Young women escaped the noise, busyness and stress of life to listen to God’s plan for them during the diocese’s tenth annual Fiat Days retreat at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., last month.

“It’s nice to know that you’re not the only one discerning what you’re meant to do in life,” said participant Emily Baker. “Fiat Days is a safe place to express how you feel about discernment because you’re with people who have the same questions and are in the same spot.”

The retreatants shared time together with religious Sisters from a dozen different congregations, participating in Holy Mass, learning various forms of prayer, taking walks to the nearby Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, hearing discernment talks, learning about the sacraments and the congregations’ individual Charisms, and enjoying meals, games and camaraderie.

Fiat Days illustrated the joy of religious life, and of following God’s path.

See pages 8 and 9 for coverage.

By Laura Dodson
Catholic News Service

Theirs was a monumental responsibility: shepherding lay leaders, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, religious, deacons, musicians, event staff and a legion of volunteers at the historic “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America” July 1–4 in Orlando.

“This convocation is a journey, and there will be three of us here to guide you through the next four days,” said Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas, one of the event’s emcees.

The consistent presence – on stage and off – of Bishop Burns, along with emcee Julianne Stanz, director of new evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and moderator Gloria Purvis, co-host of “Morning Glory” on EWTN Radio, kept the entire program flowing smoothly despite any behind-the-scenes hiccups.

Sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the convocation brought together more than 3,100 lay and religious leaders from 160 dioceses and 185 national organizations. They gathered to explore the current challenges and strengths of the Church and its evangelization efforts.
More than 100 married couples who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year were held as models of the affirmation of marriage during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer on July 9.

The Mass is an annual event hosted by the Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries, the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Senior Adult Ministry. It was celebrated at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill. Family members of the golden anniversary couples also attended.

During the Mass, Bishop Gainer blessed the couples, who stood and re-recited their wedding vows. Each couple received a certificate from the diocese signed by the bishop to honor their 50 years of marriage, and a reception featured a slideshow of the couples’ wedding photos from 1967 and their current photos synchronized to popular music from the year they were married.

For more information and resources on marriage and family ministry, visit the Marriage and Family page at www.hbgdiocese.org

Workshop for Parish Archivists, Historians and Administrative Staff
Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m.-noon
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The Archives Department of the Diocese of Harrisburg is very pleased once again to host this event. The 2017 workshop is designed to provide fun, new ways to learn, and offer practical tips to help you preserve and protect your parish archives.

The $15 registration fee includes all materials, light refreshments and a box lunch.

If you would like to attend the workshop, please complete the registration form on the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org/archivesworkshop and return no later than September 1.

We encourage you to continue making a positive difference in your parishes, and please do not hesitate to contact the Diocesan Archivist, Michael Yurich, at 717-657-4804, ext. 214, if you have any questions.

Are you called to be a Spiritual Guide?
The Diocese of Harrisburg
Formation for the Ministry of Spiritual Direction is accepting applications from those individuals who may be called to be a “true servant of the living tradition of prayer.” (CCC 2690)

This three year program of formation is designed for adults experienced in the spiritual life who are seeking to discern this call and to deepen “the gifts of wisdom, faith, and discernment” (CCC 2690) given by the Spirit for this ministry, as well as the necessary qualities, presence, and interpersonal skills.

Formation sessions will meet monthly at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, PA.
Candidates should contact their pastors for applications and other pertinent materials.

For more information:
Please contact:
Sr. Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
srgschmidt@hbgdiocese.org
717.685.4168
Applications due by September 25, 2017

Prepare for Life
Choose a school for your child that will prepare them for more than just the next grade.
Catholic Schools educate the Whole Child. We strive to educate each student in mind, body and spirit.

We believe that every child is a gift from God. We work with parents to unlock amazing potential of every student.

Tuition Assistance and Scholarships are available. Each school can work with parents on need-based and merit-based opportunities available to help to reduce tuition costs.

Catholic Schools are accredited and have a proven record of academic excellence.

Over 98% of our students graduate from High School and are offered over $40 million in college scholarships.

Learn More at a Catholic School Near You!
Find a school at www.GoCatholicSchools.org
Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg • 4800 Union Deposit Road • Harrisburg, PA 17111 • (717) 657-4804
Vatican, Diocese Want to Hear from Young People about their Engagement with the Church

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Catholic Church wants to hear candidly from youth and young adults about their engagement with the faith, ahead of a Synod next fall on young people and youth and young adults about their engagement with the Church.

“The Church wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and criticism,” Pope Francis said in a letter to young people earlier this year. “Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls.”

A Synod is an assembly of bishops from around the world who assist the Holy Father by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church’s teaching and strengthens her internal discipline.

In focusing on young people, faith and vocational discernment at next year’s Synod, the Church has elected to examine how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways of announcing the Good News.

In conjunction with the 2018 Synod and the Vatican survey, the Diocese of Harrisburg is also undertaking surveys of youth and young adults ages 15-39, and is encouraging those who identify as Catholics, as well as those who do not, to participate in the online questionnaires it has prepared.

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

“Links to the diocesan surveys can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/synod2018.

The diocesan surveys will be open until Sept. 15, 2017. The results will be used to answer questions of the Synod of Bishops and to better serve youth and young adults within the diocese.

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

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

Beginning Experience
Program to Offer Weekend for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse

The ecumenical Beginning Experience weekends are a Church-approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation.

Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

The Beginning Experience Team for the Diocese of Harrisburg has booked Camp Hebron in Hali-fax, Pa., for a Beginning Experience Weekend on Nov. 10-12, 2017.

The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce, and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Begin-nings Experience Organization.

The following is a testimonial of a person who has attended the weekend:

CHRISS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Save the Date for LARC Gatherings

Annual Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic (LARC) Vespers
Sunday, October 22 at 4 p.m. • United Lutheran Seminary Gettysburg Campus Chapel

Annual LARC Day of Dialogue
Monday, October 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
• Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

These events will take special note of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, as well as our progress on the path to Christian unity. The speaker for the Day of Dialogue will be Bishop Emeritus Donald J. McCoid, who had a key role in creating the document “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist,” which summarizes Lutheran-Catholic dialogue since 1965.

Additional information for registration will be forthcoming; watch the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org and upcoming editions of The Catholic Witness.
The Catholic Witness
The Newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

State Budget Round Up for 2017-2018

By A.B. Hill
Special to The Witness

Governor Tom Wolf announced his decision to let the General Assembly’s $32 billion FY 2017-2018 spending plan become law without his signature, despite the legislature’s unresolved negotiations for the revenue to back it up. The governor said he hopes that lawmakers “will come together to pass a responsible solution to balance our books.”

The legislature is considering different revenue options including borrowing from other dedicated funds and expanding gambling, but holding the line on sales and personal income taxes. They must find a way to close the $2.2 billion gap.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) and the Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA) tracks many elements of the budget debate, especially those line items that help families and assist the poor.

