Some 20 years before their faith community would become St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Catholics in Greencastle were gathering for Masses celebrated in a bank building, a funeral home and a hotel.

What began with a congregation of nine people at Greencastle’s first Mass in 1946 continued on Aug. 16 of this year, as Bishop Ronald Gainer joined with the people of St. Mark the Evangelist and their pastor, Father Joseph Stahura, in celebrating the parish’s 50th anniversary.

Participating in the Mass were members of the Martin family. At right, Rory presents the wine to Bishop Gainer as Father Stahura looks on. Joining Rory in the Presentation of the Gifts are, from left, Maeve, mom Larisa, Joanna and Maura. Not pictured are dad Robert and brother Finn, as well as Gavin and Liam, who were altar servers during the Mass.

See page 9 for additional coverage of the Mass and anniversary.

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**Divorced and Remarried are Not Excommunicated, Pope Reiterates**

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

Catholics who have divorced and are civilly remarried “are not, in fact, excommunicated – they are not excommunicated – and they absolutely must not be treated as if they were,” Pope Francis said.

Resuming his Wednesday general audiences Aug. 5 after a month’s break, Pope Francis returned to the series of talks he has been giving on the family. At his last audience, June 24, he talked about the damage caused especially to children when couples fight and hurt each other. “Today,” he said, “I want to draw our attention to another reality: how to care for those who, after the irreversible failure of the matrimonial bond, have undertaken a new union.”

Without an annulment of the sacramental marriage, “such a situation contradicts the Christian sacrament,” which is meant to be an indissoluble bond, the pope said.

The Church, Pope Francis said at the audience, must have “the heart of a mother, a heart that, animated by the Holy Spirit, always seeks the good and the salvation of persons.” The children of such couples suffer most and deserve particular care, the pope said.

“How can we tell these parents to do everything possible to raise their children in the Christian life, giving them the example of a convinced and lived faith, if we keep them at a distance from the life of the community as if they were excommunicated?” the pope asked.

Particularly over the past few decades, he said, “the Church has not been insensitive or lazy” when it comes to providing pastoral care to the divorced and civilly remarried.

As the studies and discernment continue, Pope Francis said, it is essential that Catholic pastors “openly and coherently demonstrate the willingness of the community to welcome and encourage” divorced and remarried couples and their families to participate in Church life.

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**A Catch at Kirchenwald**

Gayle Shipe shows the fish she reeled in from the lake at Camp Kirchenwald, during the diocese’s annual week-long camp for people with disabilities. See page 16 for a feature piece on the ministry.
Pope Designates Sept. 1 as World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Like their Orthodox brothers and sisters, Catholics formally will mark Sept. 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis has decided.

The day of prayer, the pope said, will give individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God’s help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God’s forgiveness “for sins committed against the world in which we live.”

Pope Francis announced his decision to add the annual prayer day to the Catholic calendar in a letter to Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and to Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Pope Francis said Christians want to make their special contribution to safeguarding creation, but to do that they must rediscover the spiritual foundations of their approach to earthly realities, beginning with an acknowledgment that “the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature,” but lived in communion with all worldly realities.

The ecological crisis, he said, is a summons “to a profound spiritual conversion” and to a way of life that clearly shows they are believers.

Quoting his encyclical, he said, “living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis said, will be a time for individuals and communities to “reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

The pope asked Cardinal Koch to consult with and work with the Catholic Church’s ecumenical partners and the World Council of Churches to make sure the prayer day becomes a sign of Christians’ commitment to work together to safeguard creation “in order to be more credible and effective.”

He entrusted to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace the task of working with Catholic bishops’ conferences and environmental organizations to publicize and coordinate the specifics of the celebration.

Lecture and Discussion on the Church and the Environment: The Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Caring for Creation

Presented by Father David Danneker, Ph.D.
Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Catholic social teaching has long emphasized the need to “Care for God’s Creation” as a central aspect of stewardship and a shared responsibility for all to consider. This theme has been highlighted and emphasized by Pope Francis in his recent encyclical, Laudato Sí.

To aid us in understanding our obligation to protect and maintain our environment, this lecture and discussion will explore the foundational teachings as well as contemporary documents that shape our common responsibility.

Father Danneker is pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. He holds a Ph.D. from St. Louis University, with a specialization in Moral Theology and Medical Ethics. He has served on the Medical Ethics Committees of several hospitals and nursing homes, as an Adjunct Professor of Applied Ethics at Elizabethtown College, and on several diocesan and interchurch committees.

This lecture and discussion is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission on Catholic Social Doctrine. There is no fee or registration required for the event.
Philadelphia Officials Discuss Transportation Details for Papal Visit

By Lindsay Hueston

Catholic News Service

Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia and other officials Aug. 5 described road closures, traffic restrictions and other transportation details for Pope Francis’ September visit to the city.

The pope will be in Philadelphia the weekend of Sept. 26-27, which will conclude the Sept. 22-25 World Meeting of Families.

An area described as a “traffic box” will be designated in the center city starting at 6 p.m. (Eastern time) Sept. 25. How long it will be in effect after the end of the papal Mass Sept. 27 has not been determined, but is likely to go into Sept. 28, depending on the number of people leaving the area of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

That is the location near the Philadelphia Museum of Art where the pope will celebrate the Mass for a projected 1.5 million people.

During that weekend, cars will be allowed to travel within the traffic box and leave it, but will not be allowed back into the perimeter. The restrictions include personal vehicles and any sort of bus—including motor coaches, school buses, mini buses, RVs and passenger vans with a capacity of eight to 14 people.

People in cars and cyclists, however, will face no restrictions leaving and re-entering the traffic box.

Only emergency vehicles will be exempted from the restrictions, and they will have designated travel lanes as streets begin to fill with pedestrians walking to the papal events.

CatholicPhilly.com, the news site of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, has details on the borders of the traffic box at http://tinyurl.com/pyc3rjq for the competitive 10 p.m. (Eastern time) Sept. 25. See http://tinyurl.com/pyc3rjq for the complete list of routes.

Those wanting to ride a train into town for the papal events had to place their name into a lottery Aug. 3 for one-day papal passes on SEPTA’s Regional Rail lines. (SEPTA is the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority.)

Joe Casey, general manager of SEPTA, explained how the transportation agency intends to more than double its normal train passenger capacity, up to 370,000 for the weekend. He said the lottery system for passes ran successfully, he noted.

Of all the travel options to the weekend’s events, bus transportation appeared the most effective, a point underscored by an analysis of projected visitors.

An early estimate last spring projected some 5,000 buses would carry passengers into the city. Assuming 60 passengers per bus, 300,000 could be expected to use that means of travel, especially on Sept. 27 for the papal Mass on the Parkway.

Indeed, many parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, plus church groups from the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions, and beyond, have signed up bus-loads of pilgrims.

By August 21, 2015

Philadelphia Officials Discuss Transportation Details for Papal Visit

The Philadelphia skyline is seen in a 2012 file photo. Officials recently described road closures, traffic restrictions and other transportation details for Pope Francis’ September visit to the city.

Adding another 175,000 people per day from the Regional Rail trains brings the total to 475,000.

Cars could bring in thousands more people, but major highway closures would leave local roads as drivers’ only options. And once all those drivers arrive, they would face the challenge of parking.

Buses will have priority ahead of cars, according to PennDot’s Richards. That means drivers would have to seek parking farther from the sites of events, requiring a longer walk into center city.

Richards added that all available parking sites would be used, including the South Philadelphia stadium sites and across the river as Camden, and that more information on road transportation will be announced in coming weeks.

The dilemma for cars makes transportation by bus, because of its high passenger capacity, the ideal way to get into the city that weekend.

“It is the most effective and efficient way to travel,” said Donna Crilley Farrell, executive director for the World Meeting of Families.

She stressed the importance of all commercial buses planning to transport visitors for papal events to get registered as soon as possible. Buses must register at www.goground.com by Aug. 31, and the bus operator is responsible for registration.

However people come into the city for the papal events, Mayor Nutter said, they should “be prepared to walk, for at least a few miles.”

