March Opens Eyes to Horror of Abortion

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Last year, Hannah Durbin hadn’t considered herself to be part of the pro-life movement.

She was just “on the border,” she said. Then, she went to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and was moved to become a witness for the unborn.

“Seeing all the pictures of aborted babies along the march and knowing what abortion does to women—that scarred me,” said Hannah, a junior at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. “I could never imagine that anyone could ever do that to their child.”

Seated in the Comcast Center at the University of Maryland for the Youth Rally and Mass for Life preceding this year’s march, Hannah said she returned for the annual demonstration to reinforce her pro-life attitude.

“Being here with those who are pro-life helps solidify my beliefs,” she said as she looked across the arena, filled with teens from all over the nation. “I love seeing everyone together with one purpose, fighting against abortion.”

Trinity High School students were among the busloads of people from the Diocese of Harrisburg who descended upon the nation’s capital Jan. 25 in a witness for life. Thousands upon thousands from across the country participated in the march, standing against the indescribable tragedy of 40 years of legalized abortion in this country.

As the Trinity High School students shuffled their way up Constitution Avenue along a sea of marchers, senior Daniel Aung marveled at the crowds. It was his first time attending the March for Life.

With snow, wind and temperatures biting at his face, he paused to gaze at the pictorial displays and videos illustrating the horrific reality of abortion.

“After seeing the photos of aborted babies, it’s obvious that abortion is horrible,” Daniel said. “I can’t imagine anyone doing that.”

Teeming crowds voiced their

Celtic Celebration Will Raise Funds for Hurricane Victims

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Tragedy doesn’t end just because it is no longer in the news.

The emotional pain of losing your home and having no idea of how to rebuild, where to rebuild or when you can rebuild is the constant reminder that not more than four months ago, Hurricane Sandy made parts of New Jersey and New York look like war zones.

“As Americans, we watch war zones on television. We never expect to have a third world country right in our neighborhood,” said Mary Kate Lee, parishioner of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg and a member of her siblings’ Celtic group, Seasons.

She was referring to hearing about a fellow musician’s experience from Hurricane Sandy. Power was lost in every home expect hers, trees had fallen, one even killing the parents of two children. Her home was being used as a sort of refuge; she had power and welcomed the neighbors in.

Ms. Lee knew after she hung up the phone with her friend that she wanted to do more than offer prayers. She wanted to do something to help financially.

Ash Wednesday is February 13

A woman receives ashes from Bishop Joseph P. McFadden during Ash Wednesday Mass celebrated last year at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.
At the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden made a pastoral visit to Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, where he celebrated Holy Mass, was audience to a choral concert and visited classrooms of all the grades on Jan. 29.

Bishop McFadden was given a spiritual bouquet after Mass and he thanked his two first-grade prayer partners, which is a Good Shepherd School tradition.

During his homily, Bishop McFadden expressed his gratitude to the parents and grandparents at Mass for their devotion to Catholic education and their ongoing sacrifice that they make to provide a “complete education” for their children. “The opportunity to learn about God is what makes a Catholic school so very special,” he said.

Bishop McFadden also stressed to the students how important it is to pray and to talk to God every day about what vocation he is calling them to.

“What does he want us to do in life? We know he wants us to bring his love into the world, but he also has a very specific job for each one of us,” the bishop said.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this Year of Faith, as declared by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, all Catholics are called to experience a conversion, an opening of the door of faith first opened at one’s baptism. And now during this special year we are called to open that door once again, walk through it, discover anew our relationship with Jesus Christ, and then share it with others.

The holy season of Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and provides those same invitations and opportunities for conversion and evangelization. One way to celebrate the Year of Faith, either as a parish or as an individual, is to participate in Operation Rice Bowl from Catholic Relief Services. This year’s theme is For Lent, For Life. What you give up for Lent changes lives. These powerful words remind us of one of the basic tenets of our faith, reaching out in charity to our brothers and sisters most in need, and connect us to our traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

It also reminds us that we can widen the door of faith through our care for the poor both at home and around the world. While the majority of the funds collected are sent to Catholic Relief Services to assist those most in need around the world, twenty-five percent of the monies collected are distributed in the Diocese through our Matthew 25 grants.

Every baptized Catholic is called, through baptism, to be a disciple of Christ and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I encourage all the faithful to participate in this program of love and evangelization at home, in the parish, in our schools, and in our parish religious education programs. Resources and additional information are available directly from CRS at www.crsricebowl.org.

The seeds of faith have been planted. Through your generosity in Operation Rice Bowl, you may then continue to yield a great harvest. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving may we come to a deeper appreciation of this gift of faith during this Lenten season and may it be a time of great blessing and renewal.

Sincerely yours in Jesus,

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

4800 Union Deposit Road • Harrisburg • Pennsylvania 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804 • FAX (717) 652-7547
bjmcfadd@hbgdiocese.org • www.hbgdiocese.org

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**CALL TO ALL ARTISTS**

**Year of Faith Art Show**

Art Show will begin on March 1, 2013 at the Catholic Keeler Center

4800 Union Deposit Rd • Harrisburg, PA 17111

**Theme:** Expressions of the Faith

All mediums are welcome. Send scanned or digital image and a completed submission form to Sister Geralyn Schmidt at gschmidt@hbgdiocese.org. She will then send the piece to the Selection Committee. Please visit http://www.hbgdiocese.org/yearoffaith to print out submission form. If the committee approves your piece, you will receive an email from the selection committee.

Entries that do not pertain to the theme will not be accepted into the show.

**Last day for submission** is February 13, 2013

View all information about show, official rules, frequently asked questions, and to download submission form visit: http://www.hbgdiocese.org/yearoffaith

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**Relief Services**

This year’s theme is to participate in the Year of Faith, either as a parish or as an individual, to celebrate the Year of Faith, either as a parish and evangelization. One way to celebrate is by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through your giving. In doing so, you will be helping others in need around the world.