Education

Thanks to a strong expression of grassroots support, many more students could get scholarships to attend the school of their choice next year. The number of tax credits available for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program in the spending plan will increase by $20 million. The companion program, Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC), which gives the same kind of scholarships to students who live in underperforming school districts, remained the same with no cuts. When the legislature passes the school code bill, the increased tax credits will be authorized.

The tax credit scholarships have been an investment that has paid dividends for students seeking a Catholic or other private education in Pennsylvania. Every Catholic school in all corners of this great Commonwealth benefits from the EITC or OSTC programs.

Each year, more than 40,000 families get a scholarship that permits the parents to send their children to a school that best meets their needs. It gives these families a true choice in the right educational path for their children.

Social Concerns

The state constitution requires the state and local governments to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of citizens, especially the poor such as “mothers having dependent children and aged persons without adequate means of support.” (PA Constitution, Article III, §29)

Funding for these human services was cut in some areas, but for the most part it was kept at the same level as last year. Catholic charities and social service agencies often partner with local governments to deliver these services to people in need. For example, local crisis pregnancy centers administer the state’s alternative to abortion program, that supports women through their pregnancy and up to the first year of their child’s life. This state funded program has helped thousands of mothers choose life for their babies.

Health Care

Line items that fund Pennsylvania’s obstetrical/neonatal services, burn and trauma centers, and critical access hospitals remained the same; this is welcome news to PCHA and the Hospital & Health System Association of PA (HAP). The overall impact of the state budget on health care can be complicated. Questions about Medicaid and health care access for the poor remain unanswered as the debate in Washington, D.C., continues.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, or lend your voice to the debate by sending a message through the Catholic Advocacy Network.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, or lend your voice to the debate by sending a message through the Catholic Advocacy Network.

Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-532-0313

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a Church employee or volunteer, please call the diocesan hotline: 1-800-626-1608
The Spirituality of Trekking Spain on the Camino de Santiago

By Father Mark Weiss
Special to The Witness

This past June, a priest friend and I made a pilgrimage of over 275 km (170 miles) in 10 days across Spain to the city of Santiago de Compostela, where tradition has it that the remains of the Apostle St. James the Great lie. Since the early 9th century, peregrinos (pilgrims) have traveled across Europe to pay homage to the relics of the saint beneath the cathedral.

In modern times, many peregrinos make the journey called the Camino de Santiago for spiritual, religious, or even secular reasons. The Camino has also been known as The Way of St. James or The Road to Santiago. People have been known to make the journey to Santiago either by foot, bike, or even by horse. The Way (2010), a Hollywood movie starring Martin Sheen, has popularized the Way (2010), a Hollywood movie starring Martin Sheen, has popularized the Camino in recent years.

There are many routes that make up the Camino de Santiago. One of the busiest is the Camino Frances (the French Way) that may take up to a couple of months to travel its 500 miles. A shorter route, such as the Camino Ingles (the English Way), is less than 75 miles long. There are over 15 routes that, if approved by the accreditation bureau for the Camino, enable one who completes their journey to receive a compostela (certificate).

My friend and I hiked the Camino de Invierno route, which is a recently-approved route that takes one through Galicia, a northwestern part of Spain. We traveled through some beautiful countryside, up and down mountains, and through farmlands and villages. We had good weather, except for one day of rain. We met some amazing Spaniards who were kind and generous, as well as pilgrims. Of course, I had to rely on my friend who speaks Spanish to help me converse with others. I knew I should have taken Spanish in high school! Oh well.

There was a moment during the last couple days of our journey out from Santiago, where we met other pilgrims and had dinner with them at table, where many of our nationalities were represented: Portuguese, Spanish, Taiwanese, British, Russian, French and American. It was amazing as peregrinos were sharing in the joys and even the pains of the journey.

In a typical day, we would start our journey in the early morning at dawn and usually arrive at the next town sometime in the mid afternoon. In our backpacks, we carried our essentials (such as clothes and water) that we would need for the journey. Rule of thumb: Pack lightly, as you carry this with you during the entire pilgrimage.

We would travel on highways, paved roads between small villages, dirt roads and old Roman stone roads. We would arrive at the town or city of our destination and then find a place to drink a nice glass of beer to celebrate our daily accomplishment, and kick off our shoes and rest our feet. Our places of lodging differed from location to location. There were albergues where pilgrims could stay to rest, shower, manually wash clothes and sleep. In Ponferrada, our starting location, we stayed at an albergue with one room containing 90 bunk beds. We also stayed at hostels that had private rooms with basic amenities. I must admit that, after our longest day of 22 miles, my friend and I splurged on a four-star hotel to rest that evening! God, forgive me!

Arriving in Santiago, many pilgrims will not only get their compostela, but also attend the pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral of St. James. As a priest, I was able to concelebrate that Mass with my friend. One of the highlights of the Mass (other than receiving Our Lord in the gift of the Eucharist and listening to his Word, of course) was to watch in amazement as the Botafumeiro was lifted 70 feet high by six men using a pulley rope to then swing it in an arc of 215 feet in front of the altar at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

Father Mark Weiss stands behind the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, after completing a 170-mile pilgrimage walk through the country this summer.

There are over 15 routes that, if approved by the accreditation bureau for the Camino, enable one who completes their journey to receive a compostela (certificate).

We believe your child is a gift from our loving God.

Certified teachers and our child-centered curriculum provide hands-on experiences in a wide variety of areas.

COURTESY OF FATHER MARK WEISS

Father Mark Weiss stands behind the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, after completing a 170-mile pilgrimage walk through the country this summer.

Scenery along the Camino de Santiago, also known as The Way of St. James or The Road to Santiago.
Convocation

Continued from 1

each of us is being called and sent out not only by the bishops but also by Jesus Christ himself,” Stanz said. “What was most surprising was the availability of the cardinals, bishops, speakers — the experts working in ministry that made conversations familiar, intimate. I didn’t expect it.

“People witnessed to their struggles and the challenge of living out their Catholic faith in 21st-century America. I saw the face of Jesus very clearly,” she added.

In an interview, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles said, “I understand the pain and the challenges and this is a blessing for me to serve them.”

“Even with these difficult subjects, there was always openness, happiness and congeniality,” Purvis said.

“People were willing to share intimate things, they want to work on everything to make it right, to do what we need to do. It was not about me — it was about the conversation and how we can better serve the Lord.”

A highlight for Purvis was Eucharistic Adoration. “The public witness on our knees praising God — I was overcome with tears and grateful to be able to worship. I was very much humbled by how kind people were in my role as moderator. I felt they were encouraging me.”

The event, which marked a first in U.S. Church history, was a national response to Pope Francis’ 2013 apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (“The Joy of the Gospel”), according to organizers.

The bishop further explained that this was a national convocation of the Church dedicated to evangelization — or missionary discipleship — in a positive way, with a focus on society’s poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged, unborn and foreigners.

