Celebrating Heritage

The American Flag graces St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg as members of the choir from St. Francis Xavier Church in Baltimore lead praise and worship music during the annual Mass celebrating African-American faith and culture. See coverage on page 16.

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

In an move that appears unlikely to end the controversy over a federal mandate that all health insurance plans include contraception and sterilization free of charge, President Barack Obama outlined a plan that would allow religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so.

The president announced the policy in a brief statement Feb. 10 but took no questions.

“No women’s health should depend on who she is, who she works for, or how much money she makes,” Obama said. He said the new policy remains faithful to the “core principle” of free preventive care, but also honors the principle of religious freedom, which “as a Christian, I cherish.”

In a statement issued late Feb. 10, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said Obama’s decision to retain the contraceptive mandate “is both unsupported in the law and remains a grave moral concern.” The conference also said the continued “lack of clear protection for key stakeholders … is unacceptable and must be corrected.”

“The only complete solution to this religious liberty problem is for (the Department of Health and Human Services) to rescind the mandate of these objectionable services,” it added.

Calling Cardinal Bevilacqua “an extraordinary man of the church,” Archbishop Chaput said, “He loved his people, he loved Philadelphia. He carried the burden of leadership at a very painful time for Catholics in this country. He gave everything he had to his ministry as a priest and bishop. So it’s right for us to be here today to remember the good that he accomplished and the thousands he touched through his personal kindness.”

The final ceremonies in the crypt were performed by Cardinal Bevilacqua’s immediate successor, Cardinal Justin Rigali, who had preached the previous evening at a vespers service, following a viewing for the late cardinal at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Cardinal Rigali was Philadelphia’s
Lenten Pastoral Letter 2012

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to speak to you about the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We do not “accidentally” commit mortal sins. All mortal sins must be confessed in the

sacrament of reconciliation. The Father imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no deceit to whom the Lord says: “I know...” (Psalm 51:19).

We know that God does not spurn the contrit and those who call to him. The Lord says: “I know...” (Psalm 51:19). We know that God does not spurn the contrit and those who call to him. God always desires to turn back to him who repents. God lives only in the present. He desires to be present now in the decision and resulting choice for God in our lives. Whether our contrition is perfect or imperfect, God will forgive us, because he desires to bring us closer to himself.

We must come to see that penance is a threefold act of God: it is the gift of grace. This demands something important from both the penitent and the confessor in the celebration of the Sacrament.

RENEWING OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE SACRAMENT

During this Lent, I invite you to make generous use of the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation. We often think that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is not a regular part of our week as Catholics. We do not ask our confessor how we are doing in our relationship with God. Yet, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is the ordinary and sure means of forgiveness for us when we are separated from God and from one another because of our sins. In sacramental confession, the Father restores to us the life He has poured into our hearts and asks us to live as His beloved children. It restores the graces of our Baptism and the joy of forgiveness through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Many of us may remember another time when Saturday confession was an ordinary part of our week as Catholics. I learned as a child, from my parents and from the religious sisters who taught me, that confessing my sins thoroughly was important and necessary. They taught me that confessing my sins is necessary to know God and to think they do not bear great hidden fruit in our lives.

For many of us, Confession can be daunting because we are not always certain what to do. To help you, I have asked the priests of the Diocese of Harrisburg to make it a priority to preach and teach more clearly about Confession during this Lenten Season. For many of us, Confession is something that needs to be healed. In our relationships with one another, we sometimes need to think we do not bear great hidden fruit in our lives.

During this Lent, I invite you to return to the Sacrament during this Lenten time so that you may know the joy of forgiveness through the compassionate forgiveness of God.

CONTRITION

On the part of the penitent, the most important act is contrition (cf. Rite of Penance, 6). This means that we must have a true sorrow for our sins that gives birth to a real desire and intention not to sin again. We know that there are two forms of contrition: "perfect contrition" arises from a total love of God and "imperfect contrition" arises from a fear of pain and eternal damnation. Whether our contrition is perfect or imperfect, the movement of our heart to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel is the motivating factor for our approaching the Sacrament of Confession. Contrition is a decision and resulting choice for God in our lives.

