, Hanover
- September 25 at 7 p.m. – St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Millersville
- November 13 at 7 p.m. – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

You may begin an annulment process online at www.hbgdiocese.org/tribunal. Click on Divorce and Remarriage, then on Beginning the Annulment Process. You may also begin the process by calling 717-657-4804, ext. 307, mornings only.

Fall Adult Faith Formation Offerings

The Fall 2017 Session of the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation affords adult Catholics the opportunity to continue their formation in the Catholic faith. All courses and workshops are open to any interested adult, including those who are pursuing catechetical certification in the diocese and those who simply wish to understand the Catholic Faith better.

Learn from home option: Numerous faith formation offerings are also available via webinar, allowing you to participate in “real time” from home or to request recordings to view at your convenience.

To view the complete Fall Session schedule, which includes course descriptions and fees for both current offerings and pre-recorded courses and sessions, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org.

For information about the Diocesan Institute or obtaining catechetical certification in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact Ryan Bolster at 717-657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

This is Not Your Father’s Faith Formation

No, the content of our Catholic faith doesn’t change—the faith we profess in the Creed is the very same that Christ handed on to the Apostles. But as for how the faith is delivered, suffice it to say that there have been some recent developments...

In just the past few years, producers of excellent Catholic adult faith formation resources (Ascension Press, Augustine Institute, and Saint Benedict Press, to name a few) have begun to utilize online/digital platforms to make their products more readily available to individuals and groups of all sizes. As a result, anyone with a smart phone, iPod, or computer can access a vast array of formation resources in a variety of media (e.g., films, audio presentations, e-books, and video-based study programs) at a very reasonable cost.

See the current schedule of Diocesan Institute offerings (www.hbgdiocese.org) to learn more.

CATECHETICAL CERTIFICATION COURSES

Overview of Catholic Doctrine: The Creed
Mondays, Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2 and Tuesday, Oct. 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Mr. Jim Gontis

Introduction to Scripture
Thursdays, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, and 19
6:30-8:30 p.m.
St. Rose of Lima School, Thomasville
Mr. Ryan Bolster

Mondays, Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, and 20
7:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Mr. Ryan Bolster

Introduction to the Sacraments
Currently available via pre-recorded webinar

Teaching Methodology—Part 1
Saturday, Aug. 26
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown
Mr. Jim Gontis

Teaching Methodology—Part 2
Thursdays, Nov. 2 and 9
6-8:30 p.m.
St. Theresa School, New Cumberland
Mr. Ryan Bolster

Introduction to the Church
Currently available via pre-recorded webinar

Introduction to Prayer
Currently available via pre-recorded webinar

ADVANCED CATECHETICAL CERTIFICATION COURSES

Advanced Morality
Currently available via pre-recorded webinar

Christology
Currently available via pre-recorded webinar

Advanced Scripture
Currently available via pre-recorded webinar

ELECTIVES

Understanding Youth and Young Adult Culture Virtual/online discussion during the weeks of Aug. 20 and 27
Contact Rob Williams at 717-657-4804, ext. 328, or rwilliams@hbgdiocese.org with any question and to register to participate.
Obituaries

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

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columba: Mary Patricia Sands.


COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Thomas C. Dubulis.

COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Elizabeth Ann Resch; St. Peter: Mary Elizabeth Elishe; St. Peter: Mary Loreto.

CONEWAGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Edward Lawrence, Bobbi Miller.

ELYSBURG – Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: Rita Laukaitis, Clara McGrath, Helen Oros, Howard Sandri.

GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Dennis Louis Kendra, Kenneth R. Miller.


HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Katherine Sperry; St. Francis of Assisi: Agnes Burns, Nilda Vega; St. Margaret Mary: Catherine Cipriani.


LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Elizabeth Harting.

LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Grace E. Retew; St. Cecilia: Frances Curtin.

LEWISTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Belinda Kenawell.

MCHELSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: Margaret A. Keeney, Robert A. Sagedy.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Ethilio “Al” Tecco, Rita Turina.


NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Constance Moyer, Leo Wojcikewicz.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Steven Casserly, Randall Hamic, Mary Jane Crist Smith, Connie (Webster) Yohe.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Barbara Anonina, Carl Bobrushky, Michael Marcinek, Lorraine McNamany, Catherine Pultynovich.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Frank E. Polomski.

SUNBURY – St. Monica: Josephine Nowak.

YORK – St. Joseph: Bernadette Bohle; Robert “Bob” Fedoroff; St. Rose of Lima: Albert Munchel, Sr.

Sister Marie Ann Poland

Adorers of the Blood of Christ Sister Marie Ann Poland died July 29 at the Adorers’ Ruma Center in Ruma, Ill. She was 70 years old.

Born in Philadelphia in 1947, she entered the former Columbia Province of the Adorers in 1997. Prior to entering the congregation at age 50, she had a long career in Pediatrics, working in hospitals in Philadelphia. After becoming an Adorer, Sister Marie Ann did marketing and directed programs for the Precious Blood Spiritual Center in Columbia.

She donated the pediatric clinical faculty for Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, an educator for the Visiting Nurses Association in Bethlehem, Pa., a home care nurse in York and Harrisburg, and a school nurse in the Middleton School District.

She also sponsored her “Pink Box for Marie’s Kids” to buy socks, underwear and other necessities for the children she served. She held several degrees, including a bachelor’s in nursing from Penn State University in 1971 and a master’s in nursing administration from Widener University in Chester, Pa., in 1990. Sister Marie Ann earned a master’s in spirituality and a certificate in education in 2008 from Creighton University in Omaha.

She moved to Ruma, Ill., in 2015. The funeral Mass was celebrated on Aug. 2 at St. Anne’s Retirement Community, Columbia. Burial was in the community’s cemetery.

SECRETARIAT

Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization Restructured

At the direction of Bishop Ronald Gainer, the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization has been restructured to address the diocesan priority of evangelization.

A prominent element of the restructuring is the creation of the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis to be directed by Mr. James Gontis. The vision for the creation of this Office is the inseparable link between evangelization and catechesis. Mr. Gontis will continue to have oversight of religious education programs both for the parishes (Formal religious education of our Catholic children who attend public school) and in our Catholic high schools and elementary schools. These responsibilities are now combined with assisting parishes in the area of Evangelization. Mr. Gontis will also now serve as the liaison to various apostolates within the diocese (e.g. Charismatic Renewal, Cursillo, the Council of Catholic Women, the Knights of Columbus, etc.). He will continue to coordinate the Men’s, Women’s, and Catechetical Conferences but now under the umbrella of the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization.

Another change within the Secretariat is the combining of Marriage and Family Ministries with Respect Life. The Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries was known as Dr. D’Ambrosio, also known as Dr. Italy. Dr. D’Ambrosio will speak on the evenings of Sept. 17, 18, and 19 at 6 p.m. in the parish church.

The goal of the parish mission is to re-energize Catholics and remind us why we love being Catholic. The first night begins with Dr. D’Ambrosio sharing his own faith journey in the talk, “Why Be Catholic?” It is the story of a young Catholic rock’n’roller who fell in love with Christ and why he decided not to leave the Catholic Church. The talk will be followed by a short period of Adoration and Benediction.

There are many misconceptions about the Sacrament of Confession, and on Monday evening, Dr. D’Ambrosio will show how Confession is a liberating gift rather than an embarrassing burden in the talk, “Who Needs Confession?” Several priests will be on hand after the talk to hear Confessions and administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The final night’s focus is on the central act of worship in the Catholic Church with the talk entitled “Getting More out of the Mass.” With humorous stories and practical examples, Dr. Italy discloses how to unlock the power of Christ’s presence despite the distractions that often get in the way. Those who attend this talk will never experience Mass in quite the same way again!

“Why Be Catholic?” is suitable for all ages, for devout Catholics, inactive Catholics and those who wish to know more about the Catholic Church.