In addition to lay delegates, attendees included 155 cardinals, archbishops and bishops, along with 380 priests, 175 women religious, 125 deacons and 10 religious brothers.

The top 10 states that sent delegates included California, Texas, Florida, New York, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Minnesota and Michigan. The top dioceses sending delegations were Cincinnati, Orlando, New York and Miami. Nine of the Eastern Catholic eparchies sent over 50 delegates.

Following the final plenary, delegates met with their respective bishops for goal setting as a result of the convocation. Bishop Noonan was effusive in his gratitude to and for all who had contributed in making the event successful.

“What do you want to do for the next few weeks?” Bishop Noonan asked his delegates. “Rest and read over what you have absorbed — deepen the experience. Listen again — the seeds have been planted. Make it more of a spiritual time.

“Pope Francis has called us to get moving,” he continued. “People are saying a lot on social media — they are motivated and inspired to spread the good news and bring it into their homes. We will use this weekend as inspiration.”

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami summed it all up: “Just three words — a wonderful encounter.”

Combination Pep Rally, Retreat Inspires Leaders

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

From July 1-4 the main floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Orlando was transformed into a huge parish hall with places for worship, prayer, discussion, and even coffee and doughnuts during the “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America.”

At the convocation, 3,500 Church leaders — men and women religious, bishops and laypeople — gathered to set a new course for the U.S. Catholic Church. Following a retreat format, each day started and ended with group prayer. Mass was celebrated each day in the hotel ballroom, and there were plenty of scheduled times for the sacrament of reconciliation and private prayer in a large room turned into an adoration chapel.

Many of the keynote sessions took the form of pep talks encouraging delegates to share their faith boldly with the world at large and within their own families and parishes. The numerous breakout sessions provided the working aspect of the gathering: closely examining what the church is doing and where it can do more.

More than 155 bishops attended the gathering, sitting with their delegations for meals and breakout sessions. Cardinals and bishops who spoke at keynote sessions or in Mass homilies encouraged participants that this was their time, their moment, stressing the urgency to bring God’s message of love to a divided world.

At the final Mass, described as a “Mass of Sending,” Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and he urged the delegates to receive God’s grace for the work ahead.

None of the homilists or keynote speakers sugarcoated the challenges for the modern church and more than once speakers pointed out that Catholics are leaving the Church in greater numbers, particularly young adults, than those joining the Church.

But as Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles pointed out: “The saints always loved a good fight and we should like a good fight too.”

The bishop, who addressed the crowd through a video hookup July 4, told them it was an “exciting time to be an evangelist” but that they also should pick up their game to evangelize effectively.

Throughout the convocation, Pope Francis was pointed out as a model for modern Catholics to follow in inviting others, especially those on the peripheries, to Christ. Speakers also were quick to quote his 2013 apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (“The Joy of the Gospel”), which lays out a vision of the Church dedicated to evangelization — or missionary discipleship — in a positive way, with a focus on society’s poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged, unborn and forgotten.

Two homilies during the convocation specifically quoted the pope’s admonition in Evangelii Gaudium that Catholics shouldn’t be “sourpusses” but should reflect joy.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl acknowledged that Catholics are not always comfortable with the idea of evangelizing, but said they need to be willing to step out of themselves and talk with people about their faith as part of an encounter the pope speaks about.

Part of this simply involves listening to people, caring for them and leading them to Jesus, said speaker Sister Miriam James Heidland, a sister of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

Delegates were repeatedly encouraged to reach out to the peripheries especially to immigrants and the poor but also to all members of the Church’s diverse family — people of all races, women and young people.

Hosffman Osipno, associate professor of theology and religious education at Boston College, said it is time for the Church to start building a “language of communion” rather than dividing the Church community into different groups and individually responding to those needs.

Black Catholics at Congress Urged to ‘Listen, Learn, Think, Act and Pray’

By Jean Gonzalez
Catholic News Service

United by the words of the prophet of social justice, Catholic Church leaders urged black Catholics to become active, just disciples of Christ.

More than 2,000 converged on Orlando July 6-9 for the 12th National Black Catholic Congress where speakers – clergy, lay and religious – addressed a variety of topics and concerns facing black communities and families, while urging those present to take an active, enthusiastic role in living out the Gospel as just disciples of Christ.

During his homily at the opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Father Patrick Smith, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Washington, spoke about the “ridiculous power of the Christ on the cross” and how our own suffering can be offered up to God as a source of healing for others.

The group met with President Grover Cleveland during its first congress. In its values.

and its religious – addressed a variety of topics and concerns facing black communities and families, while urging those present to take an active, enthusiastic role in living out the Gospel as just disciples of Christ.

as tribalism in Africa and racism and discrimination in America present struggles, the Catholic Church family is invited to live beyond divisions and live in communion as children of God.

The roots of the Black Catholic Congress stem from 1889 with layman and journalist Daniel Rudd, who brought together 100 black Catholic men to exchange and discuss questions affecting their race for not just Catholic blacks, but blacks across the country, and unite for a course of action while standing behind the Catholic Church and its values.


The group met with President Grover Cleveland during its first congress. In meeting and uniting, Father Smith said the Catholic Church demonstrated and voiced the good news unless we first face and acknowledge the bad news.

The prophet Micah – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with your God.”

Justice, reconciliation and peace are tantamount to unite the church family of God. While Cardinal Turkson said challenges such as tribalism in Africa and racism and discrimination in America present struggles, the Catholic Church family is invited to live beyond divisions and live in communion as children of God.

“In this family of God we need to live justly,” he said. “When we respect the dignity of God on the cross. He added while “racism ultimately leads to death ... a spiritual suicide in our souls,” the truths of the Gospel sets lives free.

“At our anger, but also our source of hope,” he said. “You and I cannot appreciate the good news unless we first face and acknowledge the bad news.”


The roots of the Black Catholic Congress stem from 1889 with layman and journalist Daniel Rudd, who brought together 100 black Catholic men to exchange and discuss questions affecting their race for not just Catholic blacks, but blacks across the country, and unite for a course of action while standing behind the Catholic Church and its values.

The group met with President Grover Cleveland during its first congress. In meeting and uniting, Father Smith said the Catholic Church demonstrated and voiced the good news unless we first face and acknowledge the bad news.

The prophet Micah – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with your God.”

Justice, reconciliation and peace are tantamount to unite the church family of God. While Cardinal Turkson said challenges such as tribalism in Africa and racism and discrimination in America present struggles, the Catholic Church family is invited to live beyond divisions and live in communion as children of God.

“In this family of God we need to live justly,” he said. “When we respect the demands of our relationships, we are just.”

By Jean Gonzalez
Catholic News Service

United by the words of the prophet of social justice, Catholic Church leaders urged black Catholics to become active, just disciples of Christ.

More than 2,000 converged on Orlando July 6-9 for the 12th National Black Catholic Congress where speakers – clergy, lay and religious – addressed a variety of topics and concerns facing black communities and families, while urging those present to take an active, enthusiastic role in living out the Gospel as just disciples of Christ.