For many of us, Confession can be daunting because we are not always certain what to do. To help you, I have asked the priests of the Diocese of Harrisburg to make it a priority to preach and teach more clearly about Confession during this Lenten Season. For many of us, Confession is something that needs to be healed. In our relationships with one another, we sometimes need to think we do not bear great hidden fruit in our lives.

During this Lent, I invite you to return to the Sacrament during this Lenten time so that you may know the joy of forgiveness through the compassionate forgiveness of God.

CONCLUSION

From these hidden fruits that develop over time, to the clearer manifestation of God’s working in our lives as seen by the fruits of the Holy Spirit, the call to confess our sins and to convert our lives will never leave us believers disappointed. Confession is one of the greatest potential gifts we have to offer the world in the change in how we live as it shows forth more fully who we are as God’s beloved children.

My hope and prayer during this Lenten season is that you will know the joy and blessing of forgiveness as experienced by many people. Our God is the greatest and most fruitful way to experience the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. I encourage you to take time to truly prepare your hearts to repent and become new in Christ Jesus. With my brother priests as your guides, please take this time to renew your vocation, understanding, and experience of the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation, knowing that as brothers and sisters united in the love of the Lord we can renew the Church in Harrisburg and show forth to the whole world the joy and blessedness of true Christian forgiveness.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg
FEBRUARY 17, 2012, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Father Edward J. Quinlan, Administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg and Diocesan Secretary for Education, administers the Sacrament of Reconciliation in one of the confessional at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

How Do I Go to Confession?

The following may be helpful in preparing for confession. Above all, do not be afraid. If you are hesitant about what to do, ask the priest for help:

Greeting:
The priest welcomes the penitent warmly and greets him or her with kindness.

Sign of the Cross:
Then the penitent makes the Sign of the Cross, which the priest may also make.

Invitation to Trust in God:
The priest invites the penitent to have trust in God using one of the formulas in the ritual or similar words. If the penitent is unknown to the priest, it is proper for the penitent to indicate his or her state in life (married, single, or clergy), the time of his or her last confession and anything else that may help the confessor in exercising his ministry.

Reading of the Word of God:
Confession of Sins and Acceptance of Satisfaction:
The penitent confesses his or her sins and accepts the prayers or deeds that the priest proposes as a penance.

Prayer of the Penitent and Absolution:
The priest asks the penitent to express sorrow by praying one of the prayers found in the ritual or in his or her own words. The priest then prays the Prayer of Absolution, to which the penitent responds: “Amen.”

Proclamation of Praise and Dismissal:
The priest continues: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.” The penitent responds: “His mercy endures for ever.” The priest then dismisses the penitent, using one of the formulas found in the ritual.


Sacrament of Penance
and Reconciliation Resources

A Guide to the Sacrament of Penance from the Pennsylvania Bishops
http://www.ewtn.com/library/BISHOPS/GUIDEPEN.HTM

Top 10 Reasons to go to Confession

Information on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Examinations of Conscience for Adults:

A Primer for Confession with an Examination of Conscience
by Father Frederick Miller, New Hope Publications
http://www.newhope-ky.org/catecheticalpamphlets.htm

Examination of Conscience for Teenagers and Young Adults:
http://www.thelightisonforyou.org/pdfs/TheLightIsOnForYou_ExaminationForTeenagersAndYoungAdults.pdf

Examinations of Conscience for Children:
http://www.ucrregister.com/info/confession_guide_for_children/

Living the 10 Commandments for Children
by R. Gerlier/D. Prucelli, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

1984 Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II on the Sacrament of Penance
Reconciliatio et Paenitentia

Scripture passages when discussing the Sacrament of Penance:
Gospel of John 20: 19-23
2 Corinthians 5:17-20
Gospel of Matthew 18:18