While the majority of the funds collected are sent to Catholic Relief Services to assist those most in need around the world, thirty percent of the monies collected are distributed in the Diocese through our Matthew 25 grants.

Every baptized Catholic is called, through baptism, to be a disciple of Christ and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I encourage all the faithful to participate in this program of love and evangelization at home, in the parish, in our schools, and in our parish religious education programs. Resources and additional information are available directly from CRS at www.crsricebowl.org.

The seeds of faith have been planted. Through your generosity in Operation Rice Bowl, you may then continue to yield a great harvest. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving may we come to a deeper appreciation of this gift of faith during this Lenten season and may it be a time of great blessing and renewal.

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**Calendar**

**February 11** – LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg; Mass for World Day of the Sick, Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, 5 p.m.

**February 12** – Installation of Bishop Dennis Sullivan, Diocese of Camden.

**February 13** – Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, noon.; Mass at York College, 5:10 p.m.

**February 16** – Confirmation, Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Middletown, 10 a.m.

**February 17** – Rite of Election, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.

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**Wonderful indeed is the Mystery of Faith**

By Kirk Hallett

Special to The Witness

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community. CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten formation program. CRS Rice Bowl offers a unique experience that connects your Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving as a way to help our brothers and sisters in need around the world. With the CRS Rice Bowl, you will find a whole list of resources for the parish, for religious educators, for schools and for individuals, to guide you on your Lenten journey this year – this Year of Faith.

CRS is offering a variety of formation plans to live out the spirit of Lent in new ways by joining the CRS Rice Bowl. It is an opportunity to begin, reflect, participate, learn and give, this Lent, in a more meaningful way.

Begin your journey by going to the website (www.crsricebowl.org) and finding out how to get started. Everything you need to order in the way of materials is available for free. For parishers, there are bulletin announcements, inserts and companion homilies. For schools, there are educator guides, grade-appropriate lesson plans, many fun activities for all ages, and of course Rice Bowls. Everything is available in Spanish as well.

Reflect on what you hope to get out of Lent this year as an individual, family, religious educator, pastor or Catholic school and make a plan to achieve your goal. Twenty-five cents of each dollar donated to the Rice Bowl stay in your Diocese.

Participate in the weekly reflections, which are connected to each Sunday’s scripture readings with suggestions for prayer, fasting and giving. Check out the additional family fun activities. Access the forums and community pages on the site.

Learn about need around the world by reading CRS’s ‘stories of hope’ each week. Real stories about increasing harvest amounts for the hungry, providing health care where this is none available, early childhood education, and training to help people help themselves. Experience those stories of hope by preparing the simple meal recipes offered each week as part of the story.

Your giving will take on a new life and meaning with this CRS Rice Bowl Lenten journey. With the weekly reflections, the real stories of hope and the simple recipes, you will be experiencing firsthand where your contributions to CRS go and how the Rice Bowl helps people in need here at home and around the world.

This year’s theme – What you give up for Lent changes lives – comes to life.

(Kirk Hallett is the Operation Rice Bowl Coordinator for the Diocese of Harrisburg.)
The Vatican launched a new “Pope App” on the eve of the release of the Pope’s World Communications Day message, which is dedicated to social network as important spaces for evangelization.

The new app provides live streaming of papal events and video feeds from the Vatican’s six webcams. It sends out alerts and links to top stories coming out of the Vatican’s many news outlets, and carries words and images of Pope Benedict XVI.

“The Pope App” went live Jan. 23 for iPhone and iPad, while an Android version is expected to be ready at the end of February. It’s currently available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian.

The Vatican has been stepping up its digital presence in recent years—the latest example being the papal Twitter feed (@Pontifex), which has attracted more than 2 million followers in nine languages since its debut Dec. 12.

The new app will also allow people to follow live broadcasts of papal events.

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**The Catholic Witness**

**Edited by John Paul II**

**Catholic News Service**

By Carol Glatz

**Catholic News Service**

**Special to The Witness**

When I was a child, a regular part of my morning routine was a last-minute inspection of my hair as I prepared to go to school. She inspected my clothing, my hair, fingernails and shoes. I would often sweat as she sent me back upstairs to shine my shoes or comb my hair. I would be reminded that my appearance was a reflection of the “Schmidt” clan and her competence of being in the Schmidt household. I would often moan as she sent me back upstairs to shine my shoes or comb my hair. I would be reminded that my appearance was a reflection of the “Schmidt” clan and her competence of being in the Schmidt household. (pg 106)

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**Pope Benedict Has New App-titude, Lets Users Follow Live Events**

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

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**Skillfully Developed**

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

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**Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist**

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Celtic Concert

Continued from 1

Seasons decided that weekend at their intimate coffee shop show that they would directly donate all proceeds collected to their friend in need and her community. “It felt good and we were really impressed with people’s generosity. We really had only advertised the benefit on Facebook and it was a small venue, holding maybe 60 people, but we still collected $500,” explained Peter Lee. After this they thought they might be able to make a collaboration of artists and hold a special benefit performance.

He continued to explain how for a long time they had been wanting to collaborate with Stephanie Oscilowski, a parishioner of Saint Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg and founder of Rebel Heart Irish Dancers, a community dance troop that includes members of the Oscilowski family. Catholic home-schooling. Ms. Oscilowski was moved at the idea of a benefit performance for the hurricane victims, especially because she had an immediate family member severely affected by Hurricane Sandy. Her cousin lost his home.

Seasons and Rebel Heart Irish Dancers also teamed up with The Celtic Martins, a family band with the same positive family appreciation as the other groups. The Celtic Martins include their family of eight, each varying in the talent they lend to the group. Three of the daughters play fiddle and dance, there is bag pipe, a kit drum with an eclectic edge, and the list continues. “We’ve all traveled in the same circles [musically],” said Mr. Lee, “and we all dream big.” So they invited The Celtic Martins to participate in a benefit for Hurricane Sandy victims.

