God in All Subjects

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Among the nationwide emphases at the forefront of education in the past few years is the acronym STEM. The student-learning model focuses on the overlap of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in education, in an effort to prepare students for the 21st century workplace and a competitive global economy.

More recently, the acronym has morphed into STEAM, with the letter “A” introduced to encourage the integration of the arts to help drive innovation.

The Department of Commerce has indicated that in the past decade, STEM jobs grew three times the rate of non-STEM jobs, and the United States will need at least 1 to 2 million more STEM professionals to fill them.

In response, schools nationwide have delved into these learning models, including the Diocese of Harrisburg.

This academic year, the Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools is taking

More BACK TO SCHOOL, page 2

Pope Tells Asians to Witness to Christ in All Aspects of Life

By Simone Orendain
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis told young Asian Catholic leaders to witness to Christ in everything they do.

During his homily on the muddy grounds of Haemi Fortress, Pope Francis urged more than 40,000 people – including young Catholic leaders from 22 Asian countries – to “reflect God’s love.” He reminded them it was their “right and duty to take part in the life of [their] societies.”

“Young people are always choosing their social lives over other things, and this makes it complicated to “grow up in their faith also,” said Montira Hokjaroen, a youth coordinator in Thailand’s Udon Thani Diocese. She said it was especially hard for young Thai Catholics to practice their faith in a predominantly Buddhist country where less than half of 1 percent of the population is Catholic.

Hokjaroen, 34, was one of 20 participants who had lunch with Pope Francis Aug. 15. She told Catholic News Service it was good he nudged the youth leaders to evangelize, “because I think the people will learn [about] Jesus through us.”

Rain threatened the Aug. 17 closing Mass for Asian Youth Day, which, unlike the massive international World Youth Day events, focuses more on youth leaders.

Pope Francis emphasized the theme of this year’s gathering, “Asian Youth Wake Up, the Glory of the Martyrs Shines on You.”

More WITNESS, page 12

Faith, Prayer Sources of Strength for Slain U.S. Journalist, His Family

In April 2013, the parents of slain U.S. journalist James Foley attended a prayer vigil at Marquette University in Milwaukee to pray for their son, who at that time had disappeared in Syria.

Before Diane and John Foley had confirmation that spring their son was missing, Diane said she just felt it – he had missed one of his usual phone calls home – and once they knew for sure, the couple said they were relying on their Catholic faith to cope and leaning on prayer to bring him home.

“Faith has been part of family life, but this has deepened my faith because there is our hope. Our hope is that God will take care of Jim,” she told the Catholic Herald in Milwaukee at the time.

That strong faith will likely help the couple, who are members of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Rochester, N.H., get through the fact that their 40-year-old son was beheaded by militants with the Islamic State extremist group, known as ISIS.

According to an AP story, U.S. officials confirmed a graphic video released Aug. 19 that showed ISIS fighters beheading Foley, a 1996 graduate of Marquette who had been a freelance journalist for the past several years, mostly in the world’s trouble spots. In 2011, he was kidnapped on a Libyan battlefield and held captive in Tripoli for 45 days.

Sometime in late 2012, he went missing in Syria. The last time the Foley family heard from him was before Thanksgiving that year.

A statement about his death attributed to Diane Foley was posted on a Facebook page originally set up to urge James’ release. Family members “have never been prouder of him,” it said.

“It gave his life trying to expose the suffering of the Syr-
Teacher Induction Program Translates into Classroom Success

By Father Edward J. Quinlan
Special to The Witness

A recent article in the online edition of Forbes spoke about the high cost of teacher turnover. The article noted that nationally 46% of new teachers leave the profession within five years. Many of the teachers who leave cite various reasons for their dissatisfaction. The cost of attrition is estimated at $7.3 billion annually. This is due to costs for recruitment, training and other associated expenses with preparing new teachers.

There are many reasons why teachers leave, and so soon after the years of preparation that are required to enter it. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, during the 2011-2012 school year, 87 faculty members left schools. We have some 750 fulltime teachers in the 41 educational programs in the diocese. This chart provides the general reasons given for the employment changes that year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Education Position</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed school/reduction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other employment</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay Home with Child</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation of family</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you factor out things like retirement, closed schools and family decisions, only 24 give an indication of leaving the teaching profession, just 3% of our staff. This is a very good number, given the national stats. What can possibly account for that? I would give two general reasons. First, I believe that our teachers find an environment where they can enjoy their work. Our schools have a culture where genuine education can take place and the teachers are supported in their profession. Secondly, I would attribute a significant element of the success to the Teacher Induction program.

Starting in 1987, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted new requirements for teaching certification. To attain the Level 2 certification, a new teacher must successfully complete a Teacher Induction program. This is offered by the Department for Catholic Schools in our diocese and is fully accredited by the state.

This year, there are 31 new teachers in the program. Starting in early August the new teachers had three days of presentations at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. Here, they covered diocesan policy, school law, student assessments, classroom management, technology and curriculum. Each teacher completes the Information for Growth, a program from the National Catholic Education Association to help them assess their personal strengths in areas of faith. This lets them prepare for their role as teachers of religion in their school.

The Induction program continues with three additional diocesan meetings during the year, weekly discussions with a mentor teacher at their local school, monthly meetings with their principal, an on-site visit by diocesan staff, compilation of a portfolio that summarizes their teaching experience during the year and several formal observations. Complementing this work is a series of personal reflections on their educational philosophy, faith and the teaching challenges they encounter.

Having served in education for many years, I give high marks to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the addition of the Teacher Induction program, and to our Catholic Schools staff for helping new teachers make the transition into the classroom. I believe both have contributed to the success of so many of the new educators in our diocese. It is our goal for teachers to be able to say, “I love my job as a Catholic educator, and I do it very well.”

(Father Quinlan is Diocesan Secretary for Education, and pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.)

Back to School

Continued from 1

STEM and STEAM one step further, so that Catholic school classrooms echo a center, solve problems and build systems while expanding their skill set.

There are many reasons why Catholic schools to network and collaborate, as STEM and STEAM education models are based on interactive and cross-curricular content to help students understand the relationships between the subjects. The models teach students effective ways to communicate, solve problems and build systems while expanding their skill set.

