Father Joseph C. Hilbert was laid to rest Feb. 7 from St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster, where the roots of his service as a priest for 62 years first took hold.

He grew up there, on Cabbage Hill, and lived just a stone's throw from his beloved St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster, where the roots of his service as a priest for 62 years first took hold. He attended St. Joseph School and Lancaster Catholic High School, and was an altar server at the parish.

He has been like a brother to me in these 12 years that he's lived here,” Msgr. Smith said. “I haven't had a loss like this in quite some time.

When Father Hilbert retired from active ministry in 2002, he asked Msgr. Smith if there was a room for him at the rectory there. The pastor – and indeed the parishioners – was more than happy to welcome him.

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THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

PHILIPPINES

Father Hilbert Illustrated ‘Faith with Compassion’

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Father Joseph C. Hilbert

Father Joseph C. Hilbert

It's been awhile since I've cried so many tears.”

Father Hilbert died Feb. 4 at St. Anne's Retirement Community in Columbia. He was 86. A Mass of Transferral was celebrated Feb. 7 by Father Philip Burger, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life. The funeral Mass the next day was celebrated by Father Robert Gillelan, Jr., Diocesan Administrator. Burial was in St. Joseph New Cemetery.

“I accepted every person as they were,” Msgr. Smith said. “He didn’t have a program in his mind that everybody else had to meet. He saw service as the essence of the priesthood. He was the ultimate shepherd. He didn’t ask any questions except, ‘What is there that I can do?’”

Father Hilbert was born July 10, 1927, the oldest of six children of Carl and Helen Hilbert. He attended St. Joseph School and Lancaster Catholic High School, and was an altar server at the parish.

His sister, Bernadette Glatfelter, recounted that Father Hilbert always credited his pursuit of the priesthood to the priests of his parish, and

UN CRITICISM

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

The Vatican said it would continue to adhere to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and give an attentive response to the U.N. committee monitoring adherence to the treaty, despite what it views as unfair criticism and suggestions from the committee that would violate Church teaching.

The Vatican will follow the procedures foreseen by the treaty “with openness to criticisms that are justified, but it will do so with courage and determination, without timidity,” said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman.

Father Lombardi issued a statement Feb. 7, two days after the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child insisted the Vatican was not doing enough to prevent clerical sexual abuse of children and even suggested that, for the good of children, the Catholic Church change its teaching on abortion, contraception and homosexuality.

Committee members went "beyond their competence and interfered in the doctrinal and moral positions of the Catholic Church," the spokesman said, adding that the committee’s suggestions reveal an “ideological vision of sexuality.”

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Cardinal: Typhoon Haiyan Recovery Can Show World a United Church

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

An emotional Cardinal Luis Tagle of Manila welcomed U.S. Catholic leaders reviewing Typhoon Haiyan recovery efforts in the Philippines, saying that the work to rebuild devastated communities can show the world a Church united in the service of people in need.

With tears welling up as he described the utter destruction he saw during a visit to Tacloban soon after the Nov. 8 typhoon swept in from the sea with 195-mile-an-hour winds and a tsunami-like storm surge, Cardinal Tagle reminded the international delegation Feb. 3 that storm survivors can teach visitors about the importance of perseverance and maintaining faith in God.

“I don’t know how we could make the whole world realize how much we could help. For a few days [during my visit] we knew it was possible for mankind to be together, to be one, to feel for one another and to transcend the barriers, all the baggage, the history that religion, that politics, the financial economy has imposed on everyone,” Cardinal Tagle said in a meeting at the offices of the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences.

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Father Joseph C. Hilbert

More FATHER HILBERT, page 16

‘Unjust’ Criticism from U.N. Won’t Force Vatican to Drop Treaty

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

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More UN CRITICISM, page 13

CNS/TYLER ORSBURN

A crucifix is displayed in Barangay Cabarasan Guli, a community in Tanauan, Philippines, Feb. 6. The community was hit by Typhoon Haiyan in November.

More PHILIPPINES, page 2
Philippines
Continued from 1
ference of the Philippines.
In that regard we saw the response and demand here,” he told a delegation of more than a dozen representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bish-
ops, Catholic Relief Services and Cari-
tas Australia. “There is so much hope for the world. We just prayed that this will be sustained and will not become sporadic, only occasional. We hope it becomes a lifestyle to be spearheaded by Christians.”
Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louis-
ville, Ky., USCCB president, who was leading the delegation on its weeklong visit to the Philippines, told the cardinal that the U.S. Church wanted to work side-by-side with Filipinos in the long recovery process.
“We know there is one Church and we want to be partners with you,” he said.
U.S. parishes still are collecting funds, most of which have been design-
ated for humanitarian needs. USCCB officials project that about $9 million will be raised in parish special collections for the recovery effort. The people of the Diocese of Harrisburg contrib-
uted $449,546.35 to a special collection for the typhoon, and the monies were sent to Catholic Relief Services.
Meanwhile, CRS has raised about $48 million, including $28 million from private donors and $20 million from public sources, reported Joe Curry, the agency’s country representative in the Philippines. All of the funds are being used for humanitarian needs, he told CNS.
Cardinal Tagle acknowledged that re-
covery and rebuilding is likely to take years because the devastation was so great, reaching across 12 dioceses in the central part of the country with the Palo Archdiocese and Borongan Diocese ex-
periencing the most serious damage. In some locales, 90 percent of buildings were smashed into matchsticks.
Two tropical storms swamped parts of the same regions in January, forcing some who lost their homes in Novem-
ber and were living in tents to flee to higher ground again.
Cardinal Tagle said natural disasters are the norm for the island nation and that he has come to see how important local parishes have become in offering shelter and becoming centers for sani-
tation and hygiene, the distribution of food and support for displaced people.
“At least for me,” he told the delega-
tion, “it has become a special lesson, because in moments like these a place of worship also becomes a place of charity. The place is made sacred not by sacraments and prayer but by the belief that we can find a refuge here. It is our home. Compounding the challenges, the cardinal added, is the trauma experi-
enced by priests, women religious and lay leaders at parishes, who are strugg-
ling with their own losses of family, possessions and secure housing.
“The Church structure is in a state of shock,” Cardinal Tagle said. “We have been offering emotional and psycho-
logical first aid.”
CRS’ Curry explained during the 45-minute meeting that agency staff members are attempting to develop creative responses to the disaster be-
cause the devastation is so severe. With a shortage of construction supplies and tools and a lack of capacity on the part of local and national governments to remove debris and improve infrastruc-
ture, the agency is attempting to find enough clear land to build temporary wooden shelters so people can move from tents into more secure housing, he said.
The agency has begun hiring people in cash-for-work programs to remove debris in some areas to pump much-
needed funds into communities where people lost jobs, farmers lost cropland and fishermen lost boats, Curry said.
Carolyn Woo, CRS president, pledged to help the Philippines “build back bet-
ter,” using an oft-repeated phrase cited in the effort to rebuild Haiti after its 2010 earthquake.
“This is a chance where we can imag-
nine what is needed and how to rebuild so that, the next storm, people are not as strongly affected,” she said.
Likewise, Paul O’Callaghan, Caritas Australia CEO, pledged to work with Caritas Philippines to respond in areas of greatest need.
In a later meeting with two Philip-
pine bishops, the delegation was asked to consider rebuilding churches, village chapels, schools, convents and rectories in line with the effort undertaken by the USCCB and other Catholic agencies in Haiti.
Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan, president of the Philippine bishops’ conference, said the time has come to build churches that will serve not just for worship but as community centers and shelters when a natural disaster occurs.
“His Excellency has said that people in2013 during the pontifical visit. The arch-
45-minute meeting that agency staff 

THE LIGHT OF FAITH
BISHOP’S ANNUAL LENTEN APPEAL
MARCH 16, 2014

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage to Mexico
October 20-25, 2014

This six-day pilgrimage to Mexico will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Harrisburg. The pilgrimage is not sponsored by the diocese, but rather is an opportunity for individuals to tour the shrines and chapels in the Mexican City and celebrate Hispanic faith and cultural.

Itinerary includes tours to: the Metropolitan Cathedral and the National Palace. Cost is $1,699 per person; double occupancy. Total is $1,000 early bird discount for all deposits received before May 15. Cost includes roundtrip air from Harrisburg, hotel stays, tour escort, deluxe motor coach, entrance fees, daily breakfast, two dinners and four lunches, and tips.