The three groups will come together on February 23, at 7 p.m. at Trinity High School in Camp Hill to perform Celtic Celebrations: A Benefit Performance for Sandy Relief. One hundred percent of all tickets sales will be donated to the American Red Cross. There will be original music from each group and a sneak preview of two dances from a future show in March and May from the Rebel Heart Irish Dancers. Seasons is excited to play “Here Comes the Rain,” a song written and inspired by the effects of Hurricane Sandy. The lyrics talk about how you can lose your house but not your home, that you will never lose your faith or love for each other, because these are the things a person can never lose.

“I know this sounds cliché, but this will truly be an event the entire family can enjoy,” explained Mr. Lee. “There is an appeal across the board.” Ms. Lee explained that, as Catholics, we are called to help our neighbors. It is most essential to love and reach out and give tangible signs, and that is what the groups hope the show can fulfill.

Local stores like Giant and Weis Markets have donated concessions, and Trinity High School has been generous with their auditorium. The show will be full of dance, pipes, harps and the Celtic traditions that so many people love. “It’s a great show for an introduction to Celtic music, you will get it all,” said Ms. Lee.

For more information on the groups, and for tickets, visit www.celtic-celebrations.weebly.com. The webpage will also direct visitors to their facebook page. The groups encourage people to ‘Like’ the page to find more promotional pictures and updates.

All Women and Priests of the Diocese, “SAVE THE DATE”

Monday, April 15, 2013 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 88th Annual Convention

Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Convention Theme . . . . “Year of Faith”

Awakening -- Deepening -- Renewing

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608

Diocese of Harrisburg

Youth Protection Program
passion for life along the route, singing, praying and chanting. The presence of young people was striking. “It’s marvelous to be here with so many people, especially so many young people,” Daniel said. “I can see how supportive they are for life, and how they’re determined to stand up for it. Pro-life supporters are adamant and enthusiastic about life.”

Scott Root, campus minister at Trinity High School, said it’s no surprise to see so many young people involved in the pro-life movement. “We’ve been in a culture of death for 40 years now. These kids have great respect for life because they realize that they’re the survivors,” he said. “Fifty-five million people of their generation and the generations before and after them don’t exist because they were killed by abortion.”

That’s a number that struck the Trinity High School students, as they were reminded of it throughout the Youth Mass and the March for Life. “As we get older, the idea of having children becomes more real for us. That realization makes us think about how unbelievably wrong abortion is – killing something that’s a part of you,” said junior Michael Marie Pavone. “There isn’t a situation where it’s ok to take another life, so for me, being here today is reinforcing the fact that there is no good that can come from abortion.”

~Trinity High School student Michael Marie Pavone

Mr. Root said he hoped the Youth Mass and March for Life solidified the students’ resolve to stand for life, from conception until natural death. “I want them to take to heart the fact that we can’t limit the pro-life discussion to abortion,” he said. “There are people who pick and choose which part of the pro-life movement they agree with, but when you look at the Gospel, we are called to respect all human life.”

“I want these students to gain a respect for human life,” he said. “When they engage themselves in the march and see the images of abortion, it hits home for them. I hope they will carry their pro-life values into the future and continue to be active in the cause when they become adults.”
By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Likening the 40-year struggle against legal abortion in the United States to the Israelites’ 40 years in the desert, Father Carter Griffin encouraged the more than 14,000 people attending the Archdiocese of Washington’s Jan. 25 Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center to be the future of the movement for life by being “a generation open to life, open to love (and) open to faith.”

“You are a force to be reckoned with! The battle for the soul of our culture is up to you. This is your moment! I promise you, if you are faithful, you will change the world!” said Father Griffin, the homilist at the archdiocese’s annual Mass for Life preceding the national March for Life in the nation’s capital.

Father Griffin, the archdiocese’s director for priest vocations and vice rector of its Blessed John Paul II Seminary, said the effort to change the hearts of people and the law of the land must begin with individuals striving for holiness, as they stand for life and seek eternal life.

“The most important thing we can do to promote a culture of life – even more important than voting, marching and speaking out – is to grow in holiness,” he said.

The archdiocese also sponsored a Youth Rally and Mass for Life that morning that drew more than 11,000 mostly out-of-town marchers to the Comcast Center at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Earlier, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, the main celebrant at the Mass, welcomed the spirited crowd of youths and young adults, and thanked them for bearing witness to the Gospel of life, to the value and dignity of all human life.

“Our Mass and rally is a proclamation of our faith in God, in Christ and in his Church, and in our belief in the dignity of life,” the archbishop of Washington said.

The young people there offered thunderous applause for Pope Benedict XVI, as his apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, was introduced and then read a message from the pope.

Pope Benedict expressed thanks “to all those who take part in this outstanding public witness to the fundamental human right to life, and to the many others who support them by fasting and prayer.”

The pope praised their efforts “defending the inviolable dignity of each member of our human family, especially the smallest and most defenseless of our brothers and sisters,” and he said he was “confident that their perseverance will contribute to the awakening of consciences and the building of a more just, compassionate and inclusive society.”

Before the Mass, Cardinal Wuerl met with members of the media and said the crowds at the Verizon Center and Comcast Center offered a “sign of hope” that “the value of life is something that young people appreciate.”

When asked about the 40 years since the Roe v. Wade decision, the cardinal also made the analogy to the Israelites’ 40 years in the desert, and he said, “You never put time limits on God’s plans.”

The growing crowds of young people attending the rallies, Masses and the March for Life each year reflect the importance of bearing witness to the value and dignity of all human life, the cardinal said.

The cardinal also underscored the importance of this Year of Faith in the Catholic Church as a time for all Catholics, especially the young, to deepen their faith and share it with others as part of their call to the new evangelization.

Carrying life-affirming messages, young people shuffle their way along the route of the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Trinity High School students demonstrate their passion for life during the Youth Rally at the Comcast Center on the campus of the University of Maryland.