During his homily at the opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Father Patrick Smith, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Washington, spoke about the “ridiculous power of the Christ on the cross” and how our own suffering can be offered up to God as a source of healing for others.

The group met with President Grover Cleveland during its first congress. In meeting and uniting, Father Smith said the Catholic Church demonstrated and voiced the good news unless we first face and acknowledge the bad news.

The roots of the Black Catholic Congress stem from 1889 with layman and journalist Daniel Rudd, who brought together 100 black Catholic men to exchange and discuss questions affecting their race for not just Catholic blacks, but blacks across the country, and unite for a course of action while standing behind the Catholic Church and its values.

The group met with President Grover Cleveland during its first congress. In meeting and uniting, Father Smith said the Catholic Church demonstrated and voiced the good news unless we first face and acknowledge the bad news.

The prophet Micah – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly with your God.”

Justice, reconciliation and peace are tantamount to unite the church family of God. While Cardinal Turkson said challenges such as tribalism in Africa and racism and discrimination in America present struggles, the Catholic Church family is invited to live beyond divisions and live in communion as children of God.

“In this family of God we need to live justly,” he said. “When we respect the demands of our relationships, we are just.”

Black Catholic Apostolate

2017 Summer Picnic

The picnic will be held on Sunday August 27 at noon at the River Front Pavilion on City Island, Harrisburg.

Meat and drinks will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a favorite covered dish or dessert to share. Also bring your favorite games to play.

For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Gwen Summers at (717) 236-4310 or gsommers@hbgdiocese.org.
Looking up at the façade of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and the lush mountain that envelopes the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes behind it, Tiffany Nguyen had no idea what to expect as she arrived for the diocese’s Fiat Days discernment retreat in Emmitsburg, Md., this summer.

She figured there would be ample time for Mass, prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with her peers and the religious Sisters and consecrated women representing two dozen congregations present for the retreat.

She also figured there would be talks on religious vocations and time for reflection around the peaceful grounds.

But Tiffany never expected to see the Sisters brimming with joy and laughter.

“I feel bad admitting this, but I kind of had low expectations about the Sisters’ happiness,” Tiffany conceded to The Catholic Witness. “When you think of a Sister, what’s the first thing that comes to your mind? Prayer, staying inside the convent, being inside the church, being quiet.”

But Fiat Days changed her perception, especially during a spirited game of Ultimate Frisbee on the first day of the retreat.

“I saw the Sisters having so much energy, being active, athletic and competitive, just like us girls,” said Tiffany, a member of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg who turns 17 this summer.

“They get hyped-up too – about God, about the faith, about their own interests. They’re a ball of energy, like a fire that won’t go out.”

In the seminary’s rec room on a rainy July 6, several of the retreat’s 38 attendees – newcomers and veterans – shared their attraction to Fiat Days as their peers played games of pool, cards and chess with the Sisters, or joined them on visits to the grotto or the chapel in the seminary.

Emily Baker, who has attended Fiat Days four times with her twin sister Elizabeth, said she understood Tiffany’s surprise at the sight of the Sisters’ happiness.

“Over the years here, we’ve heard the Sisters say, ‘We’re human, we’re people too, and we like to laugh and have fun,’ but for some reason, you still see them as different,” Emily remarked. “They live for the Lord, and they are filled with joy, and it’s nice to see their joy and fun. It’s contagious.”

Now in its tenth year, Fiat Days offers young women ages 15-25 an opportunity to listen more closely to God’s call. Named for the Blessed Mother’s “Fiat” to God’s plan for her to be the mother of Our Savior, the three-day retreat included daily Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; prayer and lessons on its different types; talks on vocations, the sacraments, Charisms and the call to holiness; spiritual direction and discernment walks with Sisters; visits to the grotto; and indoor and outdoor recreation, including sports and a water balloon launch.

This year, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass for attendees, and then conversed with them during a question-and-answer session.

Emily and Elizabeth Baker first attended Fiat Days when they were 15. Now in their fourth year as participants, they still discover something new each time.

“Every year, something bigger happens for me,” said Elizabeth. “I have a better and clearer idea of what God is calling me to do.”

“Although I know what to expect from Fiat Days schedule-wise as far as the activities each day, I really never know what to expect from what’s on God’s schedule,” she observed.

“You take away something different each year because each year you are different yourself,” Emily concurred.
A display of the work of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd is seen as a young woman peruses information tables presented by the various congregations represented at Fiat Days.

Continued from B

“It’s nice to know that you’re not the only one discerning what you’re meant to do in life,” she said. “Discernment outside of Fiat Days is a lot different, and you can feel a little bit lonely in that when you leave here. Fiat Days is a safe place to express how you feel about discernment because you’re with people who have the same questions and are in the same spot.”

A Place to be Included

Amid bursts of cheer and laughter as the girls enjoyed games with several Sisters, Tiffany and fellow first-time attendee Monica Lookenbill spoke of how easy it was to feel that they were part of the group there.

“I was initially nervous about coming here because I really didn’t know anyone, but I had heard great things about how Fiat Days helps you discern what to do with your life,” said Monica, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover. “It’s been nothing but welcoming. Everyone invites you to join in activities, and the Sisters are very supportive of where you are in life. You never feel left out.”

“I feel like God brought us all here because we have common goals and concerns,” said Tiffany. “Fiat Days has helped me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. There are no cliques or defined groups here. We engage with different people. We mingle. People want to get to know you. I heard one girl say, ‘For once, I’m involved. I’m not an outsider.’”

Retreats can be the spark that kindles a deeper relationship with Christ, renewed spirituality, and serious discernment. But that spark must continue to be fed.

“I feel like God brought us all here because we have common goals and concerns,” said Tiffany. “Fiat Days has helped me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. There are no cliques or defined groups here. We engage with different people. We mingle. People want to get to know you. I heard one girl say, ‘For once, I’m involved. I’m not an outsider.’”

Retreats can be the spark that kindles a deeper relationship with Christ, renewed spirituality, and serious discernment. But that spark must continue to be fed.

“It is a challenge to keep the momentum of Fiat Days going after you leave,” Emily observed. “We know that when we leave here, the world around us will still be the same. But our experiences of Fiat Days give us tools so that we can search for quiet time and reflection in prayer and Adoration to help sustain us.”

The spirit of Fiat Days also continues through the connections forged there, as the girls and the Sisters often stay in contact with one another.

“Life is stressful. Fiat Days helps you de-stress and hear God through all the noise,” Elizabeth said. “I hope Fiat Days continues for years to come. I’ll keep coming until I’m not an outsider.”

Consecrated Life Represented at Fiat Days

A display of the work of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd is seen as a young woman peruses information tables presented by the various congregations represented at Fiat Days.