For more information, or to receive a brochure, contact Regina Tours at 1-800-922-4654, ext. 208, or lucille@groupist.com.
Can Catholics Cooperate with the New Health Insurance Law?

By Father Paul CB Schenck
Special to The Witness

Most people are aware that the new health insurance regulations, called the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” of 2010 (ACA) contains certain provisions objectionable to Catholic moral teaching. Specifically, the ACA requires that health insurers and most employers include birth control, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs in their coverage. The Catholic Church, as well as many other religious traditions, condemn these as direct attacks against innocent human life, and so find them intrinsically evil and morally objectionable. So Catholic employers and employees, as well as individual subscribers, are wondering, “What am I to do?” This is a valid and essential question. How can Catholic employers cooperate with the government’s requirement (known as the “HHS mandate”) and not violate the Church’s teaching and their own consciences? Without restating the moral objections to the HHS mandate, which have been thoroughly covered in publications by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, I hope to offer some advice and direction to Catholics confronted by this moral dilemma.

We first need to review the principles that govern cooperation with evil. Each and every day, we have some intersection with wrongdoing, even if we do not intend or purpose to do so. For example, we make a deposit in a bank, which then makes a loan to another bank, which then loans to a construction company which is outfitting an abortion clinic. Another example might be buying a shirt from a retailer which outsources manufacturing to a foreign company that buys from a producer who exploits poor workers. We cannot always know these connections, and even if we do, we sometimes cannot avoid them. The question is, do we willingly assent to the wrongdoing, voluntarily participate with it, and intend its ends? If the answer to that question is “yes,” then we have immorally cooperated with evil. But if the answer is “no,” then we can begin to sort out what we can and cannot cooperate in.

Let’s apply this to the HHS-mandated insurance coverage. You are a Catholic employer or employee and your insurance coverage now includes the morally objectionable provisions. The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) has stated, “Temporary compliance under protest by selecting and financing “pre-packaged” insurance plans designed by a third party may be licit on these conditions: (1) there are no alternatives that meet the employees’ health care needs and do not contain objectionable coverage; (2) a sufficiently weighty reason can be demonstrated, taking into account the proportion between the good intended and the provision of adequate health care coverage to employees in need and the harms expected (e.g., undermining of religious liberty); and (3) scandal is avoided by conveying the employer’s opposition to the evils and making known his or her moral convictions, and, most importantly, by the employer’s ongoing engagement in prudentially appropriate efforts to combat the injustice and secure due protection for religious liberty and conscience…”

In other words, with no other option than to deprive one’s employees, one’s family or one’s self of adequate health care (not to mention a job in the event the company is subjected to bankrupting fines), a Catholic might temporarily subscribe to or provide this coverage while making it plain to employees and providers that the coverage is objectionable. I recommend writing to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, objecting to the mandate, notifying the health insurance provider, and making known your objections to employees receiving the benefits. In each case, you should make it known that you are only cooperating temporarily while a legal resolution is being sought. Catholics should also support the efforts being made to secure the right to life and religious liberty by civil and religious liberty agencies.

It is sad and distressing that the federal government has abandoned its role and responsibility to defend and protect innocent lives and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of religious freedom and conscience. By resolutely opposing the HHS mandate, making known that objection and working to secure those rights, Catholics and all conscientious people can help to reinstate those national ideals.

(Father Paul CB Schenck is Diocesan Respect Life Director, is founding chair of the National Pro-Life Center in Washington, D.C., and is certified in Health Care Ethics with the National Catholic Bioethics Center.)

Diocese Establishes Risk Management and Safety Department

The Diocese of Harrisburg has created a new Risk Management and Safety Department within Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services to provide overarching safety and risk management guidance for parishes, schools and other diocesan agencies.

Mike Ogden, former Director of the Diocesan Office of Buildings and Properties, has been assigned as director of the newly-established department. In this role, Mr. Ogden will be a resource for parishes and schools, will help implement safety-related training, and will provide information regarding safety and risk management.

Resources will include regulatory requirements, policy information, planning and training tools, and general awareness information. The department will also post information and forms parish and schools might need in order to file insurance claims or complete facility safety assessments.

The goal of the department is to create an overarching safety and risk management program for the diocese, not to replace practices that parishes and schools already have in place, said Mr. Ogden.

The initiative will also save the diocese money on insurance in an effort to be more efficient and economical.

“Each time the diocese is making an effort to increase safety for everybody,” he said. “Even one accident is one too many.”

Specific resources for safety and risk management will be listed in the diocese’s weekly eDigest, and on the Safety/Risk Management tab on the diocesan Intranet. Mr. Ogden can be reached at 717-657-4804, ext. 388, or mogden@hbg-diocese.org.

Correction

The article on Charismatic Renewal that appeared in the Jan. 31, 2014, edition of The Catholic Witness incorrectly stated that dancing takes place during a Charismatic Mass. Although those involved enter deeply into the celebration of the Mass, they do follow the liturgical norms for the Mass. Dancing does not occur during the actual celebration of the Mass, nor is it permitted.

The Diocese of Harrisburg will host Solemn Lenten Vespers and an RCIA retreat day this Lent to prepare the Elect and Candidates for Easter.

The Lenten Vespers will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg at 4 p.m. on Sundays March 16-April 6. The invitation to these celebrations is extended to all throughout the diocese, and particularly to those who will be received or have been received recently into full communion with the Catholic Church, along with RCIA leaders and sponsors, and family members.

Deanery assignments are suggested for the following weekends, however a parish may choose to attend any of the weekends: March 16 Lancaster and Lebanon Deaneries; March 23 York, Adams and Franklin Deaneries; March 30 Northern and Northumberland Deaneries; and April 6 Dauphin and Cumberland/Perry Deaneries. Parishes are requested to register, even if a group is not attending.

The Lenten RCIA retreat for the Elect and Candidates will be held April 12 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Father Chester Snyder will be the presenter, leading participants in reflecting on what initiation into Christ is all about – its gifts, its challenges, its consummations and its promises. Several priests will be present for the Sacrament of Penance, providing a possible opportunity for first confessions for Candidates. A special session for sponsors will be held. Registration fee of $18 includes lunch. For information, contact Hilary Smith at 717-657-4504.
Many Catholic parents go to great lengths to ensure their children are baptized, and they must make similar efforts to see that their children are confirmed, Pope Francis said.

Without Confirmation, he said, young people will remain “halfway” on the path of Christian maturity and membership in the Church.

Confirmation “unites us more solidly to Christ. It completes our bond with the Church,” Pope Francis said Jan. 29 at his weekly general audience.

The sacrament “gives us the special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith, to confess the name of Christ and to never be ashamed of his cross,” the pope said.

Confirmation solidifies and increases the grace given at baptism, “which is why it’s important to make sure our children and young people receive this sacrament. We all make sure that our children are baptized, which is good, but perhaps we’re not quite so diligent in making sure they are confirmed.”

“If you have a child or young person at home who hasn’t been confirmed and is the right age to receive the sacrament, do everything possible to make sure it happens,” he said.

Especially for those who were baptized as infants, the pope said, Confirmation is a time to affirm one’s personal decision to follow Christ and to make sure it happens,” he said. “For those who were baptized as infants, the pope said, Confirmation is also a time to affirm one’s personal decision to follow Christ and to make sure it happens.”

Pope Francis told the crowd, estimated by the Vatican at about 25,000 people, that the Holy Spirit, “so important for the Christian life,” is given to believers in a special way through Confirmation.

The Bible and Catholic tradition speak of seven specific gifts of the Holy Spirit, the pope said, but he promised not to give the crowd a pop quiz by asking people to list them. Instead, he gave the answers: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

Through the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis said, “Christ himself is present in us and takes form in our lives. Through us, he is the one — listen carefully — who prays, forgives, spreads hope and consolation, serves our people and takes form in our lives. Through us, he is the one – listen carefully – standing, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. And I usually begin by confessing that marking and honoring the date of my baptism hadn’t really occurred to me until a quarter-century or so ago, when I began working with evangelical Protestants on pro-life and religious freedom issues and noted that some of them had an interesting way of introducing themselves at a meeting. Whereas the normal American way of breaking-the-ice is to say, “I’m John Doe and I work at Boeing,” or “I’m Jane Smith and I’m an attorney,” these folks would begin rather differently: “I’m John Doe/Jane Smith and I was born again on such-and-such-a date,” usually in the past 10 or 15 years. Contrarian that I can be on occasion, when things got around the table to me, I’d say, “I’m George Weigel and I was born again on April 29, 1951... at which point I was 12 days old.”