Teens from across the country gather at the Comcast Center at the University of Maryland for a Youth Rally and Mass for Life prior to the march on Jan. 25. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, celebrated Mass at the Comcast Center, while Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, celebrated Mass at the Verizon Center.
February 24, 2013
Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal

Ways to Give

Pledging:
You may make a pledge and pay in monthly installments. A monthly coupon book will be sent for the duration of your pledge period.

Payment Methods:
The following payment methods are accepted: Cash, Check (payable to your parish), Credit Card (Visa and Mastercard), and Socks and Securities.

One-Time Gift:
A one-time, outright gift can be made to the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal at any point during the year of the appeal. Many companies will match charitable donations through an Employee Match Program. Please contact your employer to determine if a matching program is available. Visit www.hbgdiocese.org/blacc for more information or to make a donation to the appeal.

(Stations of the Cross image taken in Lourdes, France, by Emily M. Albert during World Youth Day 2011.)
Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

As we continue to commemorate the Year of Faith in communion with the Church throughout the world, the holy season of Lent gives us yet another opportunity to reflect more deeply on what it means to be Catholic Christian today. Pope Saint Leo the Great reminds us, “What the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion.” Such is the thrust of this changing world to proclaim the changeless truth of the Gospel. Although we are “present in this world” we know that we are “not at home in it” (Sacrocoramtum Concilium, 2). Nevertheless, we are called to enrich our society and culture with the gifts of faith, hope, and charity. To this end, with God’s help, our parishes, missions, ministries, and apostolates reach out to every human being, regardless of their religious affiliation, sharing the mercy and charity that has been given to us from above. We cannot do this without your assistance. Because of your generosity, individuals, families, and local communities experience the merciful presence of Christ through the many services and outreach programs provided throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg. Consider the multitude of children who are taught the faith through our Catholic schools and religious education programs. See how the boundaries of our Church extend beyond our own properties to the young adults benefiting from campus ministry programs, the retreats and camps meeting the needs of the spiritually and physically limited, the values of integrity and honor being taught to the youth in our scouting programs. From parish offices to athletic fields, the work of faith begins with worship and reaches out toward every dimension of our lives to fashion a society that reverses the dignity of life and safeguards the inalienable values which make us truly human.

Through the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal, you sustain the Diocese. Your generosity is also provided to meet the temporal needs of the diocese and to assist parishes and outreach programs provided throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg. Consider the multitude of children who are taught the faith through our Catholic schools and religious education programs. See how the boundaries of our Church extend beyond our own properties to the young adults benefiting from campus ministry programs, the retreats and camps meeting the needs of the spiritually and physically limited, the values of integrity and honor being taught to the youth in our scouting programs. From parish offices to athletic fields, the work of faith begins with worship and reaches out toward every dimension of our lives to fashion a society that reverses the dignity of life and safeguards the inalienable values which make us truly human.

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Thank you for your generosity. It is through your sacrificial gift this year’s Lenten Appeal that the diocese and its mission be sustained and expanded. May God bless your Lenten experience. The Lord knows our needs, our failings, and our limitations. May he grant you a heart of generosity and a spirit of sacrifice so that the needs of the Church may be met.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Joseph P. McFadden
Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

Lenten Appeal Allocations

Communications
The Church makes use of various forms of communication in today’s world to share the Good News with others. The Lenten Appeal directly supports the diocese’s diverse communication efforts to evangelize with today’s media. These vehicles include the diocesan Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org, The Catholic Witness newspaper in print and on the web, social media efforts such as an active Facebook page and YouTube channel accessible via the diocesan Web site, the Insight monthly e-newsletter, radio broadcasts and television programming. These vehicles of communication yield countless opportunities to spread the Church’s mission and to support the good works of the various ministries of the diocese and its parishes.

Education
The Lenten Appeal provides support for a variety of educational opportunities, whether in a school, parish or diocesan setting, regarding instruction in the faith. The diocese educates 14,469 students in its 36 elementary schools and 7 secondary schools, pre-school and kindergarten programs. More than 16,000 students attending public schools receive religious education in 89 parish programs of religious education. Adult education is provided through the Diocesan Institute, in parish-based programs as well as through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the continuing education for priests and deacons.

Evangelization
Evangelization is fundamental to the overall mission of the Church. It is always rooted in faith and involves a personal encounter with Jesus Christ that leads to a profound experience of conversion. All are called to know Christ and to make Him known to others. This is the responsibility of the entire Church and is securely located in the activity of the local Church, both at the parish and diocesan levels. This is accomplished in a myriad of opportunities: from Bible study to retreat experiences; through youth programs and activities; by chaplains in hospitals and prisons; through missionary activity both at home and abroad; through marriage preparation and sacramental formation; as well as outreach in soup kitchens, food pantries, refugee resettlement and in meeting cultural needs of those from other lands.

Human Services
Support for the Lenten Appeal provides funding for the programs and activities of Catholic Charities, including Adoption and Foster Care programs, Homes for Healing – Lourdeshouse, The Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Evergreen House and Hope House – Paradise School and the Bishop Dattilo Retirement Residence for priests. Funding is also provided to meet the temporal needs of the diocese and to assist parishes in becoming good stewards with sound financial practices and review.

Stewardship Prayer

God of mercy,
You have given us this special time

to reflect on our lives,
believe in the Good News
and draw closer to You.

May this season of Lent
help us use this time
to fast and pray,
be more generous
and show others
how to live in Christ.

Let us see each day of this season
as a new opportunity to renew
our lives
and gain a deeper appreciation
of Your active presence
in us and our community of faith.

Give us the grace to see Your
face in others,
especially the poor
and those who suffer.

And through your Spirit,
enkindle in us the fire of Your love
so that we may be better stewards
of Your redeeming work throughout
the world.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son.
Amen.
Bishop McDevitt Student Shines in Stanford Program

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

These days, Bianca DiSanto is California dreamin’. As winter surges with its biting cold, she turns her thoughts to the eight weeks she spent on the west coast last summer.