Scripture passages on varying gravity of sin:
1 John 5: 16-17

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:
Effects of the Sacrament of Penance
Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraphs 1468 – 1470, 1496
Grace
Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraphs 1987 – 2029
Sin
Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraphs 1849 – 1876

Act of Contrition:
(From Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church)
O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent

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Father Edward J. Quinlan, Administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg and Diocesan Secretary for Education, administers the Sacrament of Reconciliation in one of the confessionals at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

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Mrs. Krebs 6th grade class how I begrudgingly dropped into almsgiving on behalf of the poor. I remember clearly in early age how to respond to our call to prayer, fasting and schools collected from their students some last year’s appeal, our seven diocesan high school students to which he referred. In CRS.org), Catholic Relief Services (www.crubs.org), Catholic Charities USA (www. cbcrusa.org), Catholic Charities USA (www. cbcrusa.org), and in particular USCCB.org), Catholic青 faut to life through prayer, fasting and learning about our global community and the challenges of poverty around the world; and to give sacrificial contributions to our Catholic schools to participate in this year’s appeal as als in the diocese, parishes, and in particular the students of our Catholic schools to participate in this year’s appeal as their way of demonstrating through sacrifice their willingness to walk with the poor this Lenten season.

At a recent World Youth Day, Pope Benedict suggested that confronting global poverty had to be a key part of our Catholic faith journey if we are to be full witnesses to Jesus Christ. Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl Appeal speaks directly to that challenge through education about the experiences of and almsgiving for the poor throughout the world. Seventy-five percent of what we give to the appeal is sent to Catholic Relief Services to not just feed the hungry, in nearly 100 third-world countries but to help take away the reason people are hungry by improving agriculture, water supplies, sanitation and health. Twenty-five percent of the appeal stays in our diocese and is placed in the Matthew 25 Fund, a fund specifically for individual parish outreach to the needs of the poor in each of our own communities. These outreach efforts include local food banks, soup kitchens, clothing banks or cash assistance for heat for a low-income elderly neighbor on our block.

So I urge each and every one in our diocese, if you haven’t already, to check out the resources available at www.orb.crs.org to discover some simple yet powerful ways for our parishes, schools, and families to bring our Catholic faith to life through prayer, fasting and learning about our global community and the challenges of poverty around the world; and to give sacrificial contributions to those in need here and abroad during the holy season of Lent.

(Kirk Hallett is the Operation Rice Bowl Coordinator for the Diocese of Harrisburg.)

**Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22 Focus on Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving**

The traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and other forms of self-denial are recommended by the Church. The faithful observance of Lent should manifest itself in spiritual or material need. The spiritual hunger of the unchurched locally and in mission lands can be a focus of prayers and charitable giving.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat for those who are 14 years of age and older. They are also days of fasting for those between 18 and 59 years of age. Those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals are also permitted according to one’s needs. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. Fridays of the year outside Lent remain days of pen-
Penance, Reconciliation and Life

By Father Paul CB Schenck

Special to The Witness

When I was yet a Protestant pastor, young newweds came to see me. He had recently returned to his faith, and needed some advice. He explained that his youngest sister had been killed in a car crash when she was a child. Imagine how much more difficult that became when a few weeks later I had to meet them again to tell them the suspects had begun attempting that same church and they too had come seeking pardon and solace! I had considerable trepidation as I imagined the encounter in my mind. I predicted several possible scenarios: indigination, expulsion, rage, abrupt exit. I did not anticipate his true response. After I told him, he felt silent, then turned to his young bride and said quietly, “Now I really have to forgive them.” He had originally come to me for help in gaining his own reconciliation, now he was concerned with theirs.

Granted, that was an extreme case that we hope never experience. But it does point out the centrality of forgiveness in our lives. Sin and guilt shatter our inner harmony. No matter how justly we believed our actions or inactions to have been, if they violate even the spirit of the moral law, they cause us to be in conflict with our true selves, created in God’s image and reflections of his love, and therefore with those around us. Our conscience is alerted and we are discomfited until we restore harmony with those whom we should love, beginning with God, the Church (his bride and body, and our Mother) and our neighbors. Nowhere is this more necessary than in sins against human life, the greatest gift and ultimate good we can personably possess.