Which got a few interesting conversations going about sacramental regeneration, etc.

Then, when I was working on the biography of John Paul II and was reminded that the first thing he had done on returning to his home parish in Wadowice as pope was to kneel and kiss the baptismal font, memories of those men and women who remembered the day of their rebirth in Christ as a crucial way of identifying themselves came back to me. And I started taking April 29 much more seriously (shocking an usher when, on the 50th anniversary of my baptism, I went to the church where the deed had been done – amidst great caterwauling on my part, I’m reliably informed – and asked him to help me find the baptismal font, which had been moved in a post-conciliar wreckovation, so that I could kiss it).

As I explain to my audiences after I ask how many of them know the date of their baptism (average “yes” response: 3 percent of any group), baptism and the new evangelization, baptism and mission, go together. We are baptized into mission and for mission. Indeed, viewed through the prism of the new evangelization, the day of our baptism is the day of our being commissioned as missionary disciples.

This link between baptism and mission is made explicit in the biblical readings at Mass for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the A cycle, which we are using this liturgical year, the Old Testament reading is from one of the Servant Songs in Isaiah, establishing the link between the baptism of Jesus and the mission of the Servant of the Lord: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my delight: ‘I delight in the Lord: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my delight: ‘I delight in the Lord:’”

I usually begin by confessing that marking and honoring the date of my baptism hadn’t really occurred to me until a quarter-century or so ago, when I began working with evangelical Protestants on pro-life and religious freedom issues and noted that some of them had an interesting way of introducing themselves at a meeting. Whereas the normal American way of breaking-the-ice is to say, “I’m John Doe and I work at Boeing,” or “I’m Jane Smith and I’m an attorney,” these folks would begin rather differently: “I’m John Doe/Jane Smith and I was born again on such-and-such-a date,” usually in the past 10 or 15 years.

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Then, in the reading from Acts, Peter tells Cornelius about “the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; and God was with him.”

The very next verse – “And we are witnesses to all that he did” – points out our responsibilities as missionary disciples: we, too, are to “do good” and to help heal “all those who [are] oppressed by the devil.” As Pope Francis reminds us, we are to be like medical workers in a battlefield hospital after a terrible battle. We are to offer others the possibility of encountering the mercy of God, and the possibility of learning the truths about right-living that the encounter with the divine mercy affords us.

Baptism is baptism-into-mission. Thus a papally-endorsed suggestion from your scribe: learn the date of your baptism, celebrate it each year – and be re-energized for mission because of that celebration.

(George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.)
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

At the Cathedral campus of Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School, students are using Microsoft Office products as part of their daily curriculum. Devices such as SMART Boards and iPads are used to connect students with technology and provide information. This enables the school to be on the cutting edge of technology initiative that has taken place at the school. They have created personal newsletters with Publisher, and are plugging classmates survey responses into Excel to create graphs and charts about their favorite Olympic sports.

Here, the students in grades 5-8 take their own seat in front of one of the 22 desktop PCs that line the robust computer lab. Joy Bearley, the school’s technology coordinator, leads them in their use of Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint.

A year ago, Ms. Bearley had stood in that same spot with principal David Rushinski as both of them pondered how the school could strengthen its technology program at both campuses: Cathedral and Holy Family, the latter of which houses grades K-4. There was a need for new computers and new servers at both campuses. There was also a need for all students to have their own user accounts, and for all the computers to be located on one network.

“We had a goal, but at the time, we didn’t know where to begin or where to go, so we started a conversation with the Diocesan IT [Information Technology] Department,” said Mr. Rushinski.

Soon, IT Director Brian Blazer, School WAN Coordinator Sister Geralyn Schmidt, and Desktop Support Technician Adam Griffin took a walk through the school to see what was already in place there. They evaluated its technology, listened to the goals that Ms. Bearley and Mr. Rushinski had in mind, built an assessment, obtained some price quotes, and then offered a scope of work to help Harrisburg Catholic meet its goals.

“The point was to assist them in getting the technology that they needed, to help them implement it effectively, and then to show them how to use it,” Mr. Blazer said.

While the IT team can’t commit to be on school sites every day, and while purchasing equipment and programs is the responsibility of the school, the team is willing to help get technology programs on the right track.

Mr. Griffin assisted Harrisburg Catholic, beginning at the Cathedral campus, where Ms. Bearley was already familiar with much of the technology already in place. He set up new servers for the school, and worked with Ms. Bearley on creating a few new user accounts until she was comfortable enough to take those reins on her own.

The three-year-old computers at the Cathedral campus replaced older ones at Holy Family, where Pre-K students enjoy a weekly computer class in the lab and students in grades K-4 use desktop PCs for the Math 24 Program and educational games for motor skills.

New computers were purchased for the Cathedral campus with state money designated for student-use materials. A timely monetary donation covered the cost for the servers and the computer programs.

“It was great to be able to work with Joy on providing new, reliable equipment that improves the Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School’s Information Technology infrastructure,” Mr. Griffin said. “Each server will be set up to provide key network services that both students and staff members will utilize.

Mr. Griffin and Ms. Bearley are now setting to work on the Holy Family campus, which will also have a new server, individual user accounts and a bolstered computer lab.

“This project has changed the game for our students,” Ms. Bearley remarked.

“We are willing to help schools and parishes. We can provide the proper technology in their classrooms in order to stay competitive and help students succeed,” Mr. Blazer said it is necessary for schools to have the technology that they need today.

“From an educational standpoint, everything is technology-driven,” Mr. Rushinski remarked. “If we’re going to keep up with society, we need to be able to teach the students how to use it, and integrate it into our lessons.

He said that working with the Diocesan IT Department to meet the school’s needs was a phenomenal partnership.

“Sometimes you feel that you’re out here all by yourself, but you’re not,” he said. “The IT team is there to help, not only at the diocesan level, but at the local level as well.”

Mr. Blazer said it is necessary for schools to have the technology that they need today.

“We are willing to help schools and parishes. We can provide ideas, things to consider, and talk to them about IT operations,” he said of the IT Department. “We want to help them stand up to meet the technological needs of today.”

(To learn more about Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School, and about Catholic schools in the diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/schools. Schools and parish ministries that wish to seek assistance from the IT Department can submit a Helpdesk ticket or contact Brian Blazer at blazer@hbgdiocese.org.)

Catholic Radio Lenten Benefit Dinner

Catholic Radio, 720 AM, the local non-profit that owns and operates WHYF AM 720, will be Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg.

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(To learn more about Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School, and about Catholic schools in the diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/schools. Schools and parish ministries that wish to seek assistance from the IT Department can submit a Helpdesk ticket or contact Brian Blazer at blazer@hbgdiocese.org.)

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Cathedral Parishioner Gives 64 Years of Service on the Altar

By Emily M. Albert

Donald Weedon’s decision to follow his brothers and cousins from Frederick, Md., in 1943 has made a lasting impression on the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick Harrisburg.

Mr. Weedon, now 85, served as an altar boy as a young man and quickly became trained as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and sacristan. He has served at the Cathedral in this capacity for 64 years.

Mr. Weedon lost his mother when he was five years old, and was raised by his father, who was a member of the Methodist church. When Mr. Weedon moved to Harrisburg, he began a search for a Catholic parish. He first attended Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. There, he met Father Dominick Mannanza, from whom he received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. But the first time Mr. Weedon walked past St. Patrick Cathedral, he was struck by its beauty and decided to go in. He’s been an active member ever since.

He has worked under the supervision of several Cathedral priests, including its current pastor, Father Thomas Rozman, who told The Catholic Witness, “Don’s commitment to the ministry of sacristan over the years has been a true gift to this parish and to the pastors who have served here. He is always ready to be present for our Sunday celebrations, a funeral, a specially scheduled Mass, Stations of the Cross, etc. You can always count on Don.”

Not only has Mr. Weedon served different pastors, he has also served during the episcopacies of six different bishops. Bishop Ronald Gainer, who will be installed on March 19, will be the seventh.

Mr. Weedon had wonderful things to say about each bishop, but was closest to Cardinal William Keeler, with whom he traveled to Rome when Cardinal Keeler was Bishop of Harrisburg.