An online search of classroom activity ideas reveals projects that use LEGO gears to teach torque, speed and power; snack bags and cookies to examine and refine assembly-line processes; and various sizes of shoebox guitars (or actual instruments) to measure sound frequency and acoustics. Add “R” for religion, and math and the Church’s response, science classes can examine environmental stewardship, and technology classes can create virtual Facebook pages for Jesus and the Apostles.

The National Catholic Educational Association is also committed to the STREAM initiative, encouraging Catholic schools to network and collaborate on ideas for the classroom. In an online article, “STREAM and the R Challenge,” Jim King, Executive Director for the NCEA’s Elementary Schools Department writes, “A critical foundation for designing STREAM is to have intentionality about religion — the Catholic component of the program. Just as there is science to the engineering component to STEM schools, there needs to be a purposeful approach to the faith component of our schools.”

“Then the challenge is to build a holistic classroom which binds all of the subjects and integrates them. The binding agent in all of this is course our faith which flows through all subjects. God is in all things, and so of course is in all subjects,” he writes at http://www.ncea.org/department-news/stream-and-r-challenge. Heather Gossart, the Director of STREAM for the NCEA, notes that the goals of the model include:

- To incorporate students’ identity into every aspect of the curriculum through student directed, project-based experiential instruction.
- To provide a challenging learning environment that is focused on the integration of religion into science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.
- To increase the content literacy of all students in every aspect of the curriculum, while maintaining a classical Catholic educational foundation.
- To promote a climate of innovation in all areas of instruction.
- To foster a climate that encourages problem solving, group collaboration, student-directed learning, and independent research.

The STREAM model is such a focus of the Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools that it will be the centerpiece of the annual Education Conference, set for Sept. 17 at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. The conference will feature dual keynote presentations by Immaculata University’s Sister Susan Cronin, IHM, Professor of Biology, and Mary Elizabeth “M.E.” Jones, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science.

It will also include 45 sessions related to STREAM, “in an effort to assist schools in practical implementation of the learning model into the classroom,” said Margaret Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary and Curriculum Development. Workshop topics will address ecol...
Pope Names Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Thomas as Bishop of Toledo, Ohio

Pope Francis has named Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Philadelphia, 55, as Bishop of Toledo, Ohio.

The appointment was published in Washington Aug. 26 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Thomas was born June 11, 1959 in Manayunk, Pa. He holds a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, and a licentiate of sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1985 and appointed auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia in 2006.


The Diocese of Toledo has been a vacant see since October 2013, when then-Bishop Leonard P. Blair was named auxiliary bishop of Hartford, Conn.

The Diocese of Toledo includes a total of 1,465,561 people of whom 319,907, or 22 percent, are Catholic.

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. The 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.

Schedule:
• September 17 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
• September 18 – St. Joseph Church, Hanover, 7 p.m.
• September 22 – St. Philip the Apostle, Millersville, 7 p.m.
• November 12 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

‘Talk Tech’ at the Parish Life Technology Conference

St. Joseph Parish in York will host its second Parish Life Technology Conference (PLTC) on Monday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. The conference is an opportunity for anyone interested in using a wide range of technologies for evangelization, catechesis, worship, socialization and church office tasks. It is a non-threatening day for the “tech-illiterate” and for experts looking for new ideas to use technology for their church.

Those who may find it specifically useful include pastors or priests, deacons, directors or coordinators of religious education, and volunteer ministers such as those serving on pastoral councils, finance councils, development committees, or other parish volunteers.

This year’s theme is “UNPLINKED”: focusing on reaching out to people using print, electronic, and telephon ic communications while assisting church workers in catching parishioners’ attention, conveying authentic care to the community, and providing ways to connect with other resources for evangelization and catechesis. Join us as we discover ways to help people know they are connected to something greater than themselves, that they have support, and that they belong to something supernatural. They matter. They are loved. Get them UNPLINKED.

The keynote speaker is Matt Warner, CEO of Flocknote.com, national speaker and blogger.

The day includes six speakers providing seven workshops throughout the day. The cost to attend is $40 per person and includes lunch. For more information, or to register (deadline: Oct. 6), visit www.ParishLifeTech.com or send an e-mail to ParishLifeTech@sjy.org.

In 2012, three of the Catholic Charities residential programs (Evergreen House, Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, and Lourdeshouse Maternity Home) moved from three separate facilities into one new location in Harrisburg — the St. Samuel Center.

Collectively, these three programs are known as “Our Homes for Healing.” Each of these services provides help and creates hope for different client groups. Evergreen House helps women recovering from addiction. The Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families is the only shelter in the tri-county region that keeps families together during a homeless crisis. Lourdeshouse offers various types of support for pregnant women and their babies.

If you need an example of the kind of work being performed by Catholic Charities, the St. Samuel Center is the perfect illustration. I have been there many times, and I am both proud and humbled every time I visit. I am proud of the staff who do everything they can to help individuals facing various issues, and I humbled by the people who are trying to face these challenges.

While the move to the St. Samuel Center has been beneficial for us, there is one challenge that still confronts our facility. The building is not accessible for individuals with physical challenges. It would be easy to say, “We’ve never had a client in a wheelchair before, so why is that a concern?” But that would be both selfish and naïve. It is imperative that we address the issue immediately and position ourselves to offer services to all individuals.

In order to do that, renovations are necessary to provide handicap accessible accommodations. These renovations include accessible bedrooms and bathrooms, and will help make the facility accessible for all people. Presentations on the weekends of Sept. 6 and 20 will be held to educate the community about the renovations and how they will benefit our ministry.

Hope for All

By Christopher Meehan
Special to The Witness

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. The 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.

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See more information about the “Hope for All” campaign or our upcoming events, visit our Web site at www.cchbg.org or contact me at cmeehan@cchbg.org or 717-657-4804.

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For additional information, contact Christopher Meehan at 771-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cchbg.org.
Suicide Prevention Resources

By Tom Tracy

**Suicide Prevention Resources**

The Aug. 11 death of actor-comedien and Chicago-native Robin Williams has reignited questions about suicide, which is now the 10th leading cause of death in America. Counselors say it is often accompanied by factors such as mental or other illnesses, substance abuse, the pain of social disconnect and other underlying problems.