While there, the Bishop McDevitt High School senior certainly enjoyed the sights, sounds and activities of the San Francisco Bay Area. But her reason for heading out west had been to further her studies at Stanford.

Bianca was invited to the prestigious university to participate in its High School Summer College Program. It’s an academically-selective program that immerses high school students in an eight-week college experience that offers academic, social and intellectual opportunities.

When Bianca received the invitation from the Associate Dean and Director of the program to join almost 500 of her peers in the immersion experience, she seized the opportunity.

“I knew that I wanted to do some sort of educational enrichment over the summer, and the Stanford program was a perfect fit,” Bianca said.

From more than 175 college courses offered, she enrolled in Abnormal Psychology, Entrepreneurial Communication, and Media Entertainment.

The classes were rigorous, and Bianca found herself study everything in the textbooks, not just what was covered in class,” Bianca said. “We had only three grades – a term paper, a midterm exam and a final exam.”

But she was ready for the demands of the work, thanks to her education at Bishop McDevitt, she said.

“I certainly feel that my education at McDevitt prepared me for the work at Stanford;” she said. “For instance, McDevitt has a very rigorous English program. I’ve been at the Honors level throughout my high school career and now I’m taking AP English. I felt that I was much more prepared than others in the Stanford program when it came to writing papers. It was second nature to me.”

Throughout her high school career, Bishop McDevitt High School senior Bianca DiSanto has made summer study programs a part of her education. Among the colleges and universities to which she has applied is Stanford, where she completed 9 college credits through a special summer session.

Bianca earned nine credits for the three courses, and already she’s applying what she learned. For instance, she’s using knowledge and tips she picked up in her Entrepreneurial Communication class – taught by a professor who works exclusively with Stanford’s Graduate School of Business – in high school presentations and public speaking.

In addition to earning nine course credits and receiving a real-life glimpse into the demands of college, Bianca also forged new friendships and found herself witnessing to the Catholic faith among peers with differing religious beliefs.

“I met many people with different backgrounds and beliefs. Being conservative and a Catholic, I was definitely a minority at Stanford,” she said. “But the university has a beautiful church on campus, and one of my friends and I went there together for Mass on Sunday. I met people of diverse religious beliefs and shared my faith, but never felt that I was frowned upon because I was Catholic.”

Bianca has applied to a number of colleges and universities, and says that she’s hoping to get accepted to Georgetown or Stanford. She’s been interested in attending Georgetown for quite some time, but says she felt at home at Stanford.

“I’m extremely appreciative of what I’ve gained through the program,” she said. “I’ve made what I consider to be lifelong friends. A lot of what I’ve learned in the courses I’ve applied to my high school classes. And I was able to get a taste of what college is really like.”

Traveling and participating in summer programs are integral parts of Bianca’s life. She’s traveled and studied in Italy (she plans to major in International Business with a minor in Italian), has visited nearly all the states in the continental U.S., and previously completed a summer at Georgetown.

Those efforts, she said, have been an important part of who she is.

“Through them, I’ve been able to meet different people from all walks of life. Traveling has certainly changed who I am and has given me different perspectives about people and culture.”

There’s no doubt that her future travels will take her far when these winter days turn again to warm weather.

“A Chance and a Dance
To Benefit World Youth Day Pilgrims

Friday, February 15 from 7-10:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry is joining Bishop Joseph P. McFadden and Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day this summer. The diocese’s spiritual pilgrimage takes place July 20-29, beginning with a retreat in Guadalupe, Mexico, and concluding with World Youth Day activities in Rio de Janeiro July 22-25.

More than 40 young pilgrims from the diocese will participate in the pilgrimage, and the “Chance and a Dance” fund-raiser will benefit their experience.

$100 Donation includes:
• Entrance for two adults (must be at least 21)
• A chance to win one of ten raffle prizes
• Music by Ziegler’s Mobile Entertainment
• Hors d’oeuvres
• 50/50 raffle and silent auction

Formal attire required

For information and tickets, contact the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804, ext. 327, or oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.

A Retreat for Girl Scouts during the Year of Faith

February 16
Villa Sacred Heart and Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville

The Diocese of Harrisburg’s Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire is sponsoring the retreat for Girl Scouts, Brownies through Ambassadors.

The day begins with an optional tour of the basilica from 11 a.m.-noon, followed by check-in and lunch at noon. Next, a prayer service, sessions on Kateri Tekawitha and activities related to National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts during the Year of Faith. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 4-4:30 p.m., followed by a Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Participants should bring their own bag lunch (beverages will be provided), wear badge sashes or vest, and bring workbooks. Cost of the retreat is $20, and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Feb. 4, contact the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, archbishop of Indianapolis, Indiana, is among the 2013 selection of Cardinals, but the list of new Cardinals includes 14 new American bishops and one from Puerto Rico, noted Vatican experts.

The new cardinals are chosen by the pope after he consults with the members of his College of Cardinals. It is the second time that the pope has named American cardinals since Pope Francis was elected to the papacy last year. The first was in 2013, when he named two cardinals, both of whom are from the United States.

The new cardinals will be officially announced by the Vatican on Monday. The papal conclave is scheduled to begin on March 12, 2013, and the new pope is expected to be chosen by March 13, 2013.
Pope Says Social Networks Need More Logic, Love and Less Ranting, Rage

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Social media need to promote more logic, kindness and Christian witness than bluster, star-status and division, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Given that the online world exposes people to a wider range of opinions and beliefs, people need to accept the existence of these other cultures, “be enriched by it” and offer others what “they possess that is good, true and beautiful,” the pope said.

Christians are called to bring truth and values to the whole world – online and off – remembering it’s ultimately the power of God’s word that touches hearts, not sheer human effort, he said in his message for World Communications Day.

The theme of the 2013 celebration – marked in most dioceses the Sunday before Pentecost, this year May 12 – is “Social Networks: Portals of Truth and Faith; New Spaces for Evangelization.”

The papal message was released on the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of communications Day.