As to sins against life, we immediately think of abortion and euthanasia, but we cannot leave out the others — direct and intentional homicide, suicide, causing accidental death by negligence and yes, the use of artificial contraception to prevent life. Even the use of unnecessary lethal violence in war or this unnecessary imposition of the death penalty is sin against life. While each of these may bear differing degrees of culpability (causing an accidental death differs in severity and degree from an act of premeditated murder, and preventing conception is different in degree from destroying a life already begun by abortion), they nonetheless shatter that necessary harmony with God, ourselves and others. We cannot regain that blessed unity without reconciliation through conversion, which begins with confession (honestly admitting our wrong doing) and is completed by penance and satisfaction (some meaningful demonstration of our repentance).

This is the wonder and beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which, in my former church I was unable to offer my young friend as he struggled with his guilt and shame of his sister’s murder, and with his forgiveness of their crime. The Catechism says of the Sacrament, “It is the public act of the saved the sacrament of Penance, since it consecrates the Christian sinner’s personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction. It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a ‘confession’ — acknowledgment and praise — of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful man. It is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent “pardon and peace.”

We will fully realize a “culture of life” and “civilization of love” only when we own up to, repent and seek reconciliation for our sins against the incomparable gift of human life. We must then share that path to forgiveness with others and individually and corporately forsee all of fenses against life.

(Father Paul CB Schenck is Diocesan Director of Life Respect Life Activities and chairman of the National Pro-Life Action Center in Washington, D.C.)

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Easter Message 2012

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February 16 – Pastoral Visit to Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, 10 a.m.
February 18 – Confirmation, St. Anne Church, Lancaster, 10 a.m.
February 19 – Pastoral Visit, Holy Cross Church, Abingtontown, 11:30 a.m.
February 20 – Confirmation, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Millville, 5:30 p.m.
February 21 – Closing of Forty Hours at Saint Margaret Mary Magdalene, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.
February 23 – Confirmation, St. Joseph School – Presentation – Nativity School – Harrisburg – 10 a.m.
February 22 – Ash Wednesday Mass – Cathedral – noon
February 22 – Mass of the Pastoral Visit – St. Catherine of Siena – Quarryville – 7 p.m.
February 24 – Parish Lenten Convocation – CKC – 10:30 a.m
February 24 – Confirmation, St. Francis Xavier Church, Gettysburg, 5:30 p.m.
February 25 – Confirmation, St. Catherine Laboure Church, Mechanicsburg, 10 a.m.
February 26 – Mass and Pastoral Visit – Mother Cabrini – Shamokin – 9 a.m.
February 26 – Retreat – Cathedral – 3 pm and 7 p.m.
February 27 – Confirmation, St. Katharine Drexel Church, Mechanicsburg, 5:30 p.m.
February 29 – Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Mechanicsburg, 5:30 p.m.
March 2 – Confirmation, St. Peter Church, Columbia, 5:30 p.m.

Tell Congress to Rescind Contraceptive Mandate

The Obama Administration has announced that it would not revise its religious exemption to the requirement that all health plans cover contraceptives and sterilization.

“We write to you specifically as organizations and leaders that are not part of the Catholic community. We write not in opposition to Catholic leaders and organizations; rather, we write in solidarity, but separately—to stress that religious organizations and leaders of other faiths are also deeply troubled by and opposed to the mandate and the narrow exemptions. Some of you may never have contacted your legislators on any public policy issue in the past—but now is the time to exercise faithfulness. It is possible to correct this mandate through federal legislation called the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (HR 1179: S 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the national health care system “retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health insurance coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.”