Continued from B

It’s nice to know that you’re not the only one discerning what you’re meant to do in life,” she said. “Discernment outside of Fiat Days is a lot different, and you can feel a little bit lonely in that when you leave here. Fiat Days is a safe place to express how you feel about discernment because you’re with people who have the same questions and are in the same spot.”

A Place to be Included

Amid bursts of cheer and laughter as the girls enjoyed games with several Sisters, Tiffany and fellow first-time attendee Monica Lookenbill spoke of how easy it was to feel that they were part of the group there.

“I was initially nervous about coming here because I really didn’t know anyone, but I had heard great things about how Fiat Days helps you discern what to do with your life,” said Monica, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover. “It’s been nothing but welcoming. Everyone invites you to join in activities, and the Sisters are very supportive of where you are in life. You never feel left out.”

“I feel like God brought us all here because we have common goals and concerns,” said Tiffany. “Fiat Days has helped me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. There are no cliques or defined groups here. We engage with different people. We mingle. People want to get to know you. I heard one girl say, ‘For once, I’m involved. I’m not an outsider.’”

Retreats can be the spark that kindles a deeper relationship with Christ, renewed spirituality, and serious discernment. But that spark must continue to be fed.

“It is a challenge to keep the momentum of Fiat Days going after you leave,” Emily observed. “We know that when we leave here, the world around us will still be the same. But our experiences of Fiat Days give us tools so that we can search for quiet time and reflection in prayer and Adoration to help sustain us.”

The spirit of Fiat Days also continues through the connections forged there, as the girls and the Sisters often stay in contact with one another.

“Life is stressful. Fiat Days helps you de-stress and hear God through all the noise,” Elizabeth said. “I hope Fiat Days continues for years to come. I’ll keep coming until I’m not an outsider.”

Consecrated Life Represented at Fiat Days

A display of the work of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd is seen as a young woman peruses information tables presented by the various congregations represented at Fiat Days.

Continued from B

It’s nice to know that you’re not the only one discerning what you’re meant to do in life,” she said. “Discernment outside of Fiat Days is a lot different, and you can feel a little bit lonely in that when you leave here. Fiat Days is a safe place to express how you feel about discernment because you’re with people who have the same questions and are in the same spot.”

A Place to be Included

Amid bursts of cheer and laughter as the girls enjoyed games with several Sisters, Tiffany and fellow first-time attendee Monica Lookenbill spoke of how easy it was to feel that they were part of the group there.

“I was initially nervous about coming here because I really didn’t know anyone, but I had heard great things about how Fiat Days helps you discern what to do with your life,” said Monica, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover. “It’s been nothing but welcoming. Everyone invites you to join in activities, and the Sisters are very supportive of where you are in life. You never feel left out.”

“I feel like God brought us all here because we have common goals and concerns,” said Tiffany. “Fiat Days has helped me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. There are no cliques or defined groups here. We engage with different people. We mingle. People want to get to know you. I heard one girl say, ‘For once, I’m involved. I’m not an outsider.’”

Retreats can be the spark that kindles a deeper relationship with Christ, renewed spirituality, and serious discernment. But that spark must continue to be fed.

“It is a challenge to keep the momentum of Fiat Days going after you leave,” Emily observed. “We know that when we leave here, the world around us will still be the same. But our experiences of Fiat Days give us tools so that we can search for quiet time and reflection in prayer and Adoration to help sustain us.”

The spirit of Fiat Days also continues through the connections forged there, as the girls and the Sisters often stay in contact with one another.

“Life is stressful. Fiat Days helps you de-stress and hear God through all the noise,” Elizabeth said. “I hope Fiat Days continues for years to come. I’ll keep coming until I’m not an outsider.”

Consecrated Life Represented at Fiat Days

A display of the work of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd is seen as a young woman peruses information tables presented by the various congregations represented at Fiat Days.

Continued from B

It’s nice to know that you’re not the only one discerning what you’re meant to do in life,” she said. “Discernment outside of Fiat Days is a lot different, and you can feel a little bit lonely in that when you leave here. Fiat Days is a safe place to express how you feel about discernment because you’re with people who have the same questions and are in the same spot.”

A Place to be Included

Amid bursts of cheer and laughter as the girls enjoyed games with several Sisters, Tiffany and fellow first-time attendee Monica Lookenbill spoke of how easy it was to feel that they were part of the group there.

“I was initially nervous about coming here because I really didn’t know anyone, but I had heard great things about how Fiat Days helps you discern what to do with your life,” said Monica, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover. “It’s been nothing but welcoming. Everyone invites you to join in activities, and the Sisters are very supportive of where you are in life. You never feel left out.”

“I feel like God brought us all here because we have common goals and concerns,” said Tiffany. “Fiat Days has helped me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. There are no cliques or defined groups here. We engage with different people. We mingle. People want to get to know you. I heard one girl say, ‘For once, I’m involved. I’m not an outsider.’”

Retreats can be the spark that kindles a deeper relationship with Christ, renewed spirituality, and serious discernment. But that spark must continue to be fed.

“It is a challenge to keep the momentum of Fiat Days going after you leave,” Emily observed. “We know that when we leave here, the world around us will still be the same. But our experiences of Fiat Days give us tools so that we can search for quiet time and reflection in prayer and Adoration to help sustain us.”

The spirit of Fiat Days also continues through the connections forged there, as the girls and the Sisters often stay in contact with one another.

“Life is stressful. Fiat Days helps you de-stress and hear God through all the noise,” Elizabeth said. “I hope Fiat Days continues for years to come. I’ll keep coming until they tell me I can’t.”

(For information about religious vocations in the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/clergy/vocations.)
Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Jessica came to the United States at the age of 18. She was devout in the faith in her home country, consecrating herself to Jesus through Mary and often sitting in her parish church to contemplate the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Vout in the faith in her home country, she allowed the secular world to creep into her lifestyle, and soon found herself focusing on academic goals, independence and financial gain instead of consideration for religious life, Jessica began to discern raising through biblical-based philanthropy, mentoring and accountability. Aspirants share their vocation stories to ultimately raise funds to benefit their entire class, and are awarded payments to their loans.

“We are teachers, scientists, lawyers and physical therapists, all ready to enter religious life,” Jessica said of her classmates. She is in her second six-month program with 15 other aspirants; 11 aspirants from her first class have entered into formation.

“This work offers a lesson in learning to ask for help, and in learning to receive. It’s a great way of exercising humility,” Jessica observed.

“I see this effort as part of my formation,” she said. “You meet other people. You share your vocation story. You gain their support and their prayers. All the while, you never know what life you’re going to touch or who you’re going to inspire. It really is evangelization.”

“There is an emptiness, a hole in my heart that can only be filled by the love of Jesus Christ,” she said. “Yes, I had a lot of things and experienced a lot of things in my life – and I’m grateful for them. – but I’m not fulfilled. Entering religious life is a joy that is hard to explain. It happens in the heart.”

(Learn more about the Labouré Society and Jessica Schira’s vocation story at www.labouresociety.org.)

Stress in Your Marriage?
Retrouvaille Can Help!