Social media “need the commitment of all who are conscious of the value of dialogue, reasoned debate and logical argumentation,” the pope said.

Social forums need to be used wisely and well, which means fostering balanced and respectful dialogue and debate, he said, and paying special attention to “privacy, responsibility and truthfulness.”

Too often, popularity – garnered either from fame or strategic powers of persuasion – determines the “significance and effectiveness” of online communication, not “intrinsic importance or value,” he said.

Christians can “show their authentic identity” by sharing their hope and joy, and its source in Jesus Christ. Catholics also should give witness by the way they live their lives and how their “choices, preferences and judgments” are fully consistent with the Gospel, he added.

Msgr. Paul Tighe, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told reporters during a briefing that the pope is asking everyone to take responsibility for creating a more humane culture online by being respectful, honest and contributing to the growth and wellbeing of individuals and society through social networks.

Very often in new media “the more provocative I am, the more strident, the more extreme I am in my views, the more attention I get,” he said. But, he said, the pope “is calling for the importance of the quiet voice of reason; we need moderation, reason and logic otherwise our debates are going nowhere.”

Archbishop Claudio Celli, the council’s president, said even Catholic sites and forums can be plagued by an aggressive and divisive atmosphere.

“The problem isn’t so much display straightforward fidelity to particular dogmatic statements of the faith,” he said; “the problem is how to best show God’s mercy and love, which is often more credibly and effectively done with actions and not just words.”

“I knew my mother and father loved me not because they showered me with solemn declarations, but because they let me experience first-hand what it means to be loved,” the archbishop said.

The same needs to happen in the realm of faith, because what humanity needs more than anything is to experience first-hand God’s love and mercy, he said.

In his message, the pope said, “Dialogue and debate can also flourish and grow when we converse with and take the time to listen to people who think ideas are different from our own.”

Social networks are an important place for people of faith to reach out to others “by patiently and respectfully engaging their questions and their doubts, and also guiding them in their search for the truth and the meaning of human existence,” the pope said.

If evangelizing is to be fruitful, he said, people need to remember that “it is always because of the power of the word of God itself to touch hearts, prior to any of our own efforts.”

“The kind of debate can be toned down and sensationalism avoided when people begin to put more trust in the power of God to work to the demonstrated confidence we place in human means,” he said.

“We need to trust in the fact that the basic human desire to love and to be loved, and to find meaning and truth – a desire which God himself has placed in the heart of every man and woman – can open our doors ever open to ... the ‘kindly light’ of faith,” Pope Benedict said.

He also reminded people to use online forums to build bridges into a faith community, religious celebrations and pilgrimages: “elements which are always important in the journey of faith.”

Christian Cooperation Key to Proclaiming the Gospel, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Christians must work together to offer the faith they share to a world that seems to find it more and more difficult to believe, Pope Benedict XVI told Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant leaders.

“Unity is in itself a privileged means – a requirement – for proclaiming the faith in an increasingly credible way to those who do not yet know the Savior or who, having received the proclamation of the Gospel, have almost forgotten this precious gift,” Pope Benedict said Jan. 25.

Presiding over an evening prayer service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said that, even as divided Christians continue their theological dialogues in the search for full unity, “it is necessary to pursue concrete collaboration among the disciples of Christ on behalf of the cause of transmitting the faith to the modern world.”

“In today’s society, it seems that the Christian message has a diminishing impact on personal and community life, and that the religious dimension found in many churches and ecclesial communities, Pope Benedict said in his homily at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The key to meeting the challenge, the pope said, is for Christians to pray to God for the gift of unity and step up their efforts at “reconciliation, dialogue and mutual understanding.”

“Communication in the same faith is the basis for ecumenism,” he said.

During the Year of Faith, which the pope established to encourage Catholics to study the basic tenets of their faith and strengthen their religious practice and witness, he said, Christians should recognize and give thanks for their shared faith in God, in Jesus as savior and in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and continues to give life to the Church.

“Without faith – which primarily is a gift of God, but is also a response of man – the whole eccumenical movement would be reduced to a form of ‘contract’ to which we adhere out of our common interests,” he said.

Instead, ecumenism itself is an expression of faith in Jesus, who prayed that his disciples would be one, the pope said.

The pope said, “What does God require of us?” – and reflections for the 2013 Week of prayer were developed by Christians in India, working with the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The material highlighted the believer’s obligation “to do justice, love goodness and walk humbly with God.”

But, he said, “God is inseparable from personal holiness, just as it is inseparable from the search for justice,” the pope said.

“I pray for Christians in India, ‘who sometimes are called to witness to their faith in difficult circumstances,’ and he said that while walking humbly with God means trusting God completely, “it also means walking beyond the barriers, hatred, racism and social and religious discrimination that divide and damage the whole society.”

Pope Benedict offered special greetings during the prayer service to members of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches, which include the Armenian Apostolic, Coptic Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox, Malankara Orthodox Syrian and Oriental Orthodox churches.

Meeting commission members earlier in the day, the pope said many of the Oriental churches’ “most fervent desire is for an encounter with modern Christians, as individuals and communities, face painful trials and difficulties which are a source of deep concern to us all.”

The pope asked the Catholic and Orthodox Orthodox leaders to convey to their faithful in the Middle East his prayers that “this land, so important in God’s plan of salvation, may be led, through constructive dialogue and cooperation, to a future of justice and lasting peace.”