Please visit www.pacatholic.org or www.hbgdiocese.org to contact your legislator, or call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Another possible course of action is litigation—litigious reactions are clearly and unfailing to major court decisions. We have each been told by the government that we are welcome to practice our faith on Sunday. Mass, for us Catholics, is the most important day of the week. It is the hope of Catholics that these legislative or litigious reactions are clearly and unfailing to major court decisions and to clarify religious liberty. The free exercise clause of the first amendment states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof... While paying for contraception and abortion-causing drugs is the issue today, if this ruling stands, we will most assuredly face more egregious violations of our religious liberty in the future. Regardless of whether the matter at hand is who pays for birth control or how we educate our children, if we permit our principles to be compromised, then we have succumbed to one of the greatest threats to our willingness to capitulate the whole of our belief system. Catholics are not the only religious group to disagree with this mandate. The majority of over 40 non-Catholic religious groups wrote to President Obama about the HHS mandate. In the letter they say, “We write to you specifically as organizations and leaders that are not part of the Catholic community. We write not in opposition to Catholic leaders and organizations; rather, we write in solidarity, but separately—to stress that religious organizations and leaders of other faiths are also deeply troubled by and opposed to the mandate and the narrow exemptions.”
Government has no Authority to Redefine Marriage, Say Catholic Leaders

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service
The archbishops of Los Angeles and New York criticized a federal appellate court decision Feb. 7 that ruled unconstitutional California’s Proposition 8, a 2008 voter-approved initiative that forbade same-sex marriage in the state.

“The government has no competence or authority to redefine marriage or ‘expand’ its definition to include other kinds of relationships,” said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles in a Feb. 7 statement.

“To do that is to say that marriage no longer exists. And this would have grave consequences for children and for the common good of our society.”

“Our government has a vital interest in promoting marriage for two reasons,” Archbishop Gomez said.

“First, because marriage is the foundation of society. Second, because government has a duty to promote the well-being of children, who have the right to be born and raised in a family with both their mother and their father.”

He added, “This debate over marriage is not about equality or about the needs of individuals. It is much bigger than that. It is about the nature of the human person and the nature of society.”

Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York called the 2-1 decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals “a ruling that would usurp the reality that marriage is the union of one man and one woman” in a Feb. 7 statement.

“The Constitution of the United States most assuredly does not forbid the recognition of marriage, one of the cornerstones of society,” said Cardinal-designate Dolan, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The people of California deserve better. Our nation deserves better. Marriage deserves better.”

The majority opinion said Proposition 8 violates the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law. It said the state, which had given homosexual couples the right to marry, could not revoke that right.

ProtectMarriage, which put the initiative on the ballot and fought in court to uphold it, can appeal the decision, either to the full 9th Circuit or directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the meantime, the appeals panel said no same-sex marriages can be performed.

“Our society does not operate in an amoral or valueless vacuum,” said Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

“Proposition 8 is necessary to fix the basic building block of the family because the institution of marriage is the union of one man and one woman has -- and always will be -- the most basic building block of the family and of our society,” Bishop Wilker added.

“In the end, through sound legal reasoning, we believe the court will see this as well and uphold the will of the voters as expressed in Proposition 8. We continue to pray for that positive outcome.”

Annulment Presentations Scheduled
The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, divorced people who wish to marry Catholics, parish leaders involved in the RCIA process, and those who have a vested interest because of family or friends.

Presentations will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4804 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

- March 6 – St. Joseph Church, York, 7 p.m.
- March 15 – Cardinal Keeler Center Room 103, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- May 7 – St. Joseph Church, Danville, 7 p.m.
- June 7 – St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales Uplifts Members in Spirituality, Devout Life

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“Any world-class form of Christian spirituality teaches how to progress in love at every stage of life and in every circumstance,” says Dana Elzi, who calls herself a Christian in progress.

“The spiritual method of St. Francis de Sales teaches how to keep one’s heart fixed on God by paying special attention to sanctifying the ordinary moments in life and a practice of little virtues. De Sales has also taught me how to pray,” she says.

A self-described “Lutheran-dropout from the American West” who joined the Catholic Church after a conversion experience in Europe, Ms. Elzi says with a grin, “If de Sales can work with someone as naturally self-centered and culturally independent-minded as I am, he can work with anyone.”