He’s been an active member of CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Program has New Twists: An App, Recipes, Contest

By Patricia Zapor

When trying to change one's eating habits, especially cutting calories, there’s nothing like getting some made-to-order recipes from a popular chef to help keep one motivated.

At least that’s part of the thinking behind one of the new approaches to Catholic Relief Services’ annual Rice Bowl program for Lent.

Weekly recipes created by a celebrity chef of sorts – Father Leo Patalinghug, a Baltimore archdiocesan priest, who will be available on YouTube or the CRS website will feature low-cost, meatless ingredients, explained Joan Rosenhauer, CRS executive vice president for U.S. operations, at a thematic breakfest Feb. 5. The simple meals on the last day of the annual Catholic Social Ministries Gathering was noted as being typical of breakfast in the Philippines: eggs, rice, bread, juice, fresh tomato and cucumber slices.

Other elements of the program were related to relief work CRS has been doing in the Philippines since Typhoon Haiyan in November wiped out hundreds of thousands of homes, crops and much of the fishing industry in one region of the country. Traditional dancers and a percussionist from the Philippine Cultural Society at George Washington University, Philippine craft pieces on the dining tables and other elements rounded out what Rosenhauer suggested as a model for how parishes or dioceses might launch their own Rice Bowl campaigns.

In addition to the recipes, CRS has a free Rice Bowl app available for smartphones and tablets. It will allow users to schedule delivery of daily reflections during Lent, to set and track progress toward a Lenten goal, and view the recipes or see stories about people whose lives have been changed by the program, notes a CRS release.

Also this year, CRS will host a photo contest in conjunction with Rice Bowl. Weekly winners will receive a small fair-trade prize and a grand prize will be awarded that will receive an Easter basket full of fair-trade items. In 2013, CRS raised more than $7 million to support Rice Bowl programs internationally. The dioceses where funds are raised keep 25 percent of the revenue for local needs.

The app can be downloaded at: iTunes and the Google Play Store or at crsricebowl.org/app. Other information about the campaign is available at crsricebowl.org.
Father Barron’s ‘New Evangelization’

Program Delves into Ways Catholics Can Share the Good News as Evangelists

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

During the Year of Faith, which spanned from October 2012 to November 2013, parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg welcomed renowned author, speaker and theologian Father Robert Barron into their adult enrichment programs.

Through his popular “Catholicism” series, parishioners journeyed deep into the Catholic faith, learning what the Church teaches, and why.

In parish social halls and classrooms, parishioners discussed the faith, learned more about it, and even fell in love with it all over again.

Now, on the heels of “Catholicism” comes “Catholicism: The New Evangelization,” Father Barron’s latest series, which outlines the tenets of the New Evangelization and shows Catholics how to put their faith into action with new audors and methods.

Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill recently completed the New Evangelization program, and parishioners spoke with The Catholic Witness about the fruits of the series.

“The program brings such clarity as to what evangelization is,” said Karen Bruskewicz, who facilitated the series at Good Shepherd.

In fact, its first lesson explains the concept of the New Evangelization, a term introduced by Blessed John Paul II in 1979 as calling for “new ardor, new methods and new expressions” of sharing the faith.

The Church’s mission is to evangelize, to spread the Good News of Christ’s mercy and love. An evangelist is someone who has a passion for their faith, and who lives it and proclaims it by word and by deed in their daily lives.

“Evangelizing means stepping out into public and living your faith in the public sector,” explained Deacon Pat Kiley, who helped facilitate the program at Good Shepherd. “You don’t have to stand on a pulpit or knock on people’s doors. Evangelism means living your faith in your daily life.”

Catholics do not typically see themselves as evangelists, Ms. Bruskewicz pointed out. They might connect evangelism with images of televangelists, Ms. Bruskewicz said.

The New Evangelization program clarifies that, she said.

“People may think, ‘I can’t be an evangelist because I don’t know enough about the Church,’ or, ‘I don’t know how to respond when someone is critical of my faith.’ This program addresses those concerns, and feeds those who are hungry to learn more about the Church, or, ‘I don’t know how to respond when someone is critical of my faith,’ she said.

“After going through the program, evangelization is no longer a scary thing,” she said.

For parishioner Deb June, The New Evangelization program was her first experience as a participant in an adult enrichment program. She said that Ms. Bruskewicz was the catalyst for her decision to sign up.

“Sue Laskoski pointed out that an adult enrichment program like The New Evangelization builds community in a parish as parishioners get to know one another.

“During the sessions and the discussion, I never felt uncomfortable with what I knew or what I didn’t know about the faith,” Mrs. June remarked. “In my life, I’ve been in discussion situations where people have attacked the Church and I didn’t know how to respond. This program showed me that it’s okay to let people speak, and then to come back with a positive response to engage in discussion.”

The New Evangelization study program includes four DVDs of feature presentations that highlight examples of the New Evangelization in action around the world – including groups and movements in Australia, England and the United States and cultural commentators and experts in the New Evangelization.

The program also includes a study guide of six sessions that correspond to the feature presentations, a leader’s kit and promotional materials.

At Good Shepherd – which has previously completed the New Evangelization program, which he said he appreciated for its visual imagery, inspirational stories and Father Barron’s “Catholicism” program – the New Evangelization program drew more than 100 participants for Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon sessions.

Participants were placed into small groups for discussion and were led by team members, who were trained as part of the program. The New Evangelization program includes preparatory tools for leaders.

Ms. Bruskewicz said those tools help team members learn how to lead discussion, and how to invite people into it. The tools also “let them off the hook” for knowing all the answers to questions of faith, she said.

“The team leaders are meant to journey along with the participants,” Ms. Bruskewicz said.

“The tools are provided. All you need is a willing heart.”

Team member Theresa Burg pointed out, “I learned that if I didn’t know the answer to a question of faith, it was ok. I knew I had the resources to find the answer.”

“The New Evangelization program poses questions to make you think,” she said. “You discuss life lessons and life situations. As a team leader, I didn’t find any trouble in getting people to talk.”

Each lesson in the program poses questions for understanding and for application. For example: “Imagine you are to mind what you hear the word ‘evangelization?’ Why do we need a New Evangelization in a historically Christian country like the United States? What steps can you take to better understand or internalize the Good News? What are the barriers prevent you from evangelizing more?”

Joe Laskoski, who was a team member with his wife, Sue, pointed out that the program allows participants to discuss as much or as little as they want. Participants can just sit and listen if they feel they don’t have anything to say.

“There are no wrong answers in the discussion,” he said. “I got a lot out of listening to other people’s perspectives and seeing how they look at things. In group discussion, you can broaden your mind to different ways of understanding the faith.”

Sue Laskoski pointed out that an adult enrichment program like The New Evangelization builds community in a parish as parishioners get to know one another.

She said the program put her “on fire” with the faith.

“I came out of those sessions passionate about the faith, just looking for anybody who wanted to discuss. I was ready to talk!” Mrs. Laskoski exclaimed.

“I felt like I had my armor on, and was just wanting someone to talk to me so I could engage them.”

The participants from Good Shepherd say they highly recommend the program to other parishes, especially during the Lenten season. “It makes you proud to be Catholic,” Deacon Kiley said of the program, which he said he appreciated for its visual imagery, inspirational stories and Father Barron’s knowledge, ease and positive nature.

He and Ms. Bruskewicz said they would make themselves available to parishes that want to know a bit more about the program and how to implement it.

“The New Evangelization program gets to the core of who we are as Catholics,” Ms. Bruskewicz remarked. “You don’t have to be any further along in your journey of faith to be an evangelist. You can share the faith in your own ways – at work, online, in your family. God needs you now.”

(For more information about The New Evangelization Program and how to purchase it, visit www.catholicismnewevangelization.com. For a limited time, parishes in our diocese that purchase program materials from Catholic Word Publisher Group receive a 50% discount off of list price for participant study guides, with no minimum order requirements. Contact Peggy Galus at Catholic Word Publisher Group at pgalus@catholicwordgroup.com or 1-800-932-3051, ext. 307. To connect with a team member from Good Shepherd, contact the parish at 717-761-1167.)
Phase II Renovations Blessed at Delone Catholic

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

In the midst of Catholic Schools Week, Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown dedicated the newly renovated wing of the school that dates back to 1940. Father Robert Gillelan, Jr., Diocesan Administrator and former chaplain at the school some 15 years ago, blessed the renovated part of the building that includes the front entrance, hallway and classrooms both on the first and second floors.