Here is a list of some organizations and their websites with resources on suicide prevention and help for families experiencing the death loved one by suicide:

- **Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide, or LOSS, an entity of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago:** www.catholiccharities.net/GetHelp/DutiesServices/Counseling/Loss.aspx
- **National Catholic Partnership on Disability and its Council on Mental Illness:** www.ncpdl.org
- **American Association of Suicidology:** www.suicidology.org
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:** www.afsp.org
- **Suicide Awareness Voices of Education:** www.save.org
- **Jed Foundation:** www.jedfoundation.org
- **National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention:** http://actionalliancesuicideprevention.org

**Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist**

Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

**Sunday Series: Remembering**

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

The Catholic Witness

Many, many years ago, my family was visiting some of our relatives in Brooklyn, New York. During the time that we spent with my extended family, my father excused himself and took my brother and me down to the section of Manhattan in New York City called the Bowery. When I was a child, in this section of the city the homeless women “worked” on the street and those who struggled with addiction “lived.”

As my dad drove through the area, I was horrified to understand that the men I saw asleep under newspapers and plastic bags actually LIVED at that very spot. At one corner, my dad stopped the car, took a paper bag out of the trunk and approached a homeless man as my brother and I watched from the car. My dad gave this man the bag of goodies my mom had prepared. Then, he got back into the car and turned to the two of us. He began, “The two of you that know my dad disappeared coming home from work one day when I was just a baby. Ten years later, the police told my mother that your grandfather had died at this very corner. We never knew what happened to him and why he began to live here. As I drive through the area, look at the men here. These could be your uncles, your cousins, and your grandfather. You must never look down on them. You came from one of them. Your grandfather lived here! Remember where you come from!”

As my dad drove back to my grand-uncle’s house in Brooklyn, I was deeply struck by the lesson. This example that he showed me was part of the legacy that he gave me as his child.

The act of remembering is truly a powerful gift God has given us. We can, through this gift, reflect on experiences of grace we received throughout our lifetime. Part of remembering, though, is also recalling graced moments from history. In the Book of Exodus 20:6 we read, “Remember the Sabbath day in order to keep it holy.” The text goes on to explain the purpose of this remembering, recalling the work of God, “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy” (verse 11).

In *Dies Domini*, the Encyclical of St. John Paul II we read: “Before de- ceiving that something be done, the commandment urges that something be remembered. It is a call to awaken remembrance of the grand and funda- mental work of God which is creation, a remembrance which must inspire the entire religious life of man and then fill the day on which man is called to rest. Rest therefore acquires a sacred value: the faithful are called to rest not only as God rested, but to rest in the Lord, bringing the entire creation to him, in praise and thanksgiving, intimate as a child and friendly as a spouse.”[1]

So, by keeping the Sabbath holy, one remembers the fact that our ances- tors in faith were once slaves in Egypt, and that by the sheer power of God, brought them out from there with His mighty hand and outstretched arm: (Dt. 5:15) The remembrance of Sabbath is all about giving God praise and thanksgiving for the marvels He lavish us upon us!

I can hear you think, “Yeah, but I was not a slave in Egypt!” I retort, “True! But, you were a slave of sin.” The Christian Sabbath is all about celebrating through remembering the death and the resurrection of Christ. It is not merely about recalling that dreadful “Good” Friday and the glorious Easter Sunday. Our Sunday is about celebrating the living presence of the Risen Lord. We are all about hearing the Word of God and experiencing the sacrifice of the Lord during the Mass. It is about keeping in mind the purpose of “prayer, works of charity and abstinence of work” (DD 48) as we live out a lifetime of Sundays. It is about living the Mass when we leave the church building. We do this by living out the dic- tate: “Pray good news to the poor, to proclaim release to captives and new sight to the blind, to let the oppressed rise, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Lk 4:18-19). It is about living a decision, living a legacy that was given to us when we were baptized. It is a legacy of incredible peace, ultimate joy and happiness that never ever ends.

Remember who you are and where you come from!


(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of the IT Department. An educator for 28 years, she is responsible for Professional Develop- ment Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she chal- lenge her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
The 2014 Fall Session of the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation offers a wide range of distance education courses. Distance learning is an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. All courses and workshops are available online, as well as the Diocesan Institute Courses and Registration icon on the right-hand side of the website.

For information about the Diocesan Institute or obtaining catechetical certification, please contact Ryan Bolster at (717) 657-4804, ext. 225 or rbolster@shbgdiocese.org.

The four-week fall session of the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation offers a variety of distance learning courses for the past three years. Each year, distance learning opportunities have been increased in order to provide educational opportunities to a growing number of Catholic catechists. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Catholic Distance University, the University of Dayton are three among many dioceses throughout the country that offer distance learning to provide adult faith formation and catechetical certification for non-degree-seeking students. And in a wonderful collaborative effort for the good of the Church, these Catholic institutions frequently partner with Catholic dioceses to provide affordable distance adult and catechist formation.

Many dioceses throughout the country also utilize distance learning to form the faith loyal and equip them to help fulfill the Church’s mission to evangelize and catechize. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Catholic Distance University, the University of Notre Dame and the Augustine Institute offer both an online as well as a hybrid on-ground program of study. Francis-Paul II’s Writings, Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola and 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Paul II’s Writings, Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola Understanding can never replace the “incarnational” personal interaction between teachers and students that is integral to the traditional classroom education setting. Such sentiments reflect the fact that distance learning can never replace the dynamic of traditional education. Still, even if distance education forever remains nothing more than “the next best thing” to being physically present in the classroom, it is safe to say that the next best thing is actually pretty darn good.

How then can we assess the value of distance learning in the life of the Church? Perhaps the best approach views traditional education and distance education as complementary methods to achieving the same goal: the salvation of souls and the spread of the Catholic Church. Catholics can rightfully ask, with the mind of the Church, “How can this technology best serve mankind and the proclamation of the gospel?” How can distance learning help us fulfill our missionary mandate to make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19)?