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

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

For confidential information about, or to register for, the next program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 15-17 in Mechanicsburg, call 800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.
Trinity’s Coach Bentley Leaves Wrestlers with Life Lessons Beyond the Mat

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

An incoming student at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, Quentin Miller sat on the floor in the home of his longtime wrestling coach, Chris Bentley, and listened as his mentor delivered a heartfelt plea. It was July 11, and the coach had been traveling home from a wrestling camp when Quentin’s parents called him to give their son a pep talk.

As Coach Bentley unpacked his wrestling gear and suitcase, he turned to Quentin.

“Find a passion in life,” he directed. “My passion is to help other people. What’s yours, Q?”

Patrick Dugpart of my childhood did as well,” said Patrick Dugpart, who refers to the Bentley family as his second family.

“Coach Bentley exemplified every great value there was,” he said. “He was bold, passionate, he challenged us, he was honest, respectful, determined, caring, loyal, faithful and religious, and most of all, taught us what it is to be a great leader. I couldn’t have asked for a better coach.”

Trinity High School hired Chris Bentley as its inaugural wrestling coach when the program debuted in the 2010-2011 season. That year, he coached the team’s first individual district champion, Adam Geiger. The following season, he coached Ryan Diehl to his first of back-to-back individual state titles. A third champion, Andrew Wert, won districts in 2015. He also coached his sons Devon and Caleb on the Shamrock team.

Those who wrestled for him became family, whether they wrestled at Renegade or at Trinity.

“He cared for every single wrestler he coached and treated them like they were his own,” Patrick reflected.

“Coach Bentley exemplified every great value there was,” he said. “He was bold, passionate, he challenged

The wrestling community is a tight-knit one of battle-tested brothers who learn plenty of life lessons within the padded confines of a wrestling room. News of the coach’s death spread rapidly, even to the nation’s collegiate level.

“When I heard the news of his passing, not only did Coach Bentley die, I feel like a part of my childhood did as well,” said Patrick Dugpart.

“Coach Bentley’s passion and his desire for excellence in the lives of his wrestlers, Mr. Cominsky remarked that Trinity will push forward with the foundation and success he established for the wrestling program as a way to honor him the best that we can.”

The school named assistant coach Chris Barrick to head coaching duties on July 25.

“I believe the best way to honor Coach’s legacy is to not take anything for granted and live your life around that,” Patrick remarked. “Live how he would’ve wanted you to live, choose a good lifestyle, surround yourself with the right people, and give your best effort in all that you do.”

Harrisburg Diocesan Charismatic Day of Renewal
September 16, 2017, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. • Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

“The Holy Spirit – Fountain of Grace”

The keynote speaker will be Rev. William “Bill” Cosgrove, a 12-year service team member for the Charismatic Renewal and current Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal under Timothy Cardinal Dolan in the Archdiocese of New York. For 32 years, Father Cosgrove has been an active member of the International Fraternity of Priests, one of a number of priest support groups that is a strong advocate of priestly fraternity. He is also an active member of the Clarkstown Ethics Board, New City Rotary and the Clarkstown Ecumenical Clergy Association.

The $20 program cost includes lunch. Checks can be made payable to “Diocese of Harrisburg.” Deadline for registration to include lunch is September 5. To register, or for additional information, go to: www.aliveinthespirit.net or www.hbgdiocese.org/renewal or call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.
The August eclipse occurs when the moon's orbit takes it directly in front of the sun, casting a shadow on the earth. The moon's orbit is tilted just enough to prevent an eclipse from occurring every month.

The August eclipse will take about 90 minutes to cross the country on a diagonal path from Oregon to South Carolina. The moon's shadow will pass over Idaho Falls, Idaho; Casper, Wyoming; Grand Island, Nebraska; and St. Louis (northern part); Nashville, Tennessee; and Casper, Wyoming; Kansas City (northern part) in Missouri. The moon's shadow will pass over Idaho Falls, Idaho; the country on a diagonal path from Oregon to South Carolina.

Total solar eclipses occur once every 18 months on average, but they are often in remote areas that are difficult to appreciate them," he told CNS.

"It's an opportunity for a few brief minutes to stand in awe and gratitude because he gave us the ability to look into the question of whether men and women “in a supreme act of charity, which was the direct cause of death,” were worthy of beatification. For example, throughout history there have been Christians who willingly put themselves at risk and died of infection or disease because of aiding and serving others, he wrote.

Pope Francis approved the congregation carrying out an in-depth study of the new proposal in early 2014, the archbishop wrote. After extensive input, the exemplary implementation of the Gospel.

The city’s tourism officials are expecting 100,000 visitors.

The eclipse also will give observers the chance to see nature in action. As darkness descends, birds will begin to roost, the temps will fall, several degrees and some flowers may close. During the eclipse stars and planets – especially elusive Mercury – will appear. A white glow appears along the horizon.

"It's an opportunity for a few brief minutes to stand in awe and gratitude because he gave us the ability to look into the question of whether men and women “in a supreme act of charity, which was the direct cause of death,” were worthy of beatification. For example, throughout history there have been Christians who willingly put themselves at risk and died of infection or disease because of aiding and serving others, he wrote.

Pope Francis approved the congregation carrying out an in-depth study of the new proposal in early 2014, the archbishop wrote. After extensive input, the exemplary implementation of the Gospel.

The city’s tourism officials are expecting 100,000 visitors.

The eclipse also will give observers the chance to see nature in action. As darkness descends, birds will begin to roost, the temps will fall, several degrees and some flowers may close. During the eclipse stars and planets – especially elusive Mercury – will appear. A white glow appears along the horizon.

"It's an opportunity for a few brief minutes to stand in awe and gratitude because he gave us the ability to look into the question of whether men and women “in a supreme act of charity, which was the direct cause of death,” were worthy of beatification. For example, throughout history there have been Christians who willingly put themselves at risk and died of infection or disease because of aiding and serving others, he wrote.
and Festivals - 2017

The Annual St. Benedict the Abbot Summer Festival in Lebanon will be held from June 1-3 at St. Benedict the Abbot Ukrainian Catholic Church. The festival includes a Ukrainian food booth, live music, a children's area, and a raffle with various prizes. The event is open to the public and admission is free.

The annual St. Joseph Parish Festival in New Cumberland will be held from July 27-30 at St. Joseph Parish. The festival features a Ukrainian food booth, live music, and a children's area. Admission is free.

The annual Corpus Christi Parish festival in Chambersburg will be held from June 28-30 at Corpus Christi Parish. The festival includes a Ukrainian food booth, live music, and a children's area. Admission is free.

The annual St. Theresa Parish festival in New Cumberland will be held from July 27-30 at St. Theresa Parish. The festival features a Ukrainian food booth, live music, and a children's area. Admission is free.

The annual St. Benedict the Abbot Summer Festival in Lebanon will be held from June 1-3 at St. Benedict the Abbot Ukrainian Catholic Church. The festival includes a Ukrainian food booth, live music, a children's area, and a raffle with various prizes. The event is open to the public and admission is free.