Food, water and other provisions in bags will be permitted at papal events, but they will be subject to security screenings.

Farrell noted that “all who wish to participate [in the papal events] can,” especially since it will be a “transformative and unforgettable moment [for Philadelphia] on the world stage.”

She echoed Mayor Nutter’s assertion that the city has often pulled off large-scale events and managed transportation and security issues. But the difference this time is, “we’re doing it all at once.”

With enthusiasm, she expressed confidence that “we’ve done it before, and we’ve got this. Let’s enjoy this and celebrate it.”

Papal Mass Bus Update

The waiting list for purchasing bus tickets to the Papal Mass in Philadelphia on September 27 is now closed. Bus times are currently not available.

The diocese is waiting to hear from the transportation company in Philadelphia regarding departure time for our buses. Ground transportation is being handled by a company called Go Ground. Each bus is registered with them and will be given an arrival time and a departure time.

Once that information becomes available, which may not be until early September, a mailing will be sent to all those who purchased tickets through the diocese with information about the day.

For all those who reserved seats on a bus, prior to July 29, 2015, please be advised that after August 25, the diocese will not be able to honor any requests for refunds or cancelations.

For questions or additional information, please visit www.phillydiocese.org or contact Kate Neri at 717-657-4804, ext. 317 or kneri@hbgdiocese.org.
A Glimpse of The Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill

The Sisters of St. Joseph Chestnut Hill - Philadelphia's mission is "to live and work so that all people may be united with God and with one another." We are a congregation of approximately 794 women religious who minister in 14 states and Canada. We trace our roots from LePuy, France, (1650) and arrived in Philadelphia in 1847. We were founded to meet the needs of the poor, to teach and to care for the sick. We do this through caring for the physically ill, the mentally ill, the dying, children in need of care, and the elderly. We are a community of about 165 religious, living in residence at Holy Trinity, Columbia, and carry the title of Pastor Emeritus.

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, has made has clergy appointments effective August 15, 2015:

- Rev. Michael Reid from Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia. Abbot Reid will continue as Pastor at St. Peter Parish, Columbia.
- Rev. Thomas A. McLaughlin from Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia. Abbot McLaughlin will continue as Pastor at Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia.
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Clergy Appointments

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, has made has made the following appointments, effective August 15, 2015:

- Rev. Michael Reid from Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia. Abbot Reid will continue as Pastor at St. Peter Parish, Columbia.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia’s sponsored works include: Academy Village; Bethlehem Village; Cecilian Village; Chestnut Hill College; Saint Joseph Academy; Mount Saint Joseph Academy; Norwood-Fontbonne Academy; Saint Joseph Villa; Saint Mary by-the-Sea Retreat House; SSJ Earth Center; Saint Joseph Village; and the SSJ Welcome Center.

Our activities during the Year of Consecrated Life included:

An open house at Mount Saint Joseph Convent, which offered informal opportunities for meeting sisters, guided tours, prayer, tours of the Chapel and Heritage Room, family activities, and displays portraying how our mission is alive.

A “convict crawl” for young adults to get an inside look into our life as sisters by visiting a number of local communities in one day.

A day of service, in collaboration with many Region 3 Religious Communities, hosting a variety of service opportunities in the Kensington section of Philadelphia.

We are providing content, highlighting the good work of women religious, to the USCCB for its website, Facebook and Twitter pages the week of November 18, 2015. Our congregational magazine, One With, features a banner with the words “2015 — Year of Consecrated Life” on the front cover. Each edition throughout the year includes something about the Year of Consecrated Life. Wherever possible, the theme is woven into article text. The Winter 2015 edition featured an article introducing readers to the year.

(Information provided by the Office of Communications and Public Relations of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Visit www.sjsphil.org.)

Consecrated Life: Called to Become Holy

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Some time ago, I had an opportunity to bring my five-year-old niece to the dentist. Two weeks prior, she had fallen, and she broke her front tooth. Because of the break, the tooth was1

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 ministries.

"Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them," the pope said in a letter issued for the special year, which will conclude on Feb. 2, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

In observance of the Year of Consecrated Life, The Catholic Witness will offer here a special series 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. To learn about vocations in the diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/clergy/vocations/.


denture. We placed her back into the tank. I could see her through the water and glass mimicking the movement of the fish’s mouth. The memory still makes me laugh! The other adults in the waiting room muffled their giggles.

Looking at me through the tank, she said, “Aunt Geralyn, why don’t they get the prunes?” In my niece’s family, this word is used to describe the wrinkles that develop in the skin of the hands when they are submerged too long in water. As I explained it to her, she came back to me and crawled into my lap. She continued our conversation: “Wanna know what I think about whenever I see a fish in a tank? It is a teaching I heard at church.” I nodded, encouraging her to continue. “Each of the fish are kinda like each of us,” she said. “We swim in God’s grace and love. We are surrounded by it, all the time!” Tears welled up in my eyes as I glowered how a five-year-old could be a vehicle of God. There was a sacred hush that descended on all of us in the waiting room. The other adults in the room were especially moved by the presence of my niece within this child’s spirit.

I am reminded of this experience as I reflect on the homily of baptism and the Year of Consecrated Life by Father Roger J. Landry, S.J. In it, Father Landry reminds his listeners that through baptism they are called to a life of holiness. He goes on to explain, “God does not call us to mediocrity. We don’t want us to be average. We want, and we told many times that he wants us to be holy, to be holy as he is holy. (Lev 19:2; Lev 20:7).” St. John Paul II wrote powerfully about God’s call for us to become saints and that this call flows immediately from our baptism. ‘Since baptism,’ he said, ‘is a true entry into the holiness of God through incorporation into Christ and the indwelling of his Spirit, it would be a contradiction for a little child to be forlornly marked by a minimalist ethic and a shallow religiosity. To ask catechumens: “Do you wish to receive Baptism?” means at the same time to ask them: ‘Do you wish to become holy?’ It means that set before them the radical nature of the Sermon on the Mount: ‘Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect’ (Mt 5:48).’

Holiness and perfection as God – is that really possible? Father Paul CB Schenck, Diocesan Director for Formation for Deacons, puts it this way, “We can’t do it alone, but like the fish in the above story, we must bask in the warmth and 24/7 attentiveness of the “convent crawl” for young adults to get an inside look into our life as sisters by visiting a number of local communities in one day.

A day of service, in collaboration with many Region 3 Religious Communities, hosting a variety of service opportunities in the Kensington section of Philadelphia.

We are providing content, highlighting the good work of women religious, to the USCCB for its website, Facebook and Twitter pages the week of November 18, 2015. Our congregational magazine, One With, features a banner with the words “2015 — Year of Consecrated Life” on the front cover. Each edition throughout the year includes something about the Year of Consecrated Life. Wherever possible, the theme is woven into article text. The Winter 2015 edition featured an article introducing readers to the year.

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Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist
Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

WAKE UP THE WORLD! 200 Year of Consecrated Life
Feeding the Faith
Submitted by Anthony and Lorraine Murdocca
Members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg

Cream of Garlic Soup
(This is a delicate soup in texture & flavor – not very thick)

Ingredients:
6 garlic cloves, peeled & crushed
1½ Tbspn. cornstarch
1 Tbspn. butter
1 Tbspn. chopped parsley
1 cup whole milk
5¼ oz. mascarpone cheese
1¾ oz. grated Romano Cheese
12 fresh figs
1 Tbspn. olive oil
2 Tbspn. white wine
2 Tbspn. Balsamic vinegar
Salt & pepper to taste

Directions
1. Heat oil & butter in a 3-qt saucepan over low heat. Add garlic and sauté until it begins to color, stirring constantly.
2. Add milk, cream, and potatoes. Cover and bring to a simmer.
3. Lower heat and stir in cornstarch dissolved in a small amount of cold water. Continue simmering for five minutes and potatoes are soft. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking.
4. Puree soup with an immersion blender. Add salt & pepper to taste. Ladle into bowls and serve with buttered Italian crusty bread.