Pope Benedict XVI leaves an ecumenical evening prayer service at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25. The service concluded the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Mary K. Brugskov, St.
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT – St. Rita: Leslie Cunningham.
BOUNTEAUNGE – St. Joseph the Worker: Harry Bowser, Carol Conahan, Nancy, Carol McMaster, Raymond Storm.
CAMPFIELD – Good Shepherd: Joseph Bulo, John Clark, John Reseter.
CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Mary O’Neill, Betty Renz.
CORNWALL – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Elizabeth Felix; St. Joseph: Joseph Manganaro, have been submitted by their parishes:

A. Aurentz, Anna Cunha, David Johnson, have been submitted by their parishes:

www.hbgdiocese.org. at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WISL1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. or for download at

AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WHYL-AM 960, Carlisle, at 8 a.m.; WHVR-AM 720. The program is heard Mondays at noon

During the leadership of the Diocese and WHFY AM 720. The program is heard Mondays at noon

and on some of the many events taking place in parishes and Catholic schools in the

andering an abortion procedure. The DVD is meant to serve as a tool for healing as

“My Arms.” The one-hour documentary explores the trauma that women suffer following an abortion procedure. The DVD is meant to serve as a tool for healing as

which legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy, set the stage for this week’s feature segment on

Court decision, which legalized abortion throughout all nine months

FertilityCare Practitioner Education Program

DIPLLISBURG Girl Scout Earns Gold Award

Rachel James of Dillsburg recently earned her Girl Scout Gold Award, the achieve-

progression.

February 3: The recent March for Life and 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme

Court decision, Roe vs Wade, which legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy, set the stage for this week’s feature segment on Catholic Perspective.

Certified Trauma Counselor Julie Woodley discusses her documentary project, “In My Arms.” The one-hour documentary explores the trauma that women suffer following an abortion procedure. The DVD is meant to serve as a tool for healing as well as an educational resource to those considering abortion. Woodley tells about how the powerful experience of producing the documentary helped her to return to the Catholic faith.

Why do we call it the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? That is the topic for this week’s feature segment on Catholic Perspective.

Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Harrisburg. February 2, 2013.

and Sunday mornings on WLAM- AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WYLY-AM 960, Carlisle, at 8 a.m.; WJVR-AM 1280, Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WKOK-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WEEC-FM 86.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available on line at www.OLdenradio.com at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WISL1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. or for download at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Catholic Perspective

Catholic Communication Campaign

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Diocesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

A Pro-Life Mass will be celebrated by Father Paul Schenk Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Please register at www.stpaulharrisburg.org. At least 30 days before the Mass, the parish will mail the name and address of the parishioner who registered to the Diocese of Harrisburg. The Mass is for all the pro-life work being done and all the lives saved. A 24-hour Mass of the Holy Spirit prayer chain will be held on the day of the Mass.

Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated at St. Therese Church in New Cumberland Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. by Father Jordan Hite, O.P., and a panel of the Holy Spirit prayer group. For more information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709 or Lembert at 717-973-2222.

Joseph McFadden will commemorate the World Day for the Sick on the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist in the chapel of Holy Spirit Hospital after which all will be seated in the church for the World Day for the Sick Liturgy and the Blessing of the Sick. For more information, call 717-583-9000.

In recognition of World Day of the Sick on the Feb. 1, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Father John A. Szada, Jr., Pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, will celebrate a Mass of Healing with an Anointing of the Sick and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. in Divine Redeemer Church, Mount Carmel. The clergy and the sick will have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All are welcome to participate in the healing Mass.

The St. John Paul II Parish will be hosting a workshop at 8 p.m. on Feb. 7. The presentation is titled “How to Share Your Faith with Others.” The program will also provide information about the parish’s Acolyte program, how to become an acolyte and how to begin a program in your parish. For more information, call 717-739-2224.

Retreats & Pilgrimages

A women’s retreat, “Blessed, Beautiful and Bouquet: Celebrating the Gift of Catholic Womanhood,” will be presented by author Fawn Gอมch March 1-2 at Mary Queen of Peace Chapel on the campus of the Catholic Bible College. Friday’s study group will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at noon, and noon Mass and lunch will be celebrated at St. Paul Cathedral in Harrisburg. Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. to ask God for help in your prayer life. This prayer experience is also open to those who want to join in others to pray.

The St. Joseph Parish in Millmont will host an annual Blue & Gold Gala “Old Traditions – New Beginnings” March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Zembo Temple in Harrisburg. The event will feature renowned jazz drummer Ronnie Burgage, pianist Steve Rudolph, saxophonist Tim Warfield and bassist Norma Speaks. Ticket options: dinner/show; dinner only; show only; or a dinner-only ticket to support the arts and technology programs at St. Margaret Mary School will be held Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. at the Zembo Temple in Harrisburg. The event will feature renowned jazz drummer Ronnie Burgage, pianist Steve Rudolph, saxophonist Tim Warfield and bassist Norma Speaks. Ticket options: dinner/show; dinner only; show only; or a dinner-only ticket.

A Cool Night of Hot Jazz” to support the arts and technology programs at St. Margaret Mary School will be held Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. at the Zembo Temple in Harrisburg. The event will feature renowned jazz drummer Ronni Burgage, pianist Steve Rudolph, saxophonist Tim Warfield and bassist Norma Speaks. Ticket options: dinner/show; dinner only; show only; or a dinner-only ticket.

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February 1, 2013, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS - 15

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

As wrestling’s regular season waned, the Bishop McDevitt Crusaders and the Trinity Shamrocks took to the mat in a Mid Penn Capital Division match-up Jan. 17 at Trinity.

Though the two relatively new programs saw forfeits at several weight classes, the match drew particular excitement at the 106- and 120-pound bouts, as district-ranked wrestlers went head-to-head in thrilling match ups.

The Crusaders, coached by Scott Lindsey, restarted their program four years ago after a 30-year hiatus, and the Shamrocks, led by Chris Bentley, took to the mat two years ago for the first time in some 40 years.

The 106-pound match pitted Bishop McDevitt sophomore David Pipa against Trinity freshman Chase Drawbaugh. Pipa, who qualified for the District 3 individual tournament last year, dominated Drawbaugh on his way to a pin.

At 120 pounds, the Crusaders’ Terrence White, who placed third in the district at 113 pounds last year, met the Shamrocks’ Devon Bentley, last year’s fourth-place winner in the district at 106 pounds. White took a 3-0 lead in the match, and held Bentley from scoring late to win 3-1.