The annual St. Theresa Parish festival in New Cumberland will be held from July 27-30 at St. Theresa Parish. The festival features a Ukrainian food booth, live music, and a children's area. Admission is free.

The annual Corpus Christi Parish festival in Chambersburg will be held from June 28-30 at Corpus Christi Parish. The festival includes a Ukrainian food booth, live music, and a children's area. Admission is free.

The annual St. Joseph Parish festival in New Cumberland will be held from July 27-30 at St. Joseph Parish. The festival features a Ukrainian food booth, live music, and a children's area. Admission is free.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

APOSTLE – Mary Dorothy Biesecker.


NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Frank J. Deutsch.


Shamokin – Mother Cabrini: Mary Brennan, Mildred Godleski, Frederick Iwanski, Barbara Jones, Paul McCabe, John Niedzwiecki Kenneth Pilkus, Jr., Connie Romanoski.

Steelton – Prince of Peace: Mary Ann Nicotera, Margaret J. Ritter.

Sunbury – St. Monica: Dr. Louis Gary Londis.


Waynesboro – St. Andrew: Janet Tulenko.

York – St. Joseph: Betty J. Miller, Helen Thomas; St. Patrick: Mary Lou Pillette; St. Rose of Lima: John Petrick.

Sister Mary Theresa Escher

Christian Charity Sister Mary Theresa Escher died at Holy Family Convent in Danville on July 2 at the age of 88. Born Gertrude Escher in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Mendham, N.J., in 1945. Sister Mary Theresa’s entire religious life was devoted to housekeeping, especially in the kitchen of several convents, including Holy Family in Danville. She gave dedicated service at Holy Spirit Convent in Camp Hill beginning in 1982, and moved to Holy Family Convent in 2016. The funeral Mass was celebrated July 5 in the chapel at Holy Family Convent. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Danville.

Sister Mary Deering

A Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Conception, Sr. Mary Deering graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1950. After completing her education at Immaculata University, she became a Sister in 1954. She served as a teacher and principal in several Diocesan schools, including Sacred Heart School, St. Michael Parish in Tamaqua, the Good Shepherd School for the Blind, and St. Joseph School in Summit Hill. Sr. Mary Deering has made a significant impact on education and community service in the Diocese, and her dedication and commitment to her vocation is deeply appreciated.

Sister Mary Carmel Deering, IHM

Sister Mary Carmel Deering, IHM, principal of Sacred Heart School in Lancaster, is leaving after 12 years of service there. As a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose main mission is the education of youth, Sister Mary Carmel has served in both North and South America as a teacher or principal. Sister Mary Carmel first met the Sisters during her own education when she had the privilege of being taught by the IHMs in grade school, high school, and at Immaculata University, where she earned her degree in education. Since then, Sister has received her master’s degree in Religious Education.

Although Sister Mary Carmel has been honored for her dedication to Catholic education, she believes that her greatest reward and education has come from the goodness of parents, students and teachers she has met through the years. She has been at Sacred Heart School since 2005 and said she looks upon each day as a blessing from the Lord.

Beginning this fall, Sister Mary Carmel will be serving at St. David Parish in Willow Grove and will be helping at Queen of Angels Consolidated School.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Awards Scholarship

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women awarded its annual scholarship to Alyssa Menko, a recent high school graduate and a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel. The award was presented during the parish’s Mass on July 22 by Joyce Scott, Chairperson of the HDCCW Scholarship Committee. Shown from left in the photo are Mrs. Scott, Alyssa, and Father Francis Karwacki, pastor.
Educational Enrichment

Annual Diocesan Liturgical Workshop – An invitation is extended to all interested parishioners to attend the Annual Diocesan Liturgical Workshop. The workshop will consist of prayer, a discussion of the influence and power of the Sacraments and its current being offered and for future updates at http://www.sghofpa.org/.

St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom Adult Faith Formation Program will be hosting Bible and faith sharing studies beginning this fall. The studies will include The Grand Ave Bible Study, The Amazing Grace, Hearts Afire Parish-Based Program, and Retreats. For details, contact Sister Roseanne at 717-359-6911, ext. 650 or www.sacredheartofjesus.org or call the Religious Education Office at 717-235-4349 for more information.

Even thought about the purpose of your life?

Ever asked yourself how you can become a better person and making meaningful choices and decisions in life? Join us on this short foray into questions about your life. The course offers you an opportunity to rethink on your faith journey and to explore the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. The series will begin on Aug. 22 and continue every second Monday of the month at St. Rose of Lima Church from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Sister Roseanne at 717-258-6611, ext. 7.

Young Women of Grace, Embrace your Femininity-

a study program for young women ages 10-17, will continue to be held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Hampden. In this study, our Catholic daughters will discover their purpose and mission in the world. In the study, the young women will learn about the history of the Church, understand the teachings of Christ and One God and One Holy Spirit, and it reveals the sacraments as more than merely rituals. The goal of the “Bible and the Sacraments” is to understand where the sacraments come from, why they are important and foundational to our Catholic faith. Sessions start Sept. 29th and run weekly for five潘恩. For information, contact Ann Marie Lapiere at 717-286-0077, or Chris Arnold at 717-379-6041 or camarold@womenofgrace.org.

Study of “The Bible and the Sacraments” at Holy Infancy Parish, Malvern is a beautiful adult faith formation series. The study session explores the sacraments of the Catholic Church “The Bible and the Sacraments” looks at the basic teaching of the Church as to their formation, and investigates the mystery of the sacraments as illuminated in Sacred Scripture. Expense: $35 includes tip for bus driver. Deadline to register is Aug. 15. For more information, contact Terry Brudny at 717-204-1274 or ternzbrudny@comcast.net.

Fundraisers & Events

The 50/50 prize for the Frank J. Gawronski Golf Tournament held at the Country Club of Hampden on June 11 was claimed by the winning team from the tournament held June 11, 2017, please contact Frank Jr. at 717-288-8852.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School’s 60th Annual Alumni Reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. in the school gym, 330 Church Avenue, Evesham. This reunion is for all alumni in the classes of 1957 and 1958. Tickets are $35 per couple and $20 per person. Children, 12 and under are free. Contact the parish office (717-569-8531), Al Gillis (717-286-5826) or Kaye Scates (717-569-2364). Proceeds benefit our St. John Church, Evesham. Call 717-359-6911, ext. 716.

Ensemble du Pain Musical will present a free church concert at Prince of Peace-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Steelton Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. “In the Fair Land” will feature a presentation on the history of the Festival of Pain Musical is a Harrisburg-based chamber choir founded and directed by Laura S. Brown. The choir’s mission is to inspire both the performer and the listener, encouraging them to believe the message of the faith. For more information, visit www.ensembledupainmusical.com.