For more information, call the parish at 717-774-5918.

John Michael Talbot to Bring Concert Tour to New Oxford

Christian music legend John Michael Talbot’s “Lifemime of Music & Ministry” Concert is coming to New Oxford High School, 300 South St, on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. The concert is being presented by Immaculate Conception BVM Parish. Tickets are $30 for general admission and $50 for a special VIP ticket, which includes early admission following the concert, preferred seating, and a signed CD. Tickets can be purchased online at www.JohnMichaelTalbot.com/Tour. For more information, call 717-521-3137.

John Michael Talbot is one of the pioneering artists of Contemporary Christian Music. He is recognized as Catholic music’s most popular artist, with multi-platinum sales and compositions published in hymnals throughout the world. The “Lifemime of Music & Ministry” tour will feature Talbot sharing songs which span more than four decades of music ministry.


Fourth Annual Caregivers’ Day of Prayer and Care Planned

Parish volunteers and advocates in the Cumberland/Perry Deanery parishes are hosting the 4th Annual Caregivers’ Day of Prayer and Care on Oct. 28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. The event is free. Are you a caregiver? Do you provide care for a family member, friend or neighbor who is mentally or physically challenged, needs elder care, has a chronic illness, is in need of short-term but intense rehab, is mentally ill or has an addiction? You may be providing direct care, driving to appointments, doing distance care or travel.

Caregivers may feel isolated, stressed, full of questions, on a roller coaster.

The goal of the Caregivers’ Day of Prayer and Care is to give those in a caregiving role a time to refresh, re-energize, connect with others, and receive some pampering.

The event on Oct. 28 will begin at 9 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast, followed by Holy Mass, a guest speaker and a hand blessing. A luncheon will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m., followed by spa and craft activities. The day concludes at 4 p.m.

There is no cost for the day, but registration is required. Visit http://www.caregiversdayofprayerandcare.org. For more information, contact Mary Moll at 717-258-1104, or mmoll@saintpatrickchurch.org.
Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill invites all families who have experienced the loss of a child (through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or infant death) to attend a Healing and Rememberance on Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. in the church. The Mass is the most important event of the day. Following the Mass, each family can name a card with your last name, such as “Baby Jones.” The names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by our family and friends. A white rose in honor of your child will be placed in the congregation will also be included in this year’s Rememberance. Submit your child’s name to Good Shepherd Church, 343 Ridge Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011. You may also call or email Geri Andregic at 717-761-4789 or andregicg@gmail.com. Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill invites all families who have experienced the loss of a child (through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or infant death) to attend a Healing and Rememberance on Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. in the church. The Mass is the most important event of the day. Following the Mass, each family can name a card with your last name, such as “Baby Jones.” The names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by our family and friends. A white rose in honor of your child will be placed in the congregation will also be included in this year’s Rememberance. Submit your child’s name to Good Shepherd Church, 343 Ridge Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011. You may also call or email Geri Andregic at 717-761-4789 or andregicg@gmail.com.

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Pilgrimages and Retreats

Holy Land pilgrimage with Father Michael Reid. Jan. 10-18, 2016. We will celebrate Mass each day in the Holy Land. Time will be spent in prayer at the shrines and sites associated with the life of Jesus. Permission of the Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg is required to participate. Deadline for registration is Sept. 1. Contact Sister Ann Gonzalez at 717-259-9299 with questions. Pilgrimage to icy led by Father Sylvan Capitani and assisted by Deacon Michael Samolten, April 10-20, 2016. Featuring Eucharistic Miracles: Orvieto, Siena, Lancarano and Macerata and other sacred places. Assisi, Loretto and Rome. Special luncheons and dinners. All-inclusive price of $3,500. We are offering a special opportunity to attend the Festival of Assisi in Padua (4-night extension). This pilgrimage will be led by Father Capitani and visit most of the sites, not normally included in most tours. The only item not included is one daily, either in the evening when we have scheduled a special event. Housing for the Festival of Assisi is $225 (ghetto in the price for double occupancy) for food. For a full itinerary and application form, contact Deacon Mike Samolten at 717-785-8078 or faithtravel@comcast.net.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Father Donald Powell April 23-May 3, 2018. Visit Medjugorje, Bosnia/Herzegovina with Father Donald Powell, pastor of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland. Six nights/double occupancy in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with breakfast only. Transportation to and from Medjugorje. Cost is $895 land only. For more information, contact Andregic at 717-761-4789 or andregicg@gmail.com.