After reading several of his books – Introduction to the Devout Life is perhaps the most known – she found herself enamored with the beauty and simplicity of the saint’s spirituality.

Eventually, she became a professed member of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales, a community whose members live and spread the spirituality of this Doctor of the Church.

“De Sales teaches us that we are all called to holiness, regardless of our state in life. He teaches us to truly find God’s will in the everyday experiences of our lives, with particular attention to those experiences that we don’t like,” said Ms. Elzi. “Through Salesian spirituality, I’ve come a long way on this journey of love… but I still have a long way to go.”

In fact, Ms. Elzi, a member of Seven Sorrows the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown, has come so far that she currently serves as the National Directress of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales.

Secular institutes are a form of consecrated life in the Catholic Church. They are for lay men and women who commit their lives to God without changing their state in life. Both associate members (men and women who are married and make promises) and professed members (those who are single and make vows) live the Evangelical Counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. They are called to pray daily, attend Mass faithfully and live a life that puts God first.

Those who belong to the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales are called to live out and spread the spirituality of the saint, which teaches all are called to holiness.

“St. Francis de Sales’ motto is ‘Live Jesus. The idea is to do everything the way Jesus would,’” said associate member Susan Hammaker, a member of St. Patrick’s Church in Kennett Square, Pa.

Mrs. Hammaker was drawn to the Secular Institute after attending the group’s monthly meetings at the suggestion of a Salesian priest from whom she was seeking spiritual direction.

“It is uplifting to be able to grow in holiness with others who have the same spirituality and the same love for God that I do,” Mrs. Hammaker reflected.

After completing the individualized formation program, she made a Solemn Act of Consecration as an associate member.

“The spirituality of St. Francis de Sales teaches you how to put God first in every part of your daily life,” she said. “As a member of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales for eleven years now, I am growing in holiness and my love for God among others who have the same desire.”

That’s one of the characteristics of a secular institute – to support those who seek to actively live Christian values in the world.

In her role as directress, Ms. Elzi focuses on administrative details and on encouraging the institute’s members in their daily lives by facilitating ways to share the Salesian spiritual treasure both within the group and beyond. She said, “It’s very easy for people to get discouraged in this kind of vocation because we’re called to be a sort of leaven in the world, and we all know what the world can be like. It is not really that difficult to engage in your spirituality at home. It’s not hard to do it in your parish. But it’s very hard to do it in a professional, cultural or social setting. We need all the help we can get.”

Jane Frangiosa, an associate member, first learned of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales some 25 years ago, after being diagnosed with a serious illness. As she recovered physically she also began to experience a spiritual awakening, a desire to really know the God who had restored her well-being. But this cradle-Catholic felt like she did not really know how to pray. She set out to learn more about prayer and to seek the friendship of others who also desired a deeper spiritual life. One thing led to another, and she finally became connected to the institute through a Salesian priest she met at a Charismatic prayer group.

“St. Francis de Sales teaches us how to keep things simple in a crazy world,” Mrs. Frangiosa, a member of St. Matthew’s Church in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., said of the challenge to live a holy life. “We look at life as just being totally abandoned to God’s will, and each day giving God our will. Sure, there are difficult times, but the confidence we receive when we give God our will is unshakable.”

Professed and associate members of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales attend regular meetings and an annual retreat, and are called to pray and deepen their spirituality as they go about their daily lives.

“There are many people who are holy men and women, but what the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales offers is the opportunity to build on your holiness and your relationships,” Mrs. Frangiosa said. “I would have to say this experience has been absolutely life changing,” she said. “I’ve been recreated into the person that God made me to be.”

(To learn more about the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales, or for inquiries or prayer requests, visit www.secularinstituteofstfrancisdesales.org.)