St. Theresa School and the St. Theresa Knights of Columbus, Asbury, will hold their 100th anniversary celebration of their parish church. The celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Croatian picnic at Cibort Park, Penn St., York. The next Chaplet is August, 13 at 3 p.m. and every Thursday of every month.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Padre Pio & Shrines of Italy with Father Michael Reid will be held from April 12 – April 19, 2018 with St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle and Father William For- rester. Pastor. Eleven days and 15 meals are included, with transportation to and from Philadelphia. Cost is $4,000 airfare and all included.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the appearances at Fatima, St. Mary Parish Mary in Harnish is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Fatima to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions of March 13th and May 13th. Pilgrimage day includes praying the Rosary as a group, Confessions and Mass at Prince of Peace-Assumption on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the Parish Center. All are welcome to attend.

A Rosary Rally celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions is prayed the third Saturday of each month at 12 noon. The next rally is Aug. 19. Call 717-379-4504.

Adoration of the Sacred Heart for 30 minutes. The Mass is sponsored by the local Charismatic Prayer Groups. Spirit of Love and Mercy, The Magdalene, Come and See For more information, call 717-308-7245.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Devotional prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lancaster will return to St. Rose of Lima Church in York. The next Chaplet is August 13, at 3 p.m. For information, call Joseph at 717-308-7245.

Mass in the Croatian language will be celebrated Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. in St. Patrick’s Church in Asbury, N.J. Father Dominik, parish priest, will celebrate the Mass and would like to cordially invite his church family and the other parishioners to attend this special Mass. A reception will follow Mass in St. Patrick’s Church. For more information, contact Ana Tomic at 717-359-6911 or ajtomic@directv.net.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary is celebrated on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Bishop William J. Waltersheid, Auxiliary Bishop of Harrisburg will celebrate Aug. 15 at 11 a.m. in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lancaster. For more information, contact Doris Sanchez at msanchez@lebanoncatholicschool.org.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster announces its annual golf outing Sept. 12 at Four Seasons Golf Course in Boonsboro, Md. at 10 a.m. Men and women golfers may play in foursomes for $85 each. Twosomes and singles will be paired up. The day includes a hot dog/hamburger lunch, a 9 hole bee-fested chicken dinner, and door prizes/prizes including a $100 prize for a hole in one. Entry fee is $75 per person until Aug. 1. After Aug. 1, the entry fee is $85 per person. For information or to register, call 717-392-8001 or e-mail mtsanchez@resurrectioncatholicschool.net.

St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom Adult Faith Formation Program will be hosting Bible and faith sharing studies beginning this fall. The studies will include The Grand Ave Bible Study, The Amazing Grace, Hearts Afire Parish-Based Program, and Retreats. For details, contact Sister Roseanne at 717-258-6611, ext. 650 or www.sacredheartofjesus.org or call the Religious Education Office at 717-235-4349 for more information.

Even thought about the purpose of your life?

Ever asked yourself how you can become a better person and making meaningful choices and decisions in life? Join us on this short foray into questions about your life. The course offers you an opportunity to rethink on your faith journey and to explore the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. The series will begin on Aug. 22 and continue every second Monday of the month at St. Rose of Lima Church from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Sister Roseanne at 717-258-6611, ext. 7.

Young Women of Grace, Embrace your Femininity-

a study program for young women ages 10-17, will continue to be held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Hampden. In this study, our Catholic daughters will discover their purpose and mission in the world. In the study, the young women will learn about the history of the Church, understand the teachings of Christ and One God and One Holy Spirit, and it reveals the sacraments as more than merely rituals. The goal of the “Bible and the Sacraments” is to understand where the sacraments come from, why they are important and foundational to our Catholic faith. Sessions start Sept. 29th and run weekly for five潘恩. For information, contact Ann Marie Lapiere at 717-286-0077, or Chris Arnold at 717-379-6041 or camarold@womenofgrace.org.

Study of “The Bible and the Sacraments” at Holy Infancy Parish, Malvern is a beautiful adult faith formation series. The study session explores the sacraments of the Catholic Church “The Bible and the Sacraments” looks at the basic teaching of the Church as to their formation, and investigates the mystery of the sacraments as illuminated in Sacred Scripture. Expense: $35 includes tip for bus driver. Deadline to register is Aug. 15. For more information, contact Terry Brudny at 717-204-1274 or ternzbrudny@comcast.net.
By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

What do the Sistine Chapel, a used car with 186,000 miles on the odometer and a statue of Our Lady of Lujan made out of metal from an abandoned factory have in common?

Besides being found in the Vatican Museums’ collections, the 1984 Renault, the Renaissance frescoes and the recycled scrap all help showcase Pope Francis’ concept of art, according to museum officials.

Blessed Paul VI’s close relationship and active outreach to artists is well-known, as is St. John Paul II’s love of theater and poetry and retired Pope Benedict XVI’s passion for music.

But not many people know about Pope Francis’ love of film, literature, music and the role he believes art can play in evangelization, social change and spiritual transformation. A new documentary produced by the Vatican Museums and Vatican City State aims to fill that void.

Titled “My Idea of Art,” the 45-minute film is based on the book of the same name, authored by Pope Francis after Italian journalist Tiziana Lupi transcribed it from a sit-down interview with the pope in May 2015.

While the book is available only in Italian, the documentary film aims for a global audience, with subtitles in six languages and yet-to-be-announced theatrical releases worldwide. The Vatican also approved plans to submit the film for the Academy Awards’ consideration for 2018.

Like the book, the film presents “the ideal art gallery” of Pope Francis, offering stunning visuals of selected masterpieces in the Vatican’s collections to colorfully illustrate the pope’s vision for art.

Using high-resolution 4K cinematography and state-of-the-art drones, filmmakers provide panoramic bird’s-eye views of St. Peter’s Square, the basilica and Vatican Gardens, and close-up details of hard-to-see pieces like the hieroglyphics on the 85-foot tall Egyptian obelisk in St. Peter’s Square and the Sistine Chapel’s frescoed ceiling.

The images are layered with insight from Lupi, explanations of the artwork by Sandro Barbagallo, curator of historical collections at the Vatican Museums, and snippets of Pope Francis speaking about the culture of waste and how art and evangelization exalt the beauty of God’s creation and seek to recover what others have thrown away.

“The artist is a witness of the invisible,” Pope Francis says in the film’s narration, “and works of art are the clearest proof that the incarnation is possible.” Which is why, the pope says, artists can counteract today’s throwaway culture and evangelize, because art reveals “what cannot be seen; for some it’s an illusion. Instead it is hope which we all can believe in.”

“Pope Francis thinks like an artist, without a doubt,” Argentine sculptor Alejandro Marmo told Catholic News Service at the documentary’s debut at the Vatican Museums in late June. The same way artists find beauty in and shape the materials right there before them, Pope Francis welcomes and gives form or direction to the malleable heart in his midst, he said. It’s a hands-on, artist’s approach in offering pastoral care, said Marmo.