Building up the Domestic Church: Catechesis on Marriage and Family Life Saturday, Oct. 15, 12-2 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg Mr. James Gontis The Pontificate of St. John Paul II: An Overview Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7-9 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg Mr. James Gontis A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Catechesis on the Saints Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7-9 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg Mr. James Gontis "Eternal Rest Grant unto Them, O Lord": Catechesis on the Four Last Things and Purgatory Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7-9 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg Mr. James Gontis
Arriving at Camp Kirchenwald, the first thing you notice are the campers walking around, hanging out, playing, making crafts, doing things that they love to do, with smiles and sun-kissed faces. The diocese hosts a camp here in August for people with disabilities, and for the last 28 years, it has been an annual event.

Many campers come year after year, looking forward to their one week getaway. The camp grounds, located in Colebrook, Pa., have several cabins, tilts (cabins with three walls), a swimming pool, a lake and a craft lounge. But the week is less about the grounds and more about the people, campers and counselors alike.

“Camp Kirchenwald is so much more than the five days of activities that happen there. It is a ministry that brings people together,” said Ginny Duncan, Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities. Mrs. Duncan gave the example of one camper and one counselor who have made a special bond outside of Camp Kirchenwald.

Calvin Utz first attended Kirchenwald three years ago. During his second year there, he met Colleen Donnelly, who was volunteering there for the first time.

“I saw him at camp, but I was talking to Ginny, telling her about how I was looking for places to volunteer,” Mrs. Donnelly recounted.

She had seen an announcement in her parish bulletin at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in New Oxford, asking for camp volunteers. But she was also looking for a way to volunteer locally.

Calvin Utz and Colleen Donnelly formed a special bond after meeting at Camp Kirchenwald. Mrs. Donnelly visits him each week to teach him how to read and enjoy their friendship over ice cream.

Above: Volunteer Colleen Donnelly and camper Calvin Utz formed a special bond after meeting at Camp Kirchenwald.
Below: A volunteer’s hands guide a camper in coloring a picture.

CAMP KIRCHENWALD
continues on page 7
Campers and volunteers share their thanks and gratitude to the priests, parishes, parishioners, Knights of Columbus councils and community service groups who have donated to assist campers in attending Camp Kirchenwald. For information on sponsoring campers in the future, contact Victoria Laskowski, Director of the Diocesan Office of Family Ministries, at 717-657-4804 or vlaskowski@hbgdiocese.org.

“Then Ginny said Calvin was from Littlestown, and that he would love to learn how to read. And she knew I was a teacher,” Mrs. Donnelly said. “Calvin and I got together, and I’ve been teaching him. We go out for ice cream too.”

As Mrs. Donnelly spoke, Mr. Utz interjected, insisting he is taking her out for ice cream the next time they meet, because it’s his turn to take her.

They have been meeting one or two times a week for almost a year. Mr. Utz now has three books he reads, and he read one during the camp’s talent show this year. He said his favorites are, “the one about the band aids and the one about the people who go to the beach.”
For 75 years, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg has been fulfilling its mission of caring for men, women and children in need, regardless of the religious beliefs of those they serve.

Among the programs providing help and creating hope are Catholic Charities' three “Homes for Healing” – the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Evergreen House for women in recovery, and Lourdeshouse Maternity Home. These residential programs are located at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg. The Interfaith Shelter is the only shelter in the area that keeps entire families together. Evergreen House helps women to find long-term recovery from their addiction, as well as stable housing and job skills. Lourdeshouse offers care for pregnant women with services that include housing, parenting classes and case management.

Today, the Interfaith Shelter, located at the St. Samuel Center, is the only program of its kind, offering help and hope to homeless families. Families arrive feeling scared and alone, each with their own story of need; but here they find support and strength.

Facing an unplanned pregnancy is a frightening and lonely experience. Located at the St. Samuel Center, Lourdeshouse is the only local facility that provides specialized, comprehensive maternity care and residential services to women in need. Our clients are typically single women who have no family support, including homeless women or women coming out of prison. The program closely monitors medical care and nutrition to ensure a healthy mother and child. Through counseling and case work services, women are helped through their pregnancy and learn how to care for their family. Lourdeshouse is part of the Pennsylvania “Real Alternatives” program. This pro-life initiative provides alternatives to women considering abortion by offering counseling and support services.

Additional upgrades to the St. Samuel Center will include new accessible furniture, equipment and office space in an effort to improve services offered to the center’s residents.

To meet the challenge of this undertaking, the Diocese of Harrisburg and Catholic Charities have introduced the “Hope for All” community service campaign. The goal is to raise $775,000 to make the St. Samuel Center a fully functional and accessible residence for all the people the diocese serves.

Individuals, businesses and foundations are encouraged to join the Diocese of Harrisburg and Catholic Charities in this endeavor, to ensure its efforts to meet the needs of all people who are finding help and hope at the St. Samuel Center.
"HOPE FOR ALL"
GOAL $775,000

PROPOSED RENOVATIONS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

PHASE I

ADA Renovations to Bedrooms
• Remove wall, remove existing bathroom, plumbing, electrical, drywall, ceiling, lighting, paint, flooring, ADA dresser

ADA Renovations to Bathrooms
• ADA toilet, ADA tilted mirror, ADA shower, ADA door, handrails, drywall, ceiling, lighting, paint, flooring, plumbing and electrical

ADA Powder Room
• Renovate existing bathroom to ADA powder room

Kitchen
• Move existing kitchen to new location
• New ADA cabinets, countertop, appliances, sink, faucet, drywall, paint, flooring and plumbing

Dining Room
• Remove walls, electrical, drywall, paint, flooring, ceiling and lighting

Pantry
• Relocate existing pantry to new location
• Remove a wall, move existing shelving and refrigerators and freezers

Laundry Room
• Reconfigure existing laundry room
• Two new ADA dryers and new exhaust venting system

Living and Play Room
• Move existing living and play room
• Remove wall, drywall, paint and flooring

Office
• Relocate existing office
• New walls, electrical, drywall, paint, flooring, ceiling and lighting

Conference Room
• Relocate existing conference room

PHASE II

Design and Construction of Elevator

PHASE III

HVAC Replacement
Window Replacement

PHASE IV

Storm Sewer Improvement

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A Seminarian’s Walk with the Lord during Pilgrimage to Holy Land

This summer, diocesan seminarians Richard Mowery and Matthew Morelli attended a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The order serves as a means of preserving and spreading the faith in the Holy Land and providing support to its parishes, schools and other projects.