Wins at most of the head-to-head matches, plus additional points from a few Trinity forfeits, led the Crusaders to victory, 40-18. But Trinity’s champion seniors didn’t disappoint. Ryan Diehl, last year’s 113-pound district and state champion, and Adam Geiger, the 2010-2011 district champ at 171, both pinned their opponents in quick fashion in the first period.

As Diehl and Geiger look for repeat golden performances come March, it’s likely that Pipa and Drawbaugh, and White and Bentley will cross paths again as they contend for spots on the podium.

LANCASTER
CATHOLIC
BOWLERS
STRIKE OFTEN

The Crusaders of Lancaster Catholic’s co-ed varsity bowling team finished a terrific regular season as Lancaster-Lebanon League Section III champions with a 85-27 record, staying ahead of a closely pursuing Northern Lebanon and Lancaster Mennonite. Paced by five veteran seniors, the Crusaders look to repeat as sectional champs if they can best the Vikings of Northern Lebanon this week.

The league singles championships are February 11, followed by the Lancaster-Lebanon team championships on February 13. To qualify for districts, you must have a 210-average or better or place high at the tournaments, and several Crusaders are definitely knocking on that door.

Top: Sara Strausbaugh, with a 203 average, holds her form.
Right: Matt Pleager, with a 213 average, keeps an eye on the pins as he makes his move.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Winter Classic Brings Hockey to its Outdoor Roots

For 75 years, the Hershey Bears have been playing professional hockey before a loyal fan base that every year leads the American Hockey League in attendance by far. This year, those rabid hockey fans – more than 17,000 strong – were treated to an outdoor game, the 2013 Winter Classic, played at venerable Hersheypark Stadium on January 20 as polar air fittingly invaded Central Pennsylvania. The Bears fell in overtime, 2-1, to their intra-division archrival, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

Catholic Hall of Famer Stan Musial Dies at 92

A funeral Mass was scheduled for Jan. 26 at St. Louis Cathedral Basilica for Stan Musial, the Hall of Fame outfielder-first baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals. Musial, a Catholic who played all 22 of his major-league seasons with the Cardinals, died Jan. 19 at age 92 at his home in nearby Ladue, surrounded by family.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, a former auxiliary bishop in St. Louis, celebrated the funeral Mass. Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tenn., who as a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese was Musial's pastor in La
due, preached the homily.

Musial, frequently called “Stan the Man” for his hitting prowess, won seven National League batting championships. At the time of his retirement following the 1963 season, he held 17 major league batting records. He batted out 3,630 hits during his career – split evenly, with 1,815 at home and 1,815 on the road. He belted 475 home runs, 725 doubles and 175 triples, an uncommon mix of power and speed. He won the National League’s Most Valuable Player award three times, as well as three World Series championships with the Cardinals. The owner of a .331 lifetime batting average, he became President Lyndon Johnson’s physical fitness adviser following his retirement.

Although he never led the National League in home runs or stolen bases, he ranked among his records was the record for making the most outs – more than 7,000 – yet he still managed to hit 3,630 hits during his career – split evenly, with 1,815 at home and 1,815 on the road. He belted 475 home runs, 725 doubles and 175 triples, an uncommon mix of power and speed. He won the National League’s Most Valuable Player award three times, as well as three World Series championships with the Cardinals. The owner of a .331 lifetime batting average, he became President Lyndon Johnson’s physical fitness adviser following his retirement.

Musial would remind youngsters that “This is going to be tough,” but the next time up I hit a double and it started me on my way,” he said. The slugger met Blessed John Paul II, including twice before Blessed John Paul ascended to the papacy. Musial said they first met when he was archbishop of Krakow, Po
dlained in 2011, during ceremonies at the White
tadium in St. Louis. Musial was awarded the Medal of

Freedom, considered the nation’s highest ci

villian honor.

He was boyhood friends with the late Arch

bishops Nicholas Elks, once head of the Pitts

burgh Byzantine Diocese and later appointed by Pope Paul VI as auxiliary archbishop of

Cincinnati. He and Musial both had grown up in

Donora, Pa.

Musial, who was of Polish descent, was long involved in growing the sport of base

ball in Poland. He was involved with a Little League project in Poland, helping to build a training and conference center for coaches, trainers and players all over Eastern Europe.

He also helped out in the St. Louis area as well, including at the St. Vincent Home for

Children, a residential treatment center for children with educational, emotional and beha

vioral difficulties. Giving back and helping others “gives you a great feeling,” he said.

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Musial recalled in 1988, after his first meeting with Blessed John Paul at the Vatican. The two had some trouble communicating, but when Musial returned to Poland two years later, the Blessed John Paul was already speaking flu

ent English, he said. “He probably doesn’t re

member it, but I do,” Musial said.

Musial was co-chair of Blessed John Paul’s 1999 pastoral visit to St. Louis.

“Allieuuu! A great man! A superb athlete!”

Cardinal Dolan said in a blog posting within hours of Musial’s death. “Married seven-de

cades to his beloved Lil; proud father; com

mited Catholic – he readily admits one of the highpoints of his life was getting to know his fellow Pole, Blessed John Paul II; never missed Sunday Mass; no steroids or drugs; no brawls, enemies, or DUI. Just a gentleman, day-in-day-out reliable, never complaining or demanding; no controversy or foul language.”

Cardinal Dolan recalled when, at age 10, he and his brother met Musial at the St. Louis airport: “Hi Stan,’ we blurted out. The Man looked at us, ‘Whaddaya say, sluggers?’ Never forgotten it. I was 10-foot tall.”

Bishop Stika said in 2009 that, although he was moving to Tennessee for his Knoxville episcopal assignment, he would never be able to root for any baseball team other than the St. Louis Cardinals, especially because of former parishioner Musial, whom he called “a good friend and a true model of a baseball player.”

More than 17,000 hockey fans fill Hersheypark Stadium for the American Hockey League’s Winter Classic.

The Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins take to the ice as the sun sets over Hersheypark Stadium.