Servings 4

Over the years we have met many wonderful people dur- ing a meal...and missed dining with one of the very esteemed individuals too. In 1989, during one of our many trips to Italy, the nuns who taught Lorraine at Holy Family Univer- sity asked us to deliver two large packages to their Mother General in Rome. The Mother General of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who was Lorraine’s college mate, treated us to dinner that evening and in- vited us to dinner the next evening with our Polish Holy Fa- ther, John Paul II, who dined there every Wednesday. Since the community was founded by a Polish nun and the genera- late kitchen was staffed by Polish nuns, our Holy Father had a standing invitation to a Polish dinner every Wednesday. Of course, Lorraine politely declined. On the return to central Rome that evening, I asked Lorraine why she did not ac- cept the dinner invitation. Well, she thought because I was uncomfortable being served dinner by the nuns during our visit I would be more uncomfortable dining with the Holy Father. I responded, “It’s one thing being served by the sis- ters but another dining with the Holy Father.” What disap- pointment that was...and I still tease her about it. Now we’ll both be discussing and I’ll explain to her that I jokingly invited him when he granted us a private audience for our 50th wedding anniversary....we’ll stand by the phone for a surprise call when he comes to the U.S. at a future time.

Hot Figs al Mascarpone

Ingredients:
12 fresh figs
5/8 oz. mascarpone cheese
1¼ oz. grated Romano Cheese
Balsamic vinegar

Directions
Clean and cut the figs in half the entire length and place them on a baking tray lined with aluminum foil. Mix the mascarpone with the grated cheese, spread a teaspoon of mixture on each fig half and brush lightly with balsamic vinegar. Bake in preheated oven at 460° F for eight minutes or more. Serve figs hot on serving dish.

Note: In baking, the creamy cheese mixture may be topped with raisins, hazelnuts, almonds, or crumbled biscotti.

Weed us Your Recipes and Stories!
The Catholic Witness is looking to support family meal time by sharing family recipes in upcoming editions, as well as scripture and “food for thought.” We encourage our readers throughout the diocese to submit their own recipes. This can be a family favorite, maybe a recipe used at different times of the liturgical year, or a recipe that has been passed through the family and shared upon many tables. Share your family meal memories with us too! You may mail a copy of the recipe to 4880 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or email it to witness@hbgdiocese.org.

Catholic Radio Marks Four Years on the Air
Donations Needed to Continue Fulfilling the Dream

By Joe Aponick
Special to The Witness

It is hard to believe, but the dream that took 10 years to build is now set to mark four years on the air. 720 AM WYFF went on the air August 25, 2011, from its Shirleysburg studio location. The frequency and license to operate the radio station was purchased by the private, non-profit Holy Family Radio from the previous owner. This fulfills the dream of a dedicated board members and volunteers who began their hunt for a station with the blessing of then-Bishop Nicholas Dattilo. Since then, ever more listeners have given his blessing to the effort, and Bishop Ronald Gainer serves on its Board of Directors.

Much has changed in those four years, but much also stays the same. One of the constants is the burning desire of those involved to bring the Catholic message to as many people as possible in a radio format. Their tag line, “Fulfilling our Catholic Catholic, Sharing our Faith with others!” sums up nicely their two-fold mission of strengthening the faith of Catholics while also evangelizing to those with a different or no faith at all.

“The feedback we get certainly tells us we are reaching people we hoped to,” said Betty Girven, President of the Holy Family Radio Board. “The very first letter we received came from a prisoner inside the Camp Hill state correctional facility who told them that the station was listened to by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.”

Ms. Girven, a retired elementary school teacher, added that the letters from other listeners have also told of the powerful effect that the station has had on them. A listener from the Dillsburg area discovered the station while confined to bed to recover from an illness. “She told us about the change the station brought about in her when she began listening to 720 AM instead of other stations. She told us that she was far more peaceful and less angry,” Ms. Girven said. “I guess that’s what happens when you let God in. We’re just happy to be helping him.”

Another constant for the non-profit operation is the need for funds. Currently, two major items are of critical importance to the ministry. The station’s regular broadcast tower sat upon, so a temporary, less powerful transmission system was put in place. The cost of the tower will not be inexpensive, but those involved are working hard and hope that others will continue to support them.

Much has changed in those 14 years, while much remains the same. One of the constants is the burning desire of those involved to bring the Catholic message via the power of radio to reach the people they hoped to. “It is time to replace the temporary with a powerful permanent tower,” stated LeonAFrances Woskow- iak, a board member who has been there from the beginning since 1999. “We have arrangements in place, we just need the funds. God has brought us this far, we trust that he will carry us forward.”

The cost of the tower will not be inexpensive, but those involved are working hard and hope that those who have blessed them will continue to support the station.

While their trust in God has brought them the dream of a Catholic radio station, they know that the help of others is what will make it a lasting reality. According to Ms. Girven, “We need others to share and join in the dream.”

To honor their fourth anniversary, they are asking for donations of $4 or perhaps $40. Those interested in supporting the mission of Holy Family Radio with their time or their treasure can visit their website at www.720wyff.com or call them at 717-525-8110. Those with experience in development are especially welcome.
1. A divorced person is automatically excommunicated from the Catholic Church. The truth is that divorce itself does not affect or alter a person’s status in the Catholic Church. Divorce is a function of the civil law or the state, and is determined by state or civil authorities. It has no effect on one’s status in the Church. It is a myth that a divorced person is “excommunicated,” that is, not able to receive the sacraments of Jesus within the Church. A person who is divorced but not remarried may receive the sacraments. It is a misconception that a Catholic Church Tribunal has the authority to excommunicate a person who has been divorced. A person divorced by a civil court is not excommunicated. The truth is that a divorced person is “excommunicated,” that is, not able to receive the sacraments of Jesus within the Church. A person who is divorced but not remarried may receive the sacraments. It is a misconception that a Catholic Church Tribunal has the authority to excommunicate a person who has been divorced. A person divorced by a civil court is not excommunicated. The truth is that divorce itself does not affect or alter a person’s status in the Catholic Church. Divorce is a function of the civil law or the state, and is determined by state or civil authorities. It has no effect on one’s status in the Church. It is a myth that a divorced person is “excommunicated,” that is, not able to receive the sacraments of Jesus within the Church. A person who is divorced but not remarried may receive the sacraments. It is a misconception that a Catholic Church Tribunal has the authority to excommunicate a person who has been divorced. A person divorced by a civil court is not excommunicated.

2. An annulment (or declaration of invalidity) costs thousands of dollars. The truth is that no Catholic Tribunal anywhere in the world asks for “thousands of dollars.” Most Tribunals do request payment of some fee for the services of the Tribunal staff. The amount requested varies from one Tribunal to another. Usually the requested fee is only about one-half of the actual cost to the Tribunal for judging a case. It is a myth that the process costs thousands of dollars, and in fact no one is ever turned away from a Tribunal because of their inability to pay a requested fee.

3. Only Catholic marriages need to be submitted to a Tribunal. The truth is that every marriage is considered a promise for life, a promise until death. It makes no difference whether that promise was made in a Catholic ceremony or not. It makes no difference whether the spouses were Catholic or not. One can’t grant an annulment or declare a marriage invalid if they were not married previously. Every prior marriage must be examined by the Church, and every prior marriage must be recognized as invalid according to canon law before a person is free to enter a new marriage. It is a myth that only Catholic marriages need to be submitted to a Tribunal.

4. If an annulment is granted, the children will be illegitimate. The truth is that an openness to children is a natural and essential part of marriage, but whether any children were actually born during the marriage has no bearing on the validity of an annulment or declaration of invalidity. If any children were born, it is very important that both parents are faithful to their natural and legal obligations to their children. It is a myth that an annulment can’t be granted if children were born in the marriage.

5. It takes three to five years for a Tribunal to decide on an annulment. The truth is that every annulment case is different. Some processes are longer than others. Some Tribunals have more of a backlog than others. In fact, very few cases today take the full five years. Many Tribunals have been able to cut down the time it takes from the first paperwork to the Tribunal’s decision. Some types of cases can be decided very quickly. If a Tribunal’s decision is appealable to a higher Tribunal, it is possible that the case may take many more months for a final decision by the appellate Tribunal. In almost every case, however, it is a myth that the typical Tribunal case takes years or longer to decide.