The pilgrimage marked Richard and Matthew’s first visit to the Holy Land. Mr. Mowery, a native of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, will enter Theology III at the Pontifical North American College in Rome this fall.

The following piece is a reflection that Mr. Mowery offered The Catholic Witness regarding the spiritual experience.

On July 8, Matthew Morelli and I, and 14 other seminarians from various dioceses were given a chance to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land for 18 days. Since I returned from my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I have been asked many questions. The one question that struck me was, “Where did you feel the Holy Spirit the most?”

At first, I was taken a little aback by this question, because I honestly felt the Spirit in all the places I traveled to: Mount Carmel, Mount Tabor, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and even Ephesus. To me, all of these sites are holy, and I felt at peace at each of them.

During the pilgrimage, I heard a homily while at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Jericho. One of the priests on our trip, Chorbishop John D. Faris, spoke about the extremes found within the Holy Land. Up to this point, we had been to Galilee and most of Jerusalem. He told us that we have seen the extremes of Jerusalem and we can begin to understand why all in the Holy Land had and still have a zeal for their faith.

We had seen one extreme to the next: The high and low elevations found at the Dead Sea, which is 1,300 feet below sea level, and at Jerusalem, which is 3,800 feet above sea level, and both are less than 20 miles apart. The weather was also extreme, with the hot desert sun and rising temperatures during the day, and the much colder temperatures at night.

The words of Chorbishop Faris’ homily remained with me and caused me to reflect on my journey. People living in the Holy Land had to fight against the elements of the extreme mountain ridges, making land suitable to live on. Life for the people in the Holy Land had to fight against the elements. All had a fighting spirit regardless of the form, can be transformed only with the help of the Lord. I was walking with Jesus during the late nights and early mornings. I was walking where Jesus had walked, suffered and died.

I am reminded of these words: “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The pilgrimage showed me how I need to walk in the light with the Lord, and how there is not always going to be joy in my life. However, by taking up my cross and walking with the Lord, when pain and suffering enter into my life, I need not die to it. I must remember a fundamental fact that when I entered the tomb, it was empty. Suffering, regardless of the form, can be transformed only with the Lord. Even though the tomb was empty, I knew Jesus was alive. The pilgrimage showed me how I need to walk in the light with the Lord, and how there is not always going to be joy in my life.

On behalf of Matthew Morelli and myself, I would like to thank the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre for sponsoring the Seminarian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We also want to thank all the wonderful people of the Diocese of Harrisburg for all of your prayers and support. Please also continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflicts in the Holy Land. God Bless.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHARD MOWERY

The Altar of the Crucifixion, located at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a silver disk underneath the altar marks the spot where our Lord was crucified. A silver disk underneath the altar marks the spot where the cross stood.

PICS COURTESY OF RICHARD MOWERY

Seminarians kneel in prayer at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, which encompasses the spot believed to be Mary’s house, where the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

The Catholic Witness • AUGUST 29, 2014

I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8:12). Since I was with a group of seminarians, we were given special permission to stay in the Holy Sepulchre after the doors were locked. We were given the opportunity to spend the night in prayer until the doors were re-opened in the morning. As I was praying in Calvary, I could feel Jesus’ pain and humiliation of being hung on the cross. I could even feel the emptiness that our Lord felt as he died on the cross. I could feel the love and the heartbreak that was felt while Jesus’ body was being prepared over the Anointing Stone. I could feel the sorrow and confusion that was felt as Jesus’ body was placed in the tomb. I could even feel the joy that all had at the Resurrection. Needless to say, I truly felt blessed, and it was here that I felt the Holy Spirit drawing me to Himself. I was literally walking where Jesus had walked, suffered and rose from the dead.

I was walking with Jesus during the late hours of night until the early hours of the morning. He showed me how I was to walk, and reminded me that life is not always going to be easy. It was only through feeling Jesus’ suffering that I could feel the true consolation of the joy of his Resurrection. As I knelt at Calvary, I could almost feel the weight of the cross that our Lord had to carry. As I kissed the spot where our Lord was crucified and died, I felt at peace, as if the Lord wanted to carry my weight too. As I walked along, seeing the Stone of Anointing, I felt the tenderness put into preparing Jesus’ body for the tomb. This reminded me of how God prepares us for his love and wants to wrap his arms around us. When I came to the tomb, I was able to kneel and pray near the spot where our Lord was placed for three days and then resurrected. It was here that I felt an uplifting in my heart, a one of total joy. I am reminded of these words: “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The pilgrimage showed me how I need to walk in the light with the Lord, and how there is not always going to be joy in my life.

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Church Critical of New HHS Rules for Opting Out of Mandate

Catholic News Service

In new actions related to the federal contraceptive mandate, the Obama administration has announced rules allowing religious nonprofits and some companies to opt out of coverage they oppose on moral grounds. On Aug. 22, the administration issued new rules it has described as a “work around” to offer religious employers who are not exempt from the mandate a new way to opt out. The rules also provide some for-profit companies a way to opt out.

After an initial review of a summary of the new regulations, Catholic and other religious leaders were critical of them, including the president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, who said they “would not broaden the ‘religious employer’ exemption to encompass all employers with sincerely held religious objections to the mandate.”

“Instead, the regulations would only modify the ‘accommodation,’” under which the mandate still applies and still requires provision of the objectionable coverage,” said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky.

The accommodation he described is a way for nonexempt, nonprofit employers to direct a third party to provide coverage they find morally objectionable.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires nearly all employers to cover contraceptives, sterilizations and some abortion-inducing drugs for all employees in their company health plan. It includes a narrow exemption for some religious employers that fit certain criteria.

Employers who are not exempt must fill out a self-certification form – known as EBSA Form 700 – to direct a third party, usually the manager of an employer’s health plan, to provide contraceptive coverage.

Many religious employers who have sued over the mandate argue that even filling out Form 700 makes them complicit in providing coverage they find objectionable.

In rules announced by HHS Aug. 22, the administration has made available a new course for nonprofits that object to the process for the accommodation and has proposed extending to certain for-profit companies the third-party accommodation previously created for nonprofits.