The work, considered Phase II of the school’s renovation plan, is part of Delone’s Diamond Decade Initiative, so titled to highlight the upcoming 75th anniversary of the school in 2015. This completed work includes a beautiful refurbishment of the old building that now allows for state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure, yet the building still retains the classic feel of a middle of the 20th Century Catholic high school. While there are new fiber optic lines, projection technologies and sprinkler systems, the new work also added more efficient heating and cooling units to help promote a positive learning environment.

More than 150 students, faculty, alumni and benefactors filled the front hallway for the dedication and blessing. Father Edward Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education and former principal at the school, was also part of the dedication ceremony. Soon the school will continue its renovations as it plans to update the gymnasium, the old classic gym, the 1955 wing and the school’s athletic fields.

Every year, more than 90 percent of Delone students go on to higher education. The school has been a fixture in the Adams County/Hanover area for more than seven decades. It acquired its name from Charles J. Delone, a lawyer who graciously helped found the school in 1940.

ROBERT J. CHADDESON, ELBE PHOTOGRAPHY

Wearing numbers familiar to York Catholic fans, Karli McFatridge (12) and Brittany Hicks (34) share a victory smile after helping lead York College to a 19-1 record and Top Ten ranking in a recent USA Today/WBCA Coaches Poll.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

After stellar and winning basketball careers at York Catholic High School, both Brittany Hicks and Karli McFatridge took their game down the street to play college basketball for the Spartans of York College, who this season have been nationally ranked in the Top Ten in a recent coaches poll.

The 19-1 Spartans play in the very competitive Capital Athletic Conference and are led by four seniors, including Brittany Hicks. These seniors have combined for more than 80 collegiate wins in their careers, the most by any class in school history, and each are products of Catholic high schools in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Hicks leads the team in scoring, knocking down 15 points a game. She adds 10 rebounds a game, and has been named an NCAA All-America.

McFatridge, a sophomore, comes off the bench and chips in four points a game in the backcourt.

The Spartans looked poised to win the CAC, which will set them up for a run in the NCAA playoffs in March.

Brittany Hicks was part of the Fighting Irish team that won a PIAA state championship in 2007 – the last time the Fighting Irish have won a state title.

Fighting Irish Stars Now Compete as Spartans in Hometown College

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Crusaders Roll to Top Seed in Districts

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Dyllon Hudson-Emory hits a slam dunk for two of his 15 points against the Indians.

Justin MacArthur drives to the net for the Crusaders.

Milik Gantz drives past a Township defender on his way to 18 points.

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Faith Keeps Canadian Speedskater Grounded, Calm on Ice

By Evan Boudreau
Catholic News Service

Danielle Wotherspoon-Gregg has big skates to fill at her first Winter Olympics, but the Catholic Canadian who skates out of Calgary.

Wotherspoon-Gregg, 33, made her inaugural Olympic appearance as a competitor in Sochi, Russia, Feb. 11. But it wasn’t the first time she’d been to the games. In 1998, she traveled to Nagano, Japan, to watch her older brother, Canadian speedskating legend Jeremy Wotherspoon, capture a silver medal in the 500 meters. That’s when the Olympic bug bit the Red Deer, Alberta, native, who still skates out of Calgary.

“When my brother went to the Olympics in 1998 and I went and watched him, that is when I kind of thought, “Oh for sure I’ll be going.” she said.

Although Wotherspoon-Gregg’s Olympic dream became “more real” after those Games, her journey did not get any easier.

“I have kind of a longer journey with achieving this goal because the last two Olympic trials I wasn’t really healthy,” said Wotherspoon-Gregg.

While there are a lot of teachers who really supported me and my sports. I questioned everything, but people really kept me on a good path.

“With Sidney Crosby the captain,” she said, “I think I was very motivated to make the team, and in 2010 I pulled my hip flexor really bad.”

She said she did not think she would still be skating in 2014, but when she was 25 she took a year off from competition.

“I did some reflecting and figured out what I needed as an athlete and I was really motivated when I came back, and I’ve been improving ever since,” she said.

The Canadian national weekly The Catholic Register.

In an interview with the Toronto-based paper, she also reflected on her strong faith, which she credits to her parents, her friends and her Catholic education.

“I always had an amazing support system from my teachers, especially in high school,” she said.

There were a lot of teachers who really supported me and my sports. I questioned everything, but people really kept me on a good path.

“Maybe there was a little bit of vengeance, and that is not good. I have gone to confession about trash talking,” she said.

“I just feel like it is totally legitimate,” she said. “I know that [fighting] isn’t going to happen,” she said.

But there is one thing today that has Sister Helena excited for the Olympics, where fighting results in a game being over.

“IT is just great to watch pure hockey where you know that hockey is not a sport, it is an art form.

“It is like a chess game at lightning speed.”

But if you’ve ever watched a hockey game with Sister Helena, you hear that sound of the ice ... it’s transcendent. I always say that hockey is not a sport, it is an art form.

“IT is just great to watch pure hockey where you know that hockey is not a sport, it is an art form.

“I don’t sweat, I don’t use profanity, but sometimes it gets really personal and I get way too heated and full of vengeance, and that is not good. I have gone to confession about trash talking.”

And while the soft-featured nun with pale green eyes has indiscernibly let her Boston bark rain down on players and teams across the hockey world, there is at least one player who has yet to feel her verbal wrath – Pittsburgh Penguins star and Team Canada captain Sidney Crosby.

“IT is just about the game.”

On Feb. 13 when Canada faces off against Norway in its first game of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Sister Helena – who was in Chicago where she lived for eight years before moving to Toronto – will be wearing her blue habit and Boston accent. Luckily for her, the nuns in Chicago, who watched her during the Blackhawks’ past two Stanley Cups, are used to the yelling.

“The nuns just know when it comes to hockey [I’m in [my] own little world, and once in a while I make some converts of them, and they’ll stay and watch the game,” she said cheerfully.

“It is more fun when you are with people.” And although she’s in the United States surrounded primarily by American nuns, Sister Helena will be cheering, and praying, for Team Canada.

 “[Hockey] has a lot to do with national identity, and you guys are so devastated when you don’t win. In Canada, ice is thicker than blood,” she said.
Kadin Santiago, a 15-year-old student at St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville, wrote the following pro-life narrative as part of a recent school assignment. It recounts his faith as his family prepared for his father’s death while in critical need of a transplant.

He said “Goodbye and I love you” to my 3-year-old brother and I, but I knew in my heart it wasn’t really goodbye.

I was only 8 years old at the time, but I clearly remember, “He won’t make it through the next 72 hours without a transplant,” they said. Five doctors gathered around talking to my mother. I watched the tears stream down her face as she asked them questions, glancing over at my brother and I. I wanted to tell her not to worry. I wanted to tell her that I had a feeling that everything would be okay.

But I couldn’t explain it to her or to myself. I just knew.

I read a quote by Olusesan Obasanjo once, “My gut feelings and my faith tell me that until God shuts a door, no human can shut it.”

Mom calmly explained the situation to my brother and I. Her pale skin and the red streaks on her face didn’t match her calm voice. My brother sat there coloring on a piece of paper that we were brought to make dad a Valentine’s card. I don’t think he understood any of it. The fact that his crayon didn’t make sense didn’t really surprise me.

He wrote on the paper “I love you.” Then he said, “Take care of your mother and your brother.”

That was a little over 7 years ago, and although some things are very clear, it also means that every time I passed by the hospital, I had a strong feeling and knew something that you can’t explain. Maybe it’s faith or just something deep inside. Whatever it is, it sometimes just wants you to know it isn’t goodbye.

Kadin Santiago, center, age 8, with his brother and father. The photo was taken seven years ago, as Kadin’s dad awaited a critical transplant.