Faith and Life

Catholic Men’s Conference

“Be the Man God Intended You to Be”

April 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Marriott Lancaster Convention Center

The conference, for men ages 18 and older, focuses on adult Catholic men, their specific challenges and perspectives about truth, faith and what it means to be an adult male Catholic.

The day will feature conference talks by Father Larry Richards, a gifted speaker and preacher and author of “Be a Man!” and by Robert Rogers, who will speak about his faith in the wake of losing his wife and children in a flash flood. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will celebrate Mass to close the day, which also features time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, exhibits and lunch.

The conference is sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Evangelization.

Registration fee of $30 includes lunch. For a schedule and detailed information of the day, or to register online, visit www.mensconference2012.com. For more information, contact the Office of Evangelization at 717-657-4804, ext. 319, or lmurphy@hbgdiocese.org.

Save the Date

Monday, April 23, 2012
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 87th Annual Convention
Cardinal Keeler Diocesan Center, Harrisburg
Convention Theme: “Love in Action”
Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin this Lenten season, we are mindful of our own spiritual needs as well as the temporal needs of others. The Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal provides me with the opportunity to ask you for financial assistance to assist me in meeting the spiritual and temporal needs of the people of our Diocese: Our Church, Our Children, Our Community.

There are many everyday challenges that face us as we strive to proclaim the Gospel of Christ throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg. Your sacrificial gift makes it possible for our parishes, missions, ministries and apostolates to directly impact and transform the lives of individuals, families, and our local communities.

We accomplish this by providing support and assistance to parish communities through such services as our Diocesan financial management agency, the formation programs offered to couples preparing for marriage, and everyday parish support for catechetical and practical ministry needs.

Additionally, your financial support aids our effort to meet the spiritual needs of children through our elementary and secondary schools, our parish programs of religious education, retreats, Catholic scouting programs, and athletics supported by the Diocesan Education Department and Youth Ministry outreach. Young adults attending campuses within the boundaries of the diocese participate in our Newman clubs and Catholic Campus Ministry, both of which benefit directly from this Appeal.

The Annual Lenten Appeal helps to sustain all of these programs and many more, assisting me in my ministry as your bishop and assisting your parish communities to proclaim and live out more effectively the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I ask you to prayerfully consider your sacrificial gift to this year’s Lenten Appeal. Please be as generous as possible. Your gift helps me as I shepherd the Diocese of Harrisburg and minister to Our Church, Our Children, and Our Community. May the Lord of Life richly bless you for your good will and generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

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Lenten Appeal Allocations

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.

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 11,606 in its 35 elementary schools, 7 secondary schools, pre-school and kindergarten programs. 16,633 attending public schools received religious instruction in 89 parish programs of religious education. Adult education is provided through the Diocesan Institutes, in parish-based programs as well as through the Rite of Christian Initiation and the continuing education for priests and deacons.

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.
Please visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org/blacc for more information or to make a donation to the appeal.

Diocese of Harrisburg
Office of Development
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804
(717) 657-4818 (fax)
www.hbgdiocese.org

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.

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.

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

Many companies will match charitable donations through an Employee Match Program. Please contact your employer to determine if a matching program is available.
Diocesan Rivals Poised for Epic March Showdowns

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

With March right around the corner, it’s that time of the year when the Squirettes of Delone Catholic and the Fighting Irish of York Catholic take their heated rivalry past the regular season into the Class AA District 3 and PIAA state tournaments.

The teams split their regular season contests with Delone scoring a double-digit victory in January and with York Catholic of their nine-point win last week to close out the regular season. Both squads are ranked in the top-ten state wide poll and are both in the hunt for a near certain clash in the District 3 final in the first week of March in Hershey. Just seems that these two powerhouses with six state championship trophies in their cases are destined to play a tense see-saw play-off game or two come March. And usually these games are fun, chess-match like spirited battles led by two great coaches in Delone’s Gerry Eckenrode and Kevin Bankos of York Catholic.

Delone Catholic is led by Sierra Moore, who has scored more points than any other female player in York County’s history as she nears the 2,500 plateau. The Duke Blue