The new rules were designed in response to recent court rulings, including the Supreme Court’s June 30 ruling in Burwell v. Hobby Lobby. It required the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, closely held companies may be exempted from the contraceptive coverage requirement as a religious right.

The HHS statement said the rules “balance our commitment to helping ensure women have continued access to coverage for preventative services important to their health, with the administration’s goal of respecting religious beliefs.”

Under the new rules, nonprofit organizations seeking to use the accommodation may simply “notify the Department of Health and Human Services in writing of their religious objection to providing contraceptive coverage. HHS and the Department of Labor will then notify insurers and third-party administrators so that enrollees in plans of such organizations will continue to receive coverage for contraceptive services, with no additional cost to the enrollee or the employer.”

That portion takes effect immediately.

A proposal to handle companies covered by the Supreme Court ruling, such as Hobby Lobby, would allow closely held nonprofit employers to direct a third party to provide accommodation previously created for nonprofits.

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A proposed accommodation for for-profit companies covered by the Supreme Court ruling, such as Hobby Lobby, would allow closely held for-profit employers to follow the same accommodation that has previously been available to nonprofit religious organizations, the release said.

“Under the proposal, these companies would not have to contract, arrange, pay or refer for contraceptive coverage to object on religious grounds. The proposal seeks comment on how to define a closely held for-profit company and whether other steps might be appropriate to implement this policy,” the release said.

Comments are being solicited on the proposal for closely held companies.

Archbishop Kurtz said that “by proposing to extend the accommodation’ to the closely held for-profit employers that were already exempt under the Supreme Court’s recent decision in Hobby Lobby, the proposed regulations would effectively reduce, rather than expand, the scope of religious exemptions.”

He added: “We will study the regulations carefully and will provide more detailed comments at a later date. In keeping with our practice, we will evaluate the regulations according to the principles set forth in ‘United for Religious Freedom,” issued in March 2012.

At Mass, Archbishop Outlines Steps to ‘Dismantle Systemic Racism’

By Dave Luecking
Catholic News Service

With the strife and violence continuing in the aftermath of Michael Brown’s shooting death by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo., more than 500 St. Louis Catholics gathered for aotive Mass for peace and justice Aug. 20 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

Brown, 18, was black, and Darren Wilson, the police officer who shot him Aug. 9, is white.

St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson celebrated the Mass with 27 priests and, in his homily, laid out five important steps to “dismantle systemic racism,” which has become evident in Ferguson:

• “I am re-establishing today the Human Rights Commission in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

• “I am asking the Charles Lwanga Center to begin a study and offer solutions to decrease violence in our communities and in our families.”

• “I pledge an ongoing commitment to provide a pathway out of poverty by providing scholarships so that young people can receive a quality education in our Catholic schools.” (He noted that 3,000 children have received scholarships in the last year.)

• “I pledge my support and the support of the archdiocese to assist the churches in Ferguson to deal with issues of poverty and racism.”

• “Finally, I am asking each priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to offer a Mass for Justice and Peace.”

As Archbishop Carlson noted, “This is a modest beginning, but begin we shall.”

There is more that will need to be done, and we will work to open dialogue with the churches, community leaders and people of Ferguson,” he said.

Archbishop Carlson offered prayers for Brown and his family, for Wilson and his family, for first responders and their families, and for community leaders.

“We ask for the wisdom and compassion and courage to address the brokenness and division that confronts us as we recognize there is an irrepressible yearning present in the heart of each person for good,” he said.

As Archbishop Carlson noted, “This is a modest beginning, but begin we shall.”

Father Mike Boehm, a chaplain with the St. Louis County Police Department, speaks with an officer Aug. 16 at the incident command post for the violence continuing in the aftermath of Michael Brown’s shooting death by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo.
James Foley
Continued from page 1

Foley began to pray the rosary. “It was what my mother and grandmother would have prayed. I said 10 Hail Marys between each Our Father. It took a long time, almost an hour to count each Hail Mary off on my knuckles. And it helped to keep my mind focused,” he wrote. “Clare and I prayed together out loud. It felt energizing to speak our weaknesses and hopes together, as if in a conversation with God, rather than silently alone.”

Foley also describe his experience at Marquette University, which he said “has always been a friend to me. The kind who challenges you to do more and be better and ultimately shapes who you become.” He added that Marquette had never been “a bigger friend to me than when I was imprisoned as a journalist.”

Witness
Continued from page 1

“At no good when I see young people who sleep,” said the pontiff. “No. Wake up! Go! Go!”

Haemi Fortress was where thousands of Catholics were killed during a 100-year period in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 1700s laypeople formed the Church based on Catholic writings that they got ahold of from China. The original founders pledged loyalty to God rather than the Korean king, which was socially unacceptable. The government pursued them for carrying Catholic beliefs, such as invocations and intercessions, killing 10,000 faithful in the century beginning in 1791.

A day before the closing Mass, Pope Francis beatified 124 of the founders of the Korean Catholic Church, moving them a step closer to sainthood.

The 124 were killed for their beliefs, setting off a 100-year period when the Korean government went after about 10,000 faithful who fled to God, not the king of Joseon. Among this group was Paul Yun Ji-Chung, the very first Korean Catholic to be executed for his faith after he buried his mother using Catholic rites that completely went against the norms of the heavily Confucian society.

In his homily during that Mass, the pope said, “So often today we can find our faith on the edge of the world, and in countless ways are we asked to compromise our faith, to water down the radical demands of the Gospel and to conform to the spirit of this age.”

Yet the martyrs call out to us to put Christ first and to see all else in this world in relation to him and his eternal kingdom. They challenge us to think about what, if anything, we ourselves would be willing to die for,” he said.

Michael Hwang of Seoul said being on the grounds of the Haemi Fortress was “exhausting emotionally,” because his ancestors were among those executed. But he told CNS he was glad to be part of Korean Asian Youth Day because it brought him closer to other Catholics from Asia.

[The pope] said to wake up and a lot of people can come together, and we could be like one nation,” said Hwang, a 17-year-old high school student.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass at an altar made up of 16 wood planks covered with white and wooden blocks and were decorated by the youth. Readings and intercessions were in Filipino, Indonesian, Korean and other languages.