Campus Ministry Builds Relationships through Mission Trip

By Amy Yeagle

Record-breaking cold couldn’t keep a group of Bloomburg University Catholic Campus Ministry students from giving of themselves this winter break as they participated in a mission trip to Rutledge, Tenn. The group of nine students, along with Catholic Campus Ministry director Father Timothy Morace and associate director Amy Yeagle, spent a week in January volunteering with the Glenmary Home Missioners, “a Catholic society of priests and brothers who, along with coworkers, are dedicated to establishing a Catholic presence in rural areas and small towns of the United States where the Catholic Church is not yet effectively present.” (http://www.glenmary.org/#sthash.4K3HQIQd.dpuf)

Upon their arrival, the group was greeted by volunteer director Joe Grosek, who would accompany them in their service throughout the week. The group’s main project was working to repair a roof of the house of a local family in need. Other throughout the week included volunteering at a local food pantry and building a bunk bed to be used in the volunteer house.

Evenings were spent visiting local cultural sites, reflecting on the day’s service, and enjoying one another’s company during leisure time.

Group members had many opportunities to learn throughout the week, from being taught basic construction skills and how to use tools, to learning about the culture of the area and being guided through cooking meals to feed the group. The group also benefitted from conversing and forming relationships with those who were served and with one another. “Through our relationships with each other and our relationships with each person we met in Tennessee, we grew in our relationship with God, which was the true blessing that came out of this trip,” reflected student Jenna Wright.

Each day of the trip was also filled with prayer. The group had Mass each morning, often at the local Glenmary Blessed John Paul II Mission, but also at the worksite when the couple being served welcomed them into their home. In addition, the group had Mass at the beginning of the day, the day’s service and before meals. Individually, each member of the group was given a booklet for daily prayer and reflection and was assigned a “prayer partner” within the group to pray for throughout the week.

Overall, the week was a reflection of the four charisms, or special values, of the Glenmary volunteer program: service, community, prayer, and simplicity. The group faced challenges throughout the week as they sought to live out these values, but they also found many rewards. Student Lydia James shared, “Although the trip was physically draining, it was spiritually fulfilling. Having the opportunity to see where and who God was going to work through each of us was one of the most rewarding parts of the trip.”

Student Alex Porter was challenged by the fact that the group did not have enough time to complete the entire roof repair while on the trip. “Everyday, no matter how much I wanted to be inside and didn’t want to pack it up and head home, but rather I just wanted to keep working until I goal for that day was met,” noted Porter. “And while it was really rather disappointing that we weren’t able to finish the roof by the end of the week, thinking about it now, it’s almost representative of how mission work for God is never finished. There will always be someone or some place that needs that help, that needs that witness of God’s love for each and every one of his children.”

Catholic Campus Ministry at Bloomburg University plans to continue their dedication to service by participating in another mission experience in Philadelphia later this spring. See more pictures from the trip and learn more about Bloomburg University Catholic Campus Ministry at http://orgs.bloomu.edu/ccm and https://www.facebook.com/bloomsccm.

Learn more about the Glenmary volunteer program at http://www.glenmary.org/volunteer/.

(Amy Yeagle is associate director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Bloomburg University.)
Holy Name to Host Virtual Pilgrimage of Lourdes

Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, St. Richard Parish in Manheim, and St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes in Mechanicsburg will hold a 90-minute virtual pilgrimage of Lourdes on in February and March.

In Lourdes, France, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to young St. Bernadette. Mary’s message of healing love brought millions to Lourdes for physical relief and solace.

This spiritual program being offered at Holy Name is an interactive pilgrimage that will include prayerful reflection. The invitation to reflect and pray is offered throughout the pilgrimage experience. Silence is requested during prayer and Eucharistic Exposition.

Lourdes water offered during the virtual pilgrimage is authentic undiluted water of the spring in the Grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes, France, hand-bottled by Lourdes volunteers in the United States.

There will also be Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The adoration may consist of a “procession of the pilgrims” to the Eucharist on the altar or a “procession of Our Lord.” The Blessing with the Monstrance is made following prayer.

A candlelight procession will take place, with a decade of the Rosary prayed with lighted candles from Lourdes.

The Ave Maria refrain joined in the procession during the pilgrimage there, before heading to Madrid for World Youth Day.

A Church Without Religious Sisters is ‘Unthinkable,’ Pope Says

A Church without religious sisters would be “unthinkable,” Pope Francis said, honoring the contributions consecrated men and women make to the Church and society. “Every consecrated person is a gift to the people of God on pilgrimage,” he said Feb. 2, reciting the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter’s Square. The pope had just finished celebrating Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which the Church marks as the World Day for Consecrated Life.

“There is such a great need for their presence, which reinforces and renews the commitment to spreading the Gospel, Christian education, charity for the neediest, contemplative prayer, the human and spiritual formation of the young and families, and the commitment to justice and peace in the human family,” the pope said.

Straying from his prepared text, Pope Francis told people gathered in the square: “Think what would happen if there weren’t any sisters, if there weren’t any sisters in the hospitals, no sisters in the missions, no sisters in the schools. Think what the Church would be like without sisters – no, that’s unthinkable.”

Consecrated life is a gift that moves the Church forward, he said.

“These women who consecrate their lives to carrying forward the message of Jesus – they’re great,” he added.

Pope Francis asked all Catholics to pray “that many young people would respond ‘yes’ to the Lord when he calls them to consecrate themselves totally to him.”

The earlier liturgy for the feast of the presentation, once widely known as “Candlemas,” began with dozens of sisters, brothers and religious priests carrying lighted candles into St. Peter’s Basilica ahead of the pope.

In his homily, he urged religious to allow the joy of the Holy Spirit to guide their own communities’ rules and their willingness to be prophetic.

Religious must “never be rigid or clotted, but always open to the voice of God who speaks, who opens and who leads and invites us to go out toward the horizon,” he said.

Within religious communities, the pope said, the elderly should communicate their wisdom to the young and the young should accept “this paternal guidance of the experience and wisdom and carry it forward, not to preserve it in a museum – no, no, no – but to continue it and bring it to bear on the challenges that life poses.”

Pope: Don’t Skip Sunday Mass; People Need Communion with God, Church

It’s so important to go to Mass every Sunday because that is where people receive Christ who saves, forgives and unites everyone to his father, Church and each other, Pope Francis said.

It’s also “important that children are well prepared for first Communion because ... after baptism and confirmation, it is the first step toward belonging strongly, really strongly, to Jesus Christ,” he said Feb. 5 at his weekly general audience.

The pope continued a series of talks on the sacraments of Christian initiation, focusing on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the life of the Church.

“In fact, every authentic journey of faith, communion and witness springs from this sacrament of love,” he said.

The pope began his audience talk by greeting the estimated 13,000 people huddled under umbrellas and raincoats as heavy rain beat down on St. Peter’s Square.

“Dear brothers and sisters, Good morning, but not good day, huh? It’s a bit nasty,” he said.

The pope also prayed, at the end of the warm and audience, for all those in Tuscany and Rome affected by severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain.

To help visiting pilgrims who were ill or with disabilities and their caregivers keep warm and dry in the bad weather, the pope said he had them go indoors to the Vatican’s Paul VI audience hall to watch the audience on the big screens set up inside.

The pope arrived about 25 minutes later than his usual start time in the square because, as he later explained, he first had to greet those pilgrims seated inside the hall.

In his catechesis, Pope Francis said that by creating the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, “we participate in the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.”

“By making himself broken bread for us, the Lord Jesus pours out to us all of his mercy and his love, renewing our heart, our existence and our way of relating to him and our brothers and sisters,” he said.

In his homily, he urged religious to allow the joy of the Holy Spirit to guide their own communities’ rules and their willingness to be prophetic.

Religious must “never be rigid or clotted, but always open to the voice of God who speaks, who opens and who leads and invites us to go out toward the horizon,” he said.

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Any baptized Catholic is eligible for indulgences formally decreed by the Church. Indulgences have a specific act as well as conditions that must be performed to acquire the indulgence. The usual conditions are: Sacramental Confession, Reception of the Holy Eucharist, Prayers for the Pope (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be), and a heart and mind free from all attachment to sin. It is recommended that these conditions be met on the same day or at the same time of the act.

To acquire this plenary indulgence granted in recognition of the fruits of the 16th Jubilee Indulgence for Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, between August 16, 2013 and July 15, 2020, along with the above stated usual conditions, a person must join Lourdes Volunteers on pilgrimage to Lourdes, or experience a virtual pilgrimage with Lourdes volunteers.