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New Smithsonian Exhibit Explores Diversity of Religion in Early America

By Carolyn Mackenzie
Catholic News Service

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History’s new exhibition, “Religion in Early America,” celebrates the first exercise of religioun in the United States and the religious diversity that define American life. The exhibit features artifacts from Christianity, Judaism, Islam and other major world religions. Peter Manseau, the museum’s Lilly Endowment curator of American religious history, is the author of several books and curator of the new exhibit.

The exhibit, which opened June 28, displays artifacts and stories of American religious life from the 1630s to the 1840s. Reflecting the many Christian denominations that made up early America, it also features noteworthy items of Jewish, Islamic, Mormon, Native American and other faith traditions. Visitors from diverse backgrounds will likely find their own religious beliefs represented in the objects.

“The real power is seeing all of these together, and recognizing that these are all part of the same American story,” Manseau said. Some of the exhibit’s biggest draws are the Jefferson Bible, the George Washington Inaugural Bible, a bell forged by Paul Revere. Manseau explained that the Jefferson Bible is an edition of the New Testament that Thomas Jefferson edited himself, removing certain passages while including others. He wanted to create a story of the life and teachings of Jesus that was in line with his understanding of the Enlightenment, with his desire to lead a reason-led life, “So he went through several copies of the New Testament with a penknife in hand and cut out those parts that he agreed with, and glued them together into a new book that he called ‘The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth’.”

Other noteworthy objects include the Communion cup of Gov. John Winthrop of Massachusetts, a Torah scroll damaged in 1776 during the British occupation of Manhattan, a 19th-century Arabic manuscript and an iron cross made by the first English Catholics in Maryland. Pope Francis used this cross at his papal Mass in Washington in 2015. “According to tradition, it was made by the first English Catholics who came to America on the Ark and the Dove in 1634,” Manseau said. “When they needed a cross to use in their public worship, they took iron ballast beams and had a blacksmith pound them together into a new iron cross that they used.”

Manseau penned the book “Objects of Devotion: Religion in Early America,” which presents images of some of the exhibit’s artifacts and tells stories of religious movements and figures in American history. The exhibit and book both highlight the influence of the Carroll family on Catholicism in America. Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, became a senator in the newly formed government. His cousin, Archbishop Carroll of Baltimore, became the first bishop in the United States, founded Georgetown University in Washington, and worked to create other schools and religious communities.

Manseau pointed out a chalice on display that belonged to Archbishop Carroll, explaining that such chalices were designed to be taken apart and disguised as a bell when placed on the side of a saddle. Such disguise was helpful to priests at a time when Catholicism was often met with disdain. “We try to tell the full story of early Catholic experience in America, and we don’t shy away from this early bigotry against Catholics,” Manseau said.

Though many of the Catholic artifacts come from the mid-Atlantic, the exhibit does not organize its items based on religion. Rather, “Religion in Early America” is arranged by region, an approach that displays how America’s beliefs are diverse in location as well as in content. “Rather than presenting this story chronologically, we decided that presenting it regionally would be the best way to show that there was diversity in every part of early America,” Manseau said. “So we have exhibit cases on New England, the mid-Atlantic and the South. In each of those regions there were a number of different religious traditions that were trying to establish themselves to be a part of the public square, and we wanted to show that that happened across time.”

The “Religion in Early America” exhibit runs until June 3, 2018. It can be viewed online at americanhistory.si.edu/religion-in-early-america.