“As young Christians, wheth- er you are workers or students, whether you have already begun a career or have answered the call to marriage, religious life or the priesthood, you are not only a part of the future of the Church, you are also a necessary and beloved part of the Church’s present,” said the pope.

He told young Asians to build “a Church of loves and wor- ships God by seeking to serve the poor, the lonely, the infirm and the marginalized.”

Bishop Peter Kang U-I of Jeju, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Korea, noted that this was the first Asian Youth Day attended by a pope.

The young Asians may have experienced an extraordinary moment of grace, and they may also have acquired the seed of courage and hope for their future, because Your Holiness shared a great affection and in- timacy with them,” he told Pope Francis at the Mass.
Compiled by Jen Reid

**Spiritual Offerings**

All caregivers:
Are there options besides nursing homes? Where do I get help? What do I do to help my loved one cope with the stress of the illness? What can I do to help them at home? How can I pray for and honor those who daily give themselves to serve in the military and township representatives. This ecumenical event will be held Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 212 W. Cameron Street in Lancaster. Happy ½ hour begins at 7 p.m., followed by the Happy Hour and equipment. Food and beverages will also be available. For more information, visit www.stjosephmech.org or contact Hanover PA in the search box.

Kings of Columbus Council #8891 will be holding the Annual Golf Outing Sept. 17 at 7 a.m. at the John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom. Music will be provided by “The Joyous Endorser Band.” Registration for golfers is $25 per person or $100 per foursome (includes $10 for food, face painting by the Immergreen Band of Lancaster (“Die Immergrun Musicale”)). For more information or to register, visit www.keepers.org or call Connie at 717-576-3263.

**Travel to the Holy Land**

The Holy Family campus (grades K-4) will host a retreat for C/DREs, parents, catechists and adults of the parish. The retreat will be held Sept. 20 from 4-7 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Mission Retreat Center in Jackson, Mo. Special liturgies and opportunities for reflection will be offered. For more information, contact Father James Gainer at jimlow@embarqmail.com. To register, or for more information, visit www.stjosephmech.org/adult-education/travel-retreats.

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Obituaries

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


CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Philip Morrell.


HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Andrew Buchma, Jr.

HARRISBURG – St. Margaret Mary: Mary Haynes.

KULPOM – Holy Angels: Olga Bartko, Genievezilczuk.

LANCASTER – St. Joseph: Guido L. Coccio, Jr., Eugene F. Druvale, Enrico Colon Dunton, Ronald E. Gesnurr, Mary Louise Gregg, Audrey A. Kirchner, Coccio, Jr., Eugene F. Draude, Enrique Andrew Buchma, Jr.


Mary Warfel.

MCHSIREYTS – Annunciation BVM: Alannah C. Miller, Grace Sterner.


NEW FREEHOLD – St. Joseph the Baptist: Rebecca Fanning.


ROHRESTER – St. Leo the Great: Rhoda Lynn.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Franklin Baharie, Patricia Ann (Donecive) Showalter.

WAVESBORO – St. Andrew: Eleanor Zisa.

YORK – St. Patrick: Idanel Bohn.

Parish to Host Program for People Seeking to Return to the Catholic Church

Have you spent time this summer admiring the beauty of nature and drawing closer to the Lord who created it? Remembering the times when you attended Mass each Sunday and thanked Him for all those special gifts? There’s a “welcome home” process that just might make you feel comfortable enough to talk about those feelings, why you have them and what you can do about them.

It’s called “Landings,” a process that allows you to meet with a few kind-hearted Catholic volunteers who are eager to listen to your story and answer your questions. Through “Landings,” many non-practicing Catholics have found a non-threatening way to return to the Church of their birth.

The “Landings” process will begin at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbotstown in just a few weeks. Two sessions will be offered, a morning session that begins Monday, Sept. 15 at 10 a.m., and an evening session that begins Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information about “Landings,” or to register, contact Bernie Mahaffy at 717-259-9006.

Franciscan Jubilarians Served Diocese in Education and Parish Ministry

More than 300 religious sisters gathered in Our Lady of Angels Chapel in Aston, Pa., this summer to honor the 28 jubilarians celebrating 75, 70, 50, and 25 years as Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, representing 1,605 collective years of service. The jubilarians processed around the outside of the motherhouse, their joyous voices singing St. Anthony Ziegler’s “Praise and Thanksgiving.” Those at the front of the procession and congregants began the entrance hymn—Dan Shuddle’s “Get the People,” beginning the Eucharistic liturgy presided over by Fr. Cyrisan Rosen, OFM, Cap. Sister Wanda Marie Schlagel, OFS, (formerly Sister Margaret Mary), minister at St. Leo the Great Parish, and engaged in volunteer ministry at St. Joseph School in Rohrerstown, a position she has held since 2011. Prior to that, Sister Wanda volunteered as pastoral minister at St. Leo the Great Parish and engaged in volunteer ministry at St. Anne Retirement Community in Columbia.

Several of this year’s jubilarians ministered previously in the Diocese of Harrisburg:

• Sister Agnes Bonner, OFS, (formerly Sister Catherine Michaela) is a diamond jubilarian celebrating 70 years of religious profession. She taught at both St. Joseph School in Lancaster and at Lancaster Catholic High School.

• Golden Jubilarian Sister Margaret Mary Egan, OFS, (formerly Sister Mary Immaculate) taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and at York Catholic High School.

• Sister Ruth Elizabeth Goodwin, OFS, (formerly Sister Marie Robert) is also a golden jubilarian. She taught at St. Joseph School in Dallastown.


Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Awards Scholarships

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is pleased to announce the winners of three scholarships. The awards were presented to Catholic senior girls for their freshman year at an accredited college, university or trade school.

A $1,000 scholarship was awarded to Mary A. Reich, a parishioner at St. Peter Parish in Columbia, where she is in the sixth grade. Father Dominick DiBiccio, pastor, and Father Mark Speitel is the current pastor. Mary is a graduate, with honors, of Lancaster Catholic High School. She is attending St. Vincent College, majoring in Political Science and International Relations.