For more information visit www.lourdesvolunteers.org.
UN Criticism

Continued from 1

“Certainly, while the Holy See was the object of an initiative and an atten-
tion that in our view, was unjustly pernicious, it must be recognized that the
committee itself has attracted seri-
ous and well-founded criticisms” for
its Feb. 5 report, Father Lombardi
said. Many Catholic commentators encour-
gaged the Vatican to withdraw its adher-
ence to the Convention on the Rights
of the Child.

In 1990, the Vatican became one of the
first countries to ratify the chil-

dren’s rights treaty because of the

In his remarks, the archbishop discussed Pope
Francis’ apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (“The Joy of the Gospel”). He tied the vision the pope lays out for an evangelized Church to the Cath-
olic Church’s efforts at the U.N. to protect the hu-

good of children, Father Lombardi
said. Not recognizing all the Church
has done for centuries through its
schools, hospitals and charitable agen-
cies is to ignore reality.

While the Vatican “will continue its
commitment” to fulfilling the require-
ments of the treaty, he said, it cannot pretend that the committee’s observa-
tions did not present “serious limits.”

The committee “did not adequately
take into account the responses – both
written and oral – given by represen-
tatives of the Holy See” before and

during a Jan. 16 hearing in Geneva, he

said. Not recognizing all the Church
as well as material, by reaching out to them and by

entering thus fully into the fabric of society.

Pope Francis discusses “the profound connection
between evangelization and integral human ad-
vancement,” Archbishop Chullikatt noted. The pope
also stresses “the inclusion of the poor in society,
and the promotion of the common good, solidarity,
dialogue and peace in society,” he added.

“The common good and global peace intersect
the fundamental objectives of the United Nations,”
he continued. “The common good and peace are
not simply attractive political slogans which can be
put aside once they are mentioned in any discourse;
rather, they are realities of life that guarantee au-
thentic human flourishing for one and all.”

“The world in which we live at the present time is
beset with a great deal of challenges and difficulties.
Yet the Christian response is not to give up hope,”
Archbishop Chullikatt said. “Rather, the Christian
response should be to draw fresh hope from Christ
who has redeemed us and made us his adopted sons
and daughters.”

Among the tasks of Christ’s followers is to “know
our faith and communicate it in the concrete circum-
stances of our daily lives,” he said.

Nuncio: Church’s Involvement in World Affairs Fits Evangelizing Mission

Dialogue is “an important element of all social
life” and “an essential element” of why the Cath-
olic Church is involved “in the world of diplomacy and
international relations,” the Vatican’s U.N. nun-
cio told Catholic social action directors meeting in
Washington.

“The Church as a dialogue partner, temporal
powers should see that faith and reason are compat-
ible and necessary allies in addressing and combat-
ing the problems that threaten all of human society,”
said Archbishop Francis A. Chullikatt.

He made the comments in an address Feb. 1 af-
ter he received the Harry A. Fagan Award by the Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social
Action Directors. The event came on the eve of the
Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, held Feb. 2-5.

The award is given annually to a person who has
made a lasting contribution to Catholic social action
efforts in light of church teaching.

It is named for the late Harry Fagan, a veteran Catholic social action leader who was involved in
social ministry in Ohio and at the now-closed Na-
tional Pastoral Life Center. He was secretary of the
association, founded in 1987, until his death in 1993.

Archbishop Chullikatt, who has been U.N. nuncio since July 2010, was honored for his defense of the
poor and vulnerable and his efforts to help forge in-
ternational agreements on the environment and on
nuclear weapons.

In his remarks, the archbishop discussed Pope
Francis’ apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (“The Joy of the Gospel”). He tied the vision the pope lays out for an evangelized Church to the Cath-
olic Church’s efforts at the U.N. to protect the hu-

man person, especially the poor and vulnerable, and to promote the common good, dialogue and peace in society.

“Evangelii Gaudium is a call to action, a call to
embrace the evangelizing mission, a call to dare, a
call to proclaim the Gospel, not burdensomely ...
but joyfully because the Gospel is the true inheritance of
our lasting peace and happiness,” Archbishop Chul-
lkatt said.

Taken as a whole, he continued, the document
“transmits the following conviction: The Gospel joy
is the source of strength for the church’s evangeliz-
ing mission in the world. Hence, the Church has to
transform the frailty of her people toward evangeli-
cal joy.”

God is the source of that joy, which “indwells in the
missionary nature of the Church,” Archbishop Chullikatt said.

The pope’s focus in Evangelii Gaudium is the hu-

man person, he said, “in particular the poor among
us, and the responsibility that we have as follow-
ers of Christ to promote their well-being, spiritual
as well as material, by reaching out to them and by

Catholic News Service

“Within the international context, and in particular
at the United Nations, the Holy See actively works
to transmit the values of the Gospel for the well-
being of all persons,” Archbishop Chullikatt said.

“Several Catholic-inspired nongovernmental or-
ganizations (NGOs) are also present at the United Na-
tions and support us and join us in this noble task.”

He said he hoped Pope Francis’ exhortation would
inspire all to recommit themselves to spreading the
Gospel and promoting its values, “which are so
much needed in the world in which we live, the ul-
timate purpose of which is really and truly the well-
being of all peoples and the salvation of the world.”

In its work at the United Nations, the Catholic
Church “continues to exhort the position of right
over might, not to preserve her own position or pres-
tige, but to secure the peace and the inherent dignity
that belong to all,” he said.

“When right relations based on the exercise of
objective reason and the application of generosity prevail, God’s justice and peace will reign on this
planet,” he added. “Pope Francis has helped us un-
derstand this with his apostolic exhortation.”


Grant Applications are being accepted
January 1 through March 30.

Whatever you do for the least... Matthew 25

Who can apply for a grant?
Any organization can apply for a grant provided the project or program for which funding is requested is sponsored by a specific parish, and pastor approved. The program must address basic survival needs of food, clothing, and shelter.

How do I apply for a grant?
Grant applications can be printed online by visiting the Diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org/matthew25. Completed copies of the application should be mailed to the Diocese of Harrisburg, Office of Development, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710.

When will grants be awarded?
The Diocesan Matthew 25 Review Committee will notify awardees by May 31, 2014.

A special thank you to those who contributed to the Matthew 25 Collection. Your gifts make it possible to offer grants to assist the needs of our communities.
Middletown Parishioner Named NCEA Distinguished Graduate

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Middletown announced that the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has named Robert P. McNulty at the NCEA Catholic Elementary School Distinguished Graduate. Mr. McNulty graduated from Seven Sorrows in 1956.

Sponsored by the NCEA’s Department of Elementary Schools in cooperation with Seven Sorrows BVM School, the award goes to Mr. McNulty for outstanding personal achievements. Throughout his life, he continuously pursued the highest possible personal and professional standards. He is an example of how Catholic schools educate people to take responsible roles in their community and beyond.

Mr. McNulty served in the United States Air Force from 1961-1966, and retired from the Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland after 30 years of service. Mr. McNulty was presented the Civilian Employee of the Year Award in 1987. He is a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus and is currently serving as the Assistant Diocesan Marshal.

Mr. McNulty has been married for 50 years. He and his wife have three children, all with college educations. He believes that commitment to family and friends is the greatest life accomplishment any of us can hope to achieve. Mr. McNulty is always sure to be seen as a volunteer around the parish. From the parish festival to the Fish Fry to the many Knights of Columbus activities, he always has a smile and a kind word.

Rachel’s Vineyard Ministry
Founder Coming to Carlisle

Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of the post-abortion program Rachel’s Vineyard, will speak at a Respect Life Conference Saturday, March 8 at St. Patrick Church in Carlisle.

The conference, hosted by the parish’s St. Gabriel Respect Life Ministry, will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Andrew J. Fontanella Activity Center, 87 Marsh Drive.

Dr. Burke is a leading expert on the emotional and psychological effects of abortion. She founded Rachel’s Vineyard, the largest post-abortion ministry in the world, upon discovering in her counseling practice how many people were suffering after having made an abortion decision. Rachel’s Vineyard uses creative exercises based on the Bible as well as group activities, prayer, therapeutic facilitation, cognitive restructuring and discussions to provide hope and healing to anyone having difficulty in the aftermath of abortion.

Since 1993, the ministry has spread to 48 states and 57 countries and is offered in 22 languages. Rachel’s Vineyard is a ministry of Priests for Life/Gospel of Life Ministries.