6. Anyone who applies (and waits long enough) will get an annulment. The truth is that Tribunals do give negative decisions. The burden of proving the grounds in a case rests on the person who asks for an annulment, the spouse seeking the annulment or declaration of invalidity. The Catholic Church presumes that every marriage is a valid union, and there must be sufficient basis in fact and in law to recognize that the marriage was invalid. The Tribunal will help the petitioner to understand what is needed to develop a case, but if there isn’t proof that the marriage was invalid, the Tribunal will uphold the validity of the previous marriage, and give a negative decision. Sometimes, when there isn’t sufficient proof, a petitioner will allow a case to stop before a decision is reached. It is a myth that everyone who applies gets an annulment.

7. If children were born in the marriage, an annulment can’t be granted. The truth is that it is possible to have children in a Catholic marriage without the marriage being a valid marriage. If the Church recognizes the marriage as invalid then the curse of infertility can be lifted, and a Catholic couple can start a new family. The truth is that an openness to children is a natural and essential part of marriage, but whether any children were actually born during the marriage has no bearing on the validity of an annulment or declaration of invalidity. If any children were born, it is very important that both parents are faithful to their natural and legal obligations to their children. It is a myth that an annulment can’t be granted if children were born in the marriage.

8. The ex-spouse must agree to an annulment or it can’t be granted. The truth is that both spouses have equal rights in a Tribunal case concerning their marriage, but that doesn’t mean that both spouses must agree. It doesn’t mean that the person who starts the Tribunal case must agree to an annulment or declaration of invalidity. The truth is that the Tribunal will normally contact the respondent, but even if that ex-spouse is adamantly opposed to the idea of an annulment or declaration of invalidity, the case will still go forward. What is important is that the ex-spouse is provided an opportunity to participate, but the ex-spouse doesn’t have the power to stop the case once it’s started. It is a myth that both spouses to the marriage have to agree to an annulment.

9. An annulment is just “Catholic divorce.” The truth is that a divorce granted by a state or civil court is very different from an annulment granted by a Catholic Tribunal or court. A divorce is concerned only with the legal realities of the marriage. An annulment is concerned with religious and spiritual realities as well as matters of Church law. A divorce focuses on the end of the marriage; an annulment looks at the very beginning, the moment the couple said, “I do.” A divorce looks at marriage in state law; an annulment looks at marriage from the perspective of the Gospel and the Catholic teaching. It is a myth that an annulment is just “divorce, Catholic style.”

10. An annulment means that the marriage never took place. The truth is that a Tribunal can’t erase history, and doesn’t want to. An annulment, or declaration of invalidity, by a Catholic Tribunal results in the legal recognition that the marriage did occur, but that the marriage – though real – was not valid in the way Jesus and the Church see marriage, or was not a sacrament of Jesus. To recognize that a marriage was invalid from a Christian perspective is very different from pretending that the marriage never took place. It is a myth that a Catholic annulment means that the marriage never happened.

11. The Tribunal is like a courtroom, with judges, witnesses, lawyers and cross-examinations. The truth is that a Tribunal is a court of law, but it is very different from a civil or secular courtroom. There is never a crowded, emotional atmosphere from the television or the movies. Depending on the type of case, the spouses may have advocates or legal representatives, and there will be one to three people present at any session of the Tribunal. There is never a shouted view and in writing. If a spouse or witness appears in person to give testimony, it is usually done in a private office or a conference room, not in the “crowded, emotional courtroom scene as in television or in the movies.”

12. The idea of an annulment is pure legalism in the Catholic Church. The truth is that the decision of an annulment or declaration of invalidity is “packaged” in a legal framework, since that is the best way to protect the rights and interests of everyone involved, but it is a misunderstanding of the legal process to go through the Tribunal process often find peace and insight into themselves and their failed marriages, no matter what the final decision of the Tribunal is. It is a myth that the only concern of the Church in an annulment is legalism. Instead, through the Tribunal, Jesus and the Catholic Church invite you to find healing, forgiveness and joy, and toward a deeper awareness of God’s grace in your life.

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 RCAJ process and those who have a vested interested because of family or friends.

- September 9, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- September 24, St. Joseph Parish, Hanover, 7 p.m.
- October 22, St. Philip Parish, Millersville, 7 p.m.
- November 11, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

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.

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Pope

Continued from 1

Prayer, listening to the word of God, attending Mass, educating their children in the faith, serving the poor and working for justice and peace should be part of their lives, he said.

Quoting his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis told those gathered for the audience, "The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open ... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the church; everyone can be part of the community."
Through Retrouvaille Program, Diocesan Couple Gives 25 Years to Assisting Struggling Marriages

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In their 25 years of involvement with a ministry to help couples who are struggling in their marriage, Mike and Bernie Rydock say they have seen the vast burdens that spouses bear as they go about their lives.

“They’re dealing with the death of a child, infidelity, job loss, addictions — immense struggles that will wear them down,” Mr. Rydock said.

This is where the Retrouvaille program can help, the Rydocks insist.

A French word meaning “rediscovery,” Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vay) is a program that offers married couples the tools and techniques they need to help heal and renew their relationship.

It’s for couples who are considering separation or divorce, and those who already have.

Couples who feel alone in their marriage, who are frustrated or angry with their spouse, or who don’t talk at all can find the help they need through Retrouvaille.

Mike and Bernie Rydock know first-hand the healing and restoration that can result from couples participating in the program. The husband and wife — members of St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown — have served as a trained team couple in the program since it was first introduced in the Diocese of Harrisburg in 1990.

In those 25 years as a team couple, the Rydocks have helped more than 60 Retrouvaille couples, and at several hundred follow-up sessions to help married couples put their relationships back on the right track.

The Retrouvaille program begins with a weekend experience — Friday evening through Sunday afternoon — at a local conference center or hotel where couples stay for the duration. Teams of trained couples and a priest offer a series of presentations while equipping participants with various communication techniques. Following each presentation, spouses have time to individually reflect on questions before coming together as a couple to privately share their thoughts.

Retrouvaille is not a retreat, nor is it counseling or therapy. The entire weekend is confidential. There is no group interaction or group sharing; rather, the interaction is solely between husband and wife.

Though rooted in the Catholic Church, Retrouvaille is not solely for Catholic couples. It is open to any couples seeking healing in their marriage, including non-Catholics and those who do not claim a religious affiliation.

Disappointment, anger and deterioration cannot be healed in one weekend. As such, a series of six, four-hour sessions takes place after the weekend program.

Still, we have seen signs of the Holy Spirit working in couples during the weekend programs,” she pointed out. “Looking from afar, we see one spouse take the other’s hand, or offer a smile, and those are signs of hope.”

The Rydocks caution that not every marriage can be healed through Retrouvaille, but they point out that some 75 percent of couples who go through the process stay together.

It’s an international program that began in Quebec, Canada, in 1977, born from the Marriage Encounter program as a French-language ministry for couples. It was then adapted into English, and eventually spread into North America, South America and to various countries around the world.

“Don’t think that I have ever seen a program that is so effective in helping married couples work on their relationship through their personal struggles,” Mr. Rydock said. “Bernie and I continue to volunteer with Retrouvaille after all these years because we feel it’s an important ministry in the ways of bolstering marriage.”

By all accounts, Retrouvaille coordinators in the Diocese of Harrisburg estimate that some 700 couples have gone through the program since its introduction here 25 years ago.

“We can see the success of it just in our own marriage,” Mrs. Rydock noted. “Don’t get me wrong — Mike and I still argue, sometimes even in the car on the way to a Retrouvaille program. We’ve learned that when we’re not at our best, I’m cranky and Mike is sarcastic. But because of what we’ve learned ourselves through Retrouvaille, we know how to handle each other’s moods.”

“Social science tells us that 50 percent of marriages in the United States fail, but you can’t tell who those people are just by walking down the street and looking at them,” Mr. Rydock remarked. “People are struggling, they’re dealing with huge burdens, and they’re in a lot of pain, but you don’t always see it.”

“Sometimes that hurt comes from betrayal or addiction, other times the obstacle might be a matter of miscommunication. Maybe they have misunderstandings that have piled up, or they don’t know how to really listen to what the other is saying,” he pointed out. “For all of the burdens, Retrouvaille is available to give couples all the tools and support they can get to start the healing process.”

The next Retrouvaille Weekend will be held Sept. 18-20, at Hampton Inn, Mechanicsburg. See the box for additional information.

For information on Retrouvaille and upcoming weekend programs, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit the Web site at www.retrouvaille.org. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Retrouvaille is under the auspices of the Family Ministries Office.
Dominican Nuns Celebrate 90 Years of Monastic Presence in the Diocese of Harrisburg

By Jen Reed

“The Rosary is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God.” – St. Pius X

Hidden from the world behind the brick edifice and metal grilles of the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lancaster, the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary continue to offer their congregation’s silent and steadfast presence of prayer brought to the Diocese of Harrisburg when they first arrived 90 years ago.

In their contemplative life, the nuns devote their days to prayer, communion with God and solitude, all offered for the salvation of the world. They live a strictly cloistered life, set apart from the world in order to dedicate themselves to God.

Enclosure and silence behind the monastery walls promotes contemplation.

The Dominican Nuns are one of three contemplative communities in the diocese – the others being the Discalced Carmelites at the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg, and the Discalced Carmelites at Marta Hall in Danville.

This year, the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary are marking two historic anniversaries: the eighth century of their founding by St. Dominic, and the 90th anniversary of their monastic presence in the diocese.

The dual celebrations are bolstered by this year’s observance of the Year of Consecrated Life, called by Pope Francis last November to encourage the faithful 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 ministries.

“Sharing these anniversaries, we’re trying to fulfill Pope Francis’ call for us to ‘wake up the world with our witness,’” said Sister Mary Veronica, prioress.

“We want to reach out, especially to young people, to let them know about contemplative life,” she said. “The world needs a flood of prayers to balance what is happening in society today, and that is where contemplative life specifically comes in.”

To mark their anniversaries, Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant of a Mass at the monastery on Aug. 8. A number of priests concelebrated, including Father Ambrose J. Eckinger, OP, who was the homilist. In his homily, Father Eckinger reflected, “When I look over where the sisters are, I do see not so much a grille or a screen protecting them from the world, but rather I see a net there to wrap a wounded world in prayer. And it’s a net to get the greatest catch — that of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.”

The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary are an offshoot of the Dominican Nuns founded by St. Dominic in 1206. They were founded in 1880 by Father Damien Marie Saintourens, O.P., at Calais, France.

The Dominican Nuns devote their lives to prayer, especially the Rosary. A schedule of Mass, prayers, meditation and the Liturgy of the Hours and recitation of the Rosary fills their days. There are prescribed times for meals, light duties and recreation, with the sisters’ hearts and minds always turned to God.

The nuns live in the world, but are not of the world. They readily welcome prayer intentions submitted by mail, e-mail or phone, and their work involves making altar linens, Rosaries, selling religious articles, and working in the garden, among other activities. Volunteers assist with shopping, and the nuns can receive mail, visits and phone calls from family members on a monthly basis.

“Anything you give to the Lord, you get back 100-fold. You end up having much more than you could have ever imagined in life,” Sister Mary Veronica said of her call, as a teenager, to forego a family, career, social life and personal interests to enter a contemplative community. “We belong to God first, and we give everything to him.”

“So much more joy comes from giving. The more you give up, the more joy you have,” she said. “It’s a beautiful life that we live, and I have not regretted even one day of living it completely for the Lord.”

(Learn more about the history and life of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, and submit a prayer request at www.opnunslancaster.org. Prayer requests can also be made by phone at 717-569-2104, by e-mail at info@opnunslancaster.org, or by standard mail at 1834 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601.)

A statue of St. Dominic is seen in the chapel at the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lancaster as the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, separated from the congregation behind a metal grille, are gathered for Holy Mass.

A Rosary hangs from a statue of Mary at the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The apostolate of the Dominican Nuns there is to pray the Rosary as they offer prayers for various intentions.

Father Ambrose J. Eckinger, OP, receives Holy Communion from Bishop Ronald Gainer during a Mass celebrated Aug. 8 to mark the 90th anniversary of the presence of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary in the diocese.
The history of Catholicism in the town of Greencastle in southern Franklin County can be traced to 1946, when the first Mass was celebrated there in a community room at the Citizen’s National Bank building by Father Thomas Johnson.

Diocesan history records show that nine people were present for the Mass that day, their Catholic community established under the care of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg.

During the 20 years that followed that first Mass, the 12 founding families moved their place of worship – first to Zimmerman Funeral Home, and then to a dining room at the McLaughlin Hotel.

In 1960, at 50 families strong, the congregation purchased a house, the first floor of which was transformed into a chapel, while the second floor was used as a rental apartment. Through funds from the rental, and from countless bake sales and dinners, the families raised enough money to purchase in 1965 their current worship site, where Bishop George L. Leech dedicated St. Mark the Evangelist Church on Aug. 18 of that year.

What began with the celebration of Holy Mass above a bank in 1946 continued with joyful commemoration on Aug. 16 as Bishop Ronald Gainer joined with members of St. Mark’s and their pastor, Father Joseph Stahura, to rejoice in the 50th anniversary of the parish’s establishment.

Over the course of its history, St. Mark the Evangelist Parish has grown into a vibrant community with an active religious education program, and outreach efforts to assist the needy and the homebound.

In 1967, two years after the establishment of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gayman donated land for a worship site in Mercersburg, on the far southwestern edge of Franklin County, where, in 1968, Bishop Leech dedicated St. Luke the Evangelist Mission. Formerly under the care of Corpus Christi Parish, St. Luke’s was designated a mission of St. Mark’s by Bishop Nicholas Dattilo in 1995.

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish and its people have been served by the pastorates of Father Thomas Gralinski, Father Frederick Vaughn and Father Stahura, who concelebrated the anniversary Mass on Aug. 16.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer reflected on the day’s Gospel Reading (John 6:51-58), in which Jesus tells the crowds, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The bishop connected that passage to the parish’s celebration.

“There’s a European saying that goes, ‘Whose bread you eat is who’s tune you sing.’ I would like to cast that saying in a very positive way. You and I eat the Bread of Life, so we should sing the tune of the Lord of life. We need to live our lives as if we are truly in communion with our Lord,” he said.

“We are so privileged to be here today and to honor all those who have gone before us in 50 years of living the faith,” he said. “Let us be resolved to sing the Lord’s tune by the lives we live.”
Sports True Good Celebrated at Bishop McDevitt in Rosary Rally

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Not long ago, Pope Francis took the opportunity to speak to young tennis players in Italy about the importance of sports in life. The Holy Father enthusiastically stressed that “the Church is interested in sport because man is at his or her heart, the whole man, and he or she recognizes that sports activity affects the formation, relations and spirituality of a person…. Get involved with others and with God, giving the best of yourselves, spending your life for what really is worthwhile and lasts forever. Put your talents at the service of the encounter between persons, or friendships, of inclusion…. Search for the good, the true good without fear, with courage and enthusiasm.”

More than 400 diocesan athletes, along with their family members, joined Bishop Ronald Gainer at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg on Aug. 11 for a Rosary Rally. It was sponsored by SportsLeader.org – a virtue-based mentoring and motivation organization for coaches and athletes. “God wants you to hate losing,” Mr. Lou Judd of Sports Leader said in his introduction. “God made you to want to win, to win for eternity’s sake – the victory we are all striving for.”

Bishop Gainer addressed those gathered prior to a Eucharistic procession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Holy Rosary. “We give so much time and practice to preparing to compete in our sports, which is a good thing,” Bishop Gainer said. “We should also give our practice and time to Jesus Christ…. We give dedication to our sports, we need to also give due dedication to our faith.”

In addition, the bishop took the opportunity to instruct the athletes on the importance of prayer and the sacraments, and told the attendees that benediction is the chance to “stand in awe of God” and that the Rosary is a “school of prayer” that teaches the faithful the beautiful mysteries of Christ’s life and divinity.

For more information and excellent resources, please seek out the website, SportsLeader.org.
Day of Prayer and Care for Men and Women Caregivers
Saturday, September 12, from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Mechanicsburg
Are you a caregiver for family members or friends? Please join us for a day planned just for you, to support you in the important work you do caring for your loved ones. The schedule for the day includes check-in and breakfast at 9:30 a.m., music, a prayer service and hand blessings at 10:30 a.m., a catered lunch, and a choice of activities including haircuts, massage, a game room, crafts, and spiritual counseling from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Come for all or part of the day.
Information/registration can be found at www.dayofprayerandcare2015.com. You may also contact Carol Smith by email at cas35@psu.edu or by phone at 717-766-8127 for assistance.

Mary’s Assumption Shows Life’s Aim is to be with God, Pope Says
By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Mary’s assumption into heaven and, in fact, her entire life show believers the great things the Lord of the universe is capable of doing for them, Pope Francis said.

“The great things” the Almighty has done for her reflects deeply, speak of our journey through life and remind us of the destination that awaits us: the house of the Father,” Pope Francis said Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption. For the first time in some 60 years, the public recited the Assumption day Angelus prayer with a pope at the Vatican. Usually, the pope is at Castel Gandolfo for the feast day, unless the pope is traveling abroad. Pope Francis went to Castel Gandolfo for the feast Aug. 15, 2015, while he was still traveling in South Korea for the feast day last year and decided not to go at all this year.

Before leading the recitation of the Marian prayer at the Vatican, he spoke about Mary’s “Magnificat,” her hymn of praise for the great things the Lord has done. She is a believer – the great believer,” the pope said. “She knows and she says that history is weighted down by the violence of the powerful, the pride of the rich and the arrogance of the proud. Nevertheless, Mary believes and proclaims that God does not leave him humble and poor children alone, but rescues them with his mercy and his care, toppling the powerful from their thrones,” the pope said.

The assumption of Mary, body and soul, into heaven, he said, is a sign to all believers that “life is not a senseless wandering, but a pilgrimage that, although there are uncertainties and suffering, has a sure goal: the house of the Father, who awaits us with love.”

Vatican Museums’ App Gathers Funds and Art Fans
By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

By downloading an app for a smartphone or tablet, members of the public can chat with others about famous works of art in the Vatican Museums, share strategies for dealing with the crowds and choose a work to help restore.

“Patrons,” the new app from the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, launched in mid-August. Part social network and part crowdsourcing, the app lets museum fans communicate with each other and make donations online.

The app includes short feature stories about people who work in the museums or who are members of the Patrons; it provides tips for tourists; and it explains of some of the art and architecture at the Vatican, both well-known and often overlooked.

With a little tap on a bright red button, users also can choose to donate to a specific project. As the app launched, these were some of the things on the Vatican Museums’ wish list:

• Creating a new display for the vestments of Pope Clement VIII, who was pope from 1592 to 1605. The goal is to raise $191,250 for the project, which would allow restoration experts to protect the fabrics and the construction of a Mass “scene” with an altar and mannequins to give an idea of what the vestments would look like in their proper environment.


• Cleaning, re-sewing and structurally reinforcing five painted scrolls by Zhao Yong, a 14th-century Chinese artist. “These scrolls have suffering from insect damage as well as discoloration and stiffening of the glue from which they were constructed,” the app says. The museums estimate the project cost at $105,996.
Obituaries

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

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Laura Gallagher, Helen “Penny” Penny, Brandon Sadler, Joan Turo.

CONEWAGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Dwayne Long, Pauline “Polly” Toldt.

ENOLA – Our Lady of Lourdes: Leon Eckman.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Laboure: Ronald Leo, Rudy Pari, John Quinn, III; St. Margaret Mary: Mary E. Burns Miles, Roger Mengorghen, Joseph J. Shepos, Theresa Weiger.


LITTLESTOWN – St. Aloysius: Gerald Ford.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Daniel Houseal.

MOUNT CARMEl – Our Lady: Robert Brezinski, Ronald Ivey, Ravenova Novack.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Florence Albritt.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Wilbur Matthew Swann.

ROARING CREEK – Our Lady of Mercy: John Duncho, Rita Norwich.

ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Thomas Fleming.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Dr. Francis Anonia, William Frederick, Mary Haggetti, Judith Latsha, Margaret Malasheshes, Daniel Schwarz.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Joseph S. Drags.

WAYSNEBORO – St. Andrew: William Walberg.


REMEMBER our Deceased Clergy

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

- Father Thomas Simpson, 1990
- Deacon Morris MacAdam, 1996
- Msgr. Thomas McGough, 1997
- Msgr. Leo A. Bierschmidt, 2002
- Father Francis Lahout, 2003
- Father Hugh J. McLaughlin, 2005
- Father Charles Slough, 2009
- Father Joseph Kochick, 2010
- Msgr. George W. Rost, 2012
- Deacon Frank Eckman, 2012
- Msgr. Thomas Smith, 2014

Gate of Heaven Cemetery

Introducing a New Above Ground Niche Building.

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For more information on prearrangement discounts contact Joe Bralansky, Manager 1510 South Street Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 697-0000 jbralansky@bgldiocese.org

Charismatic Day of Renewal

“The Eucharistic Heart of Jesus”

September 19 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Kathleen McCarthy, a published author, Catholic radio broadcaster, and a Catholic lay evangelist for almost 40 years, will be the presenter. McCarthy has traveled across the country and internationally as a conference speaker and facilitates workshops, days of renewal and parish retreats. She has experienced the death of a husband, loss of a house through fire, personal and family illness and loss. Through it all, her uncompromising love of God and faith in His love for her has been her source of strength. She is a gifted speaker who shares with enthusiasm and motivates many hearts to experience the living God.

The Day of Renewal will have special times of praise and worship by “Break Through” Music Ministry. Word Gifts will be shared by Charismatic leaders from throughout the diocese. A newcomer’s session, prayer team ministry and unbound ministry are also planned. Lunch is included as part of the registration fee with pre-registration; please select ham, turkey or tuna.

The tree’s symbolism is bittersweet, Davies said. “The residents here, this is their home. These are their friends and to an extent, it’s their extended family. Sometimes the staff and residents there are the only people still in their lives.

Staff knew that this particular resident had lost close friends, and they wanted to honor his request, but they realized buying a memorial tree would be expensive. They couldn’t find a local artist interested in creating one.

So South Mountain’s Volunteer Resource Coordinator, Pamela Davies, asked her father, Ron Krum, to make one.

“I’m the artistic one. He’s more mathematical. He’s an engineer by trade,” said Davies, who has been at the center for three years. “We’re good as a team. He likes to plan everything out. I throw everything together.”

For eight months, Krum donated his free time, and his employer, Sunset Metals of Chambersburg, donated materials and the use of its equipment. Krum created a stunning brass, stainless steel, and aluminum tree that stands more than 7 feet high and 7 ¾ feet wide and weighs nearly 80 pounds. Its 240 leaves will be engraved with the names of former residents, both on the front and back.

The tree was dedicated on June 2 at a ceremony led by the center’s Protestant and Catholic chaplains – Chaplain Alan Wilson and Father Joseph Carolin, respectively – in the Interdenominational Peace Chapel. They are pictured in the photo.

“He did a great job,” Davies said of her father’s work after the ceremony. Krum used three metals to create contrast, then painted the trunk to add color and make it look more realistic.

“I’m very proud of him and proud of the recognition he’s getting. I’m pretty emotional about it,” Davies said. “I weasel a lot of volunteerism out of my family. So my dad, his wife, my sister and her kids come out and do their volunteering. When I ask, they are here for me.”

Krum was part of a team of many people, from residents to Davies to Sunset Metalworks to other staff and residents, Krum said.

“THERE were so many hands in it. It was a good team effort and the product of a lot of coordination,” he said. “It was a blessing. I’m happy to be part of it to help.”

The center’s CEO, Connie Swan, said, “I cannot express enough gratitude and appreciation to Pam and her father, Ron Krum. We are blessed to have people like Pam, Ron and Sunset Metalworks come into our facility and share their most precious time and talents.”

The staff honors every resident with a memorial service at the end of their life, now they can also memorialize them by engraving their names on the tree, said Swan, who is also a Nursing Home Administrator.

The names of residents who died as far back as 2012 have been engraved so far, Krum said.

The tree’s symbolism is bittersweet, Davies said. “The residents here, this is their home. These are their friends and to an extent, it’s their extended family. When somebody passes, it’s not just somebody they had a room next to, it’s somebody they’ve gotten close to.”

(Diana Fishlock is Deputy Press Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.)
Recitation of the Rosary for America and the world takes place on the square in New Oxford every second Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the St. Philip Neri Church, Myerstown, by Father Robert Berger. All are welcome!

A pro-life Mass will be celebrated September 5 at 5 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1275 South 19th Street, Hazleton. Names of women who have been aborted in the previous year will be read. All are welcome to attend and pray the Rosary.

Teen Holy Hour at Good Shepherd Church on September 8 from 6-7 p.m. Please come and experience the peace and love of the Jesus of the Eucharist. Check Good Shepherd Parish on Facebook for more readings as well as prayer and worship. Please email Mra Trujillo at gsgoodshepherd@hotmail.com for directions.

Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill invites all families who have experienced the loss of a child and the opportunity to pass through the Holy Hour. The first Holy Hour of Remembrance on Tuesday, September 15, at 7 p.m. at the church. Please take this opportunity to remember your child, and to name them if you have not. Those who have not been given a name will be listed with your last name, such as “Baby Jones.” The names will also be read on the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. by a designated volunteer. All are welcome to attend the Holy Hour.

A Marian Prayer Service is held at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church, 511 Yoder Street, Hanover Township, Saturday, August 22, at 11:00 a.m. Please bring your rosary and some reading materials. All are welcome to attend the Holy Hour.

Charismatic Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated Thursday September 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Joy Church, 820 South Red Rose Avenue, York. Father Anthony Swamy, MSFS, PhD, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg, will be the celebrant. The Mass is sponsored by Magnificat and Come and See prayer groups in York. For more information, call Joyce at 717-908-7245.

Msgr. George Grima will celebrate a Healing Mass on Sunday, September 6, at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Angels Church, 310 Herdert Road, Mechanicsburg. The Mass will include healing oil and prayers for healing. Msgr. Grima will also be available in the Parish Center after Mass to greet all those interested in speaking with him. Msgr. Grima is the Founder of Missionary Movement “Jesus in Thy Neighbour” (www.jesusinthyneighbor.com). For more information, email your child’s name to andregicg@gmail.com. All are welcome to attend the Holy Hour.

Sacred Heart School in Con暇 is excited to announce its annual five-hour “Wine in the Woods” festival on Saturday, November 5th. This is a celebration of the quaint atmosphere of the Baslica Potato Clouds, 3131 Centennial Rd., Hanover, PA, will feature 6 winners, Du ’Brezeneff’, raffles and other activities. All proceeds benefit Sacred Heart School. Tickets price is $15 in advance, $15 on the day of the event. This event is open to the public. The ticket entitles the bearer to a souvenir wine glass and wine tastings.

A “Grand Ultreya,” a retreat for men, will be held Saturday, November 7, 2015. More info on the event is available. No pets, weapons or outdoor food/drink may be brought onto the grounds. For more information, you may contact the Sacred Heart School office at 717-271-0670. Tickets are $30 for adults, $25.80 a.m.-p.m. or e-mail chairperson Mike Hard, hardkne115@verizon.net.

The Holy Name of Jesus K of #14081 will be sponsoring an all you can eat pancake breakfast every Sunday in November. The breakfast will be held in the social hall. Breakfast will also include your choice of sausage and a reflation. It will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., all proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to support other projects sponsored by the K of C throughout the year. Tickets for the event can be purchased for the door at $8.00.

Attn: Annual Congress 2015: "Can We Start It Again?" Congress is planning a Eucharistic Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1005 Airport Rd., Hanover, PA, will feature 6 wineries, DJ “Breezeman”, raffles and other activities. The ticket entitles the bearer to a souvenir wine glass and wine tastings.

If you are interested in this position, please contact the St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish Office, 717-319-1668 or Pilgrimageone@gmail.com. This is a full time position. Please visit our website to see requirements and a job description: http://www.bishopmcd.com/employment.

You are invited to join Father Steven Fauser on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 2-12, 2015. The Pilgrimage is sponsored by the St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Hanover. For more information, call 717-632-8715.

All wine tasting patrons must be 21 and present a valid ID the day of the event. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Tickets are available at the Sacred Heart School office at 717-632-8715 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

for remembrance by mailing to Good Shepherd Church, 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011, and marking the envelope “Mass of Remembrance.” You may also call Geri Andregic at 717-761-4789 or email her at andregicg@gmail.com. All are welcome to attend the Holy Hour.

Are you a runner? A walker? Do you enjoy getting together with family and friends to support a great cause? Then consider participating in the 6th Annual “Sisters 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph at Mary by the Sea Retreat House in Cape May Point, New Jersey on Saturday, October 3rd, 2015. Awards for top male and female finishers in various age categories. Proceeds benefit Sisters of Saint Joseph’s retreat program. Contact 609-396-6660 or www.paranjicutt.com. For more information, please contact Karen Hurley at 717-271-0687 or kmhurley@stannesrc.org. That Man is You! – Year 2 – “Spirit of Nazareth”:

The program is open to all men. This year focuses on helping men develop as authentic disciples of Christ, providing the tools needed to help them discern God’s will in their lives. The program runs every Saturday through early December and is free to all participants. Meals include breakfast with light fare followed by a 30 minute video presentation and 30 minutes for small group discussions. For more information please go to: www.paradisusdei.org, in person at any of the sessions or by contacting Joe Haas, jhaas@catholic.org.

Bus trip to the Poconos: The Office of Advancement at Lebanon Catholic School is pleased to announce a chartered bus trip to experience the widely entertaining variety show of New Odesy on Tuesday, September 29th. For a small fee of $45, you will be transported to top entertainment facility in Jim Thorpe, PA. This is a show you won't want to miss! Call 717-746-7200 to reserve your ticket today.

You can review the full itinerary, get general information and There you can review the full itinerary, get general information and up by signing up on the dates.

The Harrisburg Cursillo movement will be holding a “Grand Ultreya,” a retreat for men, on Saturday, September 12, at 9 a.m. in the Cardiel Keeler Center, 4800 Union Depot Road, in Harrisburg. Those who are interested in healing, forgiveness and making in a Cursillo in the future, are cordially invited. The event will feature Blanchard’s Caterers, 532 Granada Drive; balloons; dance and lunch. Cost is $15. To register, please contact Bobbie Davis at edwards371@comcast.net or 717-678-8106. Registration fee can be mailed to 1066-7172, P.O. Box 1288, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

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**Adult Faith Formation Offerings Available this Fall**

The 2015 Fall Session of the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation affords adult Catholics the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of 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 review recordings at your own convenience. Webinar offerings are clearly marked in the listing below.

To view the complete fall session schedule, which includes course descriptions and fees, 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.

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### BASIC CATECHEtical CERTIFICATION COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview of Catholic Doctrine: The Creed</th>
<th>Mondays, September 21, 28, October 5, 12, and 19</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Bonneauville</td>
<td>Rev. Peter DiTomaso, M.S.S.C.C</td>
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<tr>
<th>Overview of Catholic Doctrine: The Creed</th>
<th>Mondays, October 5, 12, 19 and 26</th>
<th>6:30-9 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Columbia Parish, Bloomsburg</td>
<td>Mr. Joe Mullen</td>
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<th>Overview of Catholic Doctrine: The Creed</th>
<th>Wednesdays, October 28, November 4, 11, and 18</th>
<th>6:30-9 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg</td>
<td>ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR</td>
<td>Mr. James Gontis</td>
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<tr>
<th>Introduction to Scripture</th>
<th>Tuesdays, September 22, 29, October 6, 13, and 20</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg</td>
<td>Rev. Daniel Richards</td>
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<tr>
<th>Introduction to Scripture</th>
<th>Tuesdays, September 29, October 6, 13, and 20</th>
<th>6:30-9:00 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Aloysius Parish, Littlestown</td>
<td>Mr. Rob Williams</td>
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### ADVANCED CATECHETICAL CERTIFICATION COURSES

### Theology of the Body: An Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursdays, September 17 and 24</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Parish, York</td>
<td>Mrs. Ann Marie Kalloz</td>
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<tr>
<th>Teaching Methodology – Part 1</th>
<th>Thursdays, September 17 and 24</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Parish, York</td>
<td>Mrs. Bernadette Snook</td>
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<tr>
<th>Teaching Methodology – Part 1</th>
<th>Wednesday, September 23 and Thursday, September 24</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Colleen Smalley</td>
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<tr>
<th>Teaching Methodology – Part 2</th>
<th>Tuesday and Thursday, October 6 and 8</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
<th>$20.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. James Parish, Lititz</td>
<td>Mrs. Rose Barnas</td>
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<tr>
<th>Introduction to the Church</th>
<th>Mondays, October 12, 19, November 2 and 9</th>
<th>6:30-8:30 p.m.</th>
<th>$20.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg</td>
<td>ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR</td>
<td>Rev. Paul Fisher</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Advanced Morality | | | |

| Christology | | | |

| Advanced Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew | | | |

| Advanced Scripture: The Gospel of Mark | | | |

| Advanced Scripture: The Spirituality of Saint Paul | | | |

| Courses of Specialization | | | |

| Adolescent Development and Youth/Young Adult Culture | | | |

| Evangelium Vitae: The Gospel of Life at Age 20 | Thursday, November 5 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. | $10.00 |

| The Face of Mercy: Focus on the Mercy of God as We Prepare for the Year of Mercy | Mondays, November 16 and 23 | 7-9 p.m. | |

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### ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rob Williams</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;upgraded&quot; for academic credit through Christ the Teacher College and applied towards certification or Masters degree.</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg</td>
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Announcing a New Partnership for Adult Faith Formation and Catechist Certification

We are pleased to partner with the Catholic Education Center, LLC, to make excellent online adult faith formation and catechist certification courses available at an affordable cost for those in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Thanks to this partnership, you can take advantage of course bundle pricing to register for the required courses for basic catechetical certification in our diocese at a significantly discounted price.

The Catholic Education Center's online offerings are designed to be flexible and user-friendly (e.g. rolling enrollment and self-paced courses), and course resources can be printed for use in classrooms. All courses have assessments with immediate feedback, and most courses can be "upgraded" for academic credit through Christ the Teacher College and applied towards certification or Masters degrees.

In addition to the bundled courses, many additional courses are available, and those who complete them can receive credit for catechetical certification in our diocese. Catholic school teachers, parish catechists, those involved in the many ministries of the Church, and anyone else interested in learning more about the Catholic faith will find a wealth of opportunities for online study and growth in the faith at http://hbgdiocese.org/hisp/.

We encourage you to discover all that is available to you at the Catholic Education Center!
Faith Thrives at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

At Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, nestled among the farmlands of western Lancaster County, the Catholic faith is burgeoning through a variety of parishioner-supported activities and ministries that magnetize its members into parish life.

The Mount Joy parish is a young one – formed in 1995 from the merger of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Marietta and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Mount Joy.

The faith is thriving there among parishioners young and old.

“There are so many things that make Mary, Mother of the Church so special. Their devotion to Christ in the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments is inspiring. Their service to others is always eager and happens without hesitation,” Father Pang Tcheou, pastor, said of parishioners.

Parish outreach includes a Guardian Angel program that assists parishioners struggling with various needs, as well as weekly donations of items to a local food bank.

A thriving youth ministry program includes summer-time Vacation Bible School and Catholic Kids Camp for children, and a Bible study program for high school students. Parish youth have also worked with Father Tcheou on filming three episodes of a television show, “Cause of Our Joy,” which highlights the life of the parish and teaching moments intertwined with humor. They look forward to the show’s second season this fall.

In the areas of catechesis, the parish’s Director of Religious Education, Bob Jakielski, teaches a popular Scripture series, “Genesis to Jesus;” parishioner Veronica Nolt has created and coordinated “Grace,” an educational program for children; and Father Tcheou will teach a weekly Catechism series this fall, on the heels of a series on spirituality that he offered during Lent.

“This upcoming year, we will be exploring ways to reach out to Catholics who have lapsed in the practice of their faith, or who may have experienced struggles in their relationships with the Church,” Father Tcheou said.

As someone who enjoys cooking, he also plans to start a new parish initiative through which he will invite parishioners to join him for dinner, in order to better know the people of the parish.

Having recently finished his first year as pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, Father Tcheou remarked that “it has been an outstanding year!”

“The people of our parish are so loving, caring, generous and quick to help anyone in need,” he said. “They have welcomed me with open arms and have truly made me feel like I am a cherished member of their parish family.”
Camp Kirchenwald sits in the woods not far from Mount Gretna, and for ten weeks of the summer it hosts campers from all over who are looking for a site with faith and outdoor activities. This year, Aug. 9-14, marked the 27th year that the Diocese of Harrisburg hosted a camp for people with disabilities.

This is camp in its purest form. Cabins for the ladies, and “Daks” (Adirondacks) for the men. There is a fishing pond, and canoes. Trails for hiking and a pool for swimming. All meals are held under a pavilion, but still outside. There is an arts and crafts room, and a room for indoor activities such as puzzles, or movies when the weather is bad. Some special activities are planned, including a carnival with games and a dunk tank.

The smells of bug spray and suntan lotion float through the air, and campers and counselors alike are “roughing it.” But all this isn’t what makes camp so popular amongst people with disabilities or for those who give freely their time as counselors. Year after year, the same faces are seen here because of the relationships built.

Campers know their counselors and some even stay in contact throughout the year with e-mails or letters. From the moment campers arrive on registration day until they leave a week later, the focus is about them and how to create the best experience possible. For many campers, this is their vacation, possibly their only vacation until next year. And for others, this might be respite time for their families. One camper’s parents even asked their son if he was sure he didn’t want to go to the beach with them. He excitedly and firmly told them he was going to camp instead.

It’s not just the campers who look forward to this experience; many of the counselors arrange their summer schedules specifically to be at this camp for people with disabilities. Nurse practitioner Maribeth Bucher, who served as one of the camp’s nurses, specifically thanked her employer, Lancaster General Hospital, for allowing her the time needed to volunteer. “They allowed me a week off of work and extended my malpractice for the week so I, representing the hospital, could do community service for residents of Lancaster County,” she said. A current seminarian, who has been serving the camp as a counselor since he was in high school, commented that he really hoped when he is ordained a priest that he is still able to take the time to assist at Camp Kirchenwald.

One camper, Calvin, whose story The Catholic Witness shared last year, still meets with his friend Colleen whom he met at camp two years ago. They continue to meet for ice cream and reading lessons. Campers even ask for e-mail address of volunteers who can’t attend the talent show, so they can still share their final craft project.

The friendships and love at camp is intoxicating. And this is why campers come back every year. It is the Holy Spirit at work through the volunteers who give of themselves for an entire week, with smiles and love. It is the Holy Spirit at work through the campers, who find their talents and share them, who care for each other as best friends – though they only see each other once a year. It is the Holy Spirit at work in those who sometimes surprise you and do things that they didn’t even think they could, like a ride on a canoe, or in something as simple as a camper who rarely shows emotion giving a belly laugh at a silly carnival game.

These moments are camp.

Interested in Assisting?

The Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, can be contacted at kneri@hbgdiocese.org if you would like to donate to the diocesan camp for people with disabilities. Campers are never turned away because of financial need; scholarships are accepted to help defer the cost of camp.