Emily Keating, a parishioner of St. Patrick Church in Carlisle, was awarded a $500 scholarship. Father William C. Forrey is the pastor. Emily graduated from Carlisle High School with honors. She is attending Shipensburg University, majoring in Education, with a concentration in History.

The third scholarship of $1,000 was awarded to Emily Resek, a parishioner at St. Catherine Laboratory School. Emily’s father, Kevin Resek, is pastor at St. Catherine Laboratory School. Emily is a graduate of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, with honors. She is attending Penn State University, majoring in Food Science.

The young women were selected for a field of outstanding candidates who met high academic and community service standards. All applicants were required to obtain letters of recommendation from their pastors and be sponsored by a mother, grandmother or guardian who is an active member of a parish Council of Catholic Women or a least five years as a Ministries of Catholic Women member. For information on the program, contact the Diocese of Harrisburg. All awards were presented by Jeanne Warren, President of the HDCCW, and Joyce Scott, Chairwoman of the HDCCW Scholarship Committee, during a Saturday evening Mass at their home parishes.

To date, the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has awarded 19 scholarships since 2006. Our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the 2014 winners and all those who submitted applications.

Robin Williams’s recent suicide has brought depression to the forefront. This week on Catholic Perspective, we talk with Joe in our “Today’s Catholic” feature.

The recent ice bucket challenge on behalf of ALS is a worthy cause. During our “Pro-Life” segment, Jim Gontis, Diocesan Director of Religious Education, offers information about those teaching CCD classes at our parishes.

Catholic Perspective Radio

Catholic Perspective Radio is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese and AM 720 WHFY and on Sunday mornings on WLAN-AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WHVW-AM 1280, Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WKOK-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIEZ-AM 670, Lebanon, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WVEC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available online at www.OldSideoRadio1620.com at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WISL1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. It can also be heard on line at www.hbgdiocese.org.
Parishioner Builds Replica of St. Joseph Church in Milton

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Six years ago, during a Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Church in Milton, George Hogan had a vision. “I think I’m going to try to build a replica of the church,” he told his wife, Helen. The idea had just snuck up on him as he sat there in the pew, looking at the grandeur of the gothic church.

St. Joseph Parish is considered in diocesan history as a “gateway” to the faith. When its first church was built in 1805, it was the only Catholic church in central Pennsylvania north of Harrisburg. The current St. Joseph Church was dedicated in September of 1883 by Bishop Jeremiah Shanahan, First Bishop of Harrisburg, after the previous church was destroyed in the Great Fire of Milton in 1880. Nearly 130 years later, Mr. Hogan was inspired to create a replica of Milton’s gem.

“I started slowly with a few ideas, and just progressed from there,” Mr. Hogan said. “Many times, I had to be creative.”

He built the wooden frame to scale. St. Joseph Church is 24 feet wide and 42 feet long; the replica is 24x42 inches. Most of it is secured by dowels.

The exterior includes details of the brick construction, walkways and stairs, porticos and landscaping, and several unique features that can be especially appreciated up close. Along the back of the church is a reserved parking sign for U.S. Navy sailors—a tribute to Father John Hoke, current pastor, who has served as a Navy chaplain and lieutenant. There is also a small overhead window that gives a glimpse into the church’s confessional. The window is not part of the actual church, but rather an imposition. The window is not part of the actual church, but rather an imposition.

“I can see why it was an obvious idea for the steeple pattern,” Mr. Hogan said. The stained-glass windows are exact replicas, too. Parishioner Matt Mousley printed Mr. Hogan’s photos of the church windows onto cellophane, and, at the suggestion of Mrs. Hogan, attached the prints to Plexiglas for sustainability.

Mr. Mousley also assisted with miniscule prints of the Stations of the Cross on the interior walls and the replicas of the tapestries that hang behind the main and side altars. A local electrician gave his time and talent—free of charge—to the project, delicately installing hidden wires into the near-finished model to illuminate miniature candles on the altars. The electrician, a non-Catholic, spent two days assisting Mr. Hogan, and then looking on as the project continued.

Still, Mr. Hogan’s biggest supporter—and, he says, his toughest critic—was his wife, Helen. When it came time to recreate the intricate latticework on the steeple above the bell tower, Mr. Hogan turned solely to his wife of 56 years to purchase the necessary material—a fishnet stocking. “You can see why it was an obvious idea for the steeple pattern,” Mr. Hogan said with a laugh. “Helen understood all the time I put into building it, the hours I spent in the garage the past six summers,” he said.

The most challenging piece to replicate was the tabernacle. With a week to go before presenting the finished project to the parish during Vacation Bible School in July, Mr. Hogan still hadn’t found materials suitable for it. To take a break from brainstorming about the final piece, he and his wife went to the summer festival that the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius hold every year on the grounds of the basilica in Danville. At the flea market there, George and Helen rifled through a box of old and broken jewelry and found the pieces that would make the tabernacle. Mr. Hogan fashioned it from a gold chain necklace, a lose pendant with stained-glass doors and a miniscule cross. “I had a lot of help from above in this project,” Mr. Hogan reflected. “There was a good deal of Divine Intervention.”

Since presenting the replica to the parish in July, visitors have marveled at the truly impressive piece. “The children at our Vacation Bible School were so impressed by it when George brought it here,” Father Hoke said. “They would point and say, ‘That’s the pew where I sit.’ They’ve really been able to identify with it.”

“I hope this replica stands the test of time. I want it to serve as a way to remind people in the future what St. Joseph’s looked like in 2014,” Mr. Hogan said. “I never expected people to react to it the way they have, and I’m glad I could give this as a gift to the parish.”

It’s a gift that has come full circle. The replica now sits in St. Joseph Parish Center on Cemetery Road, where the parish traces its roots. It was on this tract of land that, in 1805, the parish’s original log cabin chapel was built. Maybe that’s the next project for Mr. Hogan to tackle.
September 13 and 14

In his address of March 20, 2013, Pope Francis spoke of our responsibility before the world and creation. “There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favor justice, promote reconciliation and build peace,” he said.

The Peter’s Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. Thank you for standing next to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

The collection will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg on Sept. 13 and 14. The collection derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money, a “pence,” from his people as a tax to respond to those who are suffering by a natural disaster and disease.

The Peter’s Pence Collection is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters.

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