Dr. Burke’s counseling work has focused on women’s issues, bereavement, pregnancy loss, sexual abuse, eating disorders and anxiety management. She is pastoral associate for Priests for Life and has authored or co-authored many books on abortion, post-abortion trauma and contraception. She has also developed treatment programs for traumatized combat veterans and victims of sexual abuse, genocide, terrorism and civil war.

Conference registration fee is $25 and includes lunch. Payment should be made payable to St. Patrick Church and sent to Patty Dowling, 13 Morrison Way, Carlisle, PA 17015. For more information, call Patty at 717-386-1074 or (Gabriel Marcella at 717-243-5441.

StrongWomen Strength Training Program
Offered at St. Katharine Drexel Parish

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg and Penn State Extension will be teaming up again to offer the StrongWomen/Growing Stronger Program this spring. This is an 8-week program geared for middle-aged to older women and men and is based upon years of research on how strength training and proper nutrition can improve the health of women and men of all ages. The program was developed to help individuals increase their strength, density, balance and energy, and help them look and feel better. Participants will meet two times a week for one-hour sessions. There is a $35 fee for this program. Participants may want to provide their own hand weights and ankle weights.

The morning classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 1 Peter Drive, Mechanicsburg. The session will run March 24-May 14 in the church social hall. No class April 21.

Registering in the lower level parking lot at the rear of the building.

Mandatory paperwork must be completed in order to participate in the program, and individuals over age 70 must get a doctor’s permission. Past participants must complete a physical.

For more information, or to register for the program, contact the Penn State Extension office in Cumberland County at 717-240-6500. Go to http://extension.psu.edu/cumberland for additional Strong Women information.

EWTN Co-Host Doug Barry to Offer Rally in Elsby

Doug Barry will be at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Elsby on Saturday March 29 to offer a “Battle Ready Rally” for high school students and adults. The evening will begin with 5 p.m. Mass, and the rally will follow at 7 p.m. There is no cost for the rally, but a free-will offering will be collected.

Mr. Barry has given conferences/retrates for many audiences for the past 23 years. He founded RADIX Catholic Apostolate in 1992 and has worked with youth, men's conferences/retrates, Confirmation retrates, marriage retrates and family conferences. He is also co-host for EWTN’s television program “Life in the Rock” on EWTN.

A “Battle Ready Rally” is powerful and to the point. The goal for the rally is to come to as many towns/cities as possible, and rally, recruit and fire up the faithful troops for Christ and encourage God’s zeal for the faith. It is a rally of prayer, inspiration and sacraments.

For information, contact Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elsby at 570-672-2302.
A Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will be held every third Sunday of the month in the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg. Call Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Mechanicsburg at 3 p.m. For more information, call Dan Tafkovski, 717-432-2847.

An evening of Meditation and prayer will be celebrated by Father Walter Sterpetti Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. Confessions are heard in English and Polish after Mass. Information at 717-278-9554.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will host a forum on End of Life Issues and Catholic Teaching March 13 at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville March 13 at 4:15 p.m. The forum, which is sponsored by the Office of Life, Legacy & Respect Catholic School in Lancaster will be held at St. Mary’s Parish. For information, call 717-665-2465.

The Sisters of the Revolution to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will present a lecture on Scripture and the History of the Church in Harrisburg the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. The first lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 11, will focus on “Grief.” For more information, call 717-784-5932.

Theology on Tap Lancaster will hold its next session March 16 at the Lancaster Brewing Company, 2101 North 2nd Street at 4:15 p.m. If you would like to attend, call Dan Tafkovski, 717-278-9554 or email him at dtakervski@comcast.net.

Theology on Tap Harrisburg welcomes Father Mike Gallagher, Pastor at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Lebanon, to speak on “the God Who Speaks” Wednesday, Feb. 12 at St. John Neumann Parish in Harrisburg at 7 p.m. For information, call 717-233-4451.

Theology on Tap Lancaster will host a “Pacific Coast Adventure” trip March 16 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For information and reservations contact the school at 717-784-5932.

Do You Know a Caregiver? An afternoon of Reflective Adoration hosted by the Parish of St. Michael the Archangel will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. To register please call the Parish at 610-433-4320.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will hold its annual Fast-Night March 24 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. Cost is $50 per person. Information and registration with proceeds benefiting the work of the Pauline Order. For information, call 717-278-9554.

St. Mary’s Parish in Fairfield will host a concert entitled “Celebrating St. … Leading by music” by Jamie Tetlott March 2 at 3 p.m. A free-will offering will be accepted. For information call the Parish at 717-472-9522.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will have its annual Fast- night March 24 at 8 a.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. Cost is $50 per person. Information and registration with proceeds benefiting the work of the Pauline Order. For information, call the Parish at 717-472-9522.

St. Joseph Parish in Fairfield will hold its next session March 16 at 3 p.m. To register please call the Parish at 717-472-9522.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will host its annual Fast-Flyng Walk March 15 at 9 a.m. in downtown Gettysburg. Cost is $10 for adults, $8 for children 12 and under, and a family fee is $20. All money raised will benefit the work of the Capuchin Order. For information call 717-334-5051.

St. Mary’s Parish in Fairfield will have its annual Fast-Night March 24 at 7 p.m. Roast beef and snow peas will be served for an admission cost of $5. This event is scheduled for the night before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. For information call the Parish at 717-673-5326.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg is hosting a first Lenten Days of Presence Meditation March 12 and 13. Call your Parish at 717-637-5236.

The Parish of St. Margaret Mary will have its annual pancake supper March 4 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. (No Fr. Flynn on March 21.) One in or take out. Adult, senior and children’s meals available. Cost is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors and $5 for children. All proceeds benefit the work of the Capuchin Order. For information call the Parish at 717-472-9522.

St. Joseph Parish in Lebanon will have its annual pancake supper March 4 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. (No Fr. Flynn on March 21.) One in or take out. Adult, senior and children’s meals available. Cost is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors and $5 for children. All proceeds benefit the work of the Capuchin Order. For information call the Parish at 717-472-9522.

St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg will host its annual 5K run/walk March 22 at 8:30 a.m. The course will begin and end at the school, and meander through the streets of Penndel and Parkside. Prizes will be awarded for various categories including: Best Irish male, female and family. Cost is $15 for pre-entry and includes t-shirt if received by March 9. Cost is $20 on race day. Cost for family of four or more before March 7; family fee is $60 on race day. For registration information, call the school at 757-784-5932.

A gala to benefit Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School will be held Sunday, March 23 from 6-9 p.m. at the West Shore Country Club. The gala features the Steve Rudolph Quintet featuring Cathy Chmiel along with the Cathedral Choir. A silent auction features a choice of Premium Filet Mignon, Homemade Bubbling Jumbo Crab Cake, or Smoked Mozzarella & Asparagus Ravioli. Silent and live auctions will feature items for adults and the only inner-city Catholic school in Harrisburg. Contact the school at 717-677-9577 or 717-672-7707.

A Thirty-One/Coach Bingo to benefit the children of Resur- rected Catholic School in Lancaster will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Lebanon March 16. Doors open at 1 p.m., bingo will go until 5 p.m. Food and drinks available. Application forms are available at high prices, food and special games. Call Stephanie Aponte at pre-pro- gram.

St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg will have its annual Fast-Night March 24 at 7 p.m. Roast beef and snow peas will be served for an admission cost of $5. This event is scheduled for the night before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. For information call the Parish at 717-673-5326.

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to the strong faith and work ethic of his father—who was blind—and his mother—who was patient and loving. “Disability in a family either breaks the family up, or pulls them close,” she said. “For us, it was the latter.”

The family was faithful to Mass, and to parish celebrations. To make ends meet, they sold jars of homemade jam at the city market, and the boys used their wagons to help ladies take home their groceries.

Mrs. Glatfelter noted that her brother was always low-key, even in telling his parents of his desire to enter seminary after his sophomore year at Lancaster Catholic. She recalled how one night, after a friend of the family knocked on their bedroom door and told their mother that he had left a paper on the kitchen table for her to sign, nobody noticed it until their mother began to prepare breakfast the next day, she found the form he had filled out to apply to seminary.

He entered St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., in 1943, and completed four years of college before attending St. Charles Seminary in Overbrook, Pa. He earned a masters degree in education from Villanova University in 1960.

Father Hilbert was ordained May 12, 1952, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Har- risburg. He was assigned to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, where he served for 30 years. He entered St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., in 1943, and completed a masters degree in education from Villanova University in 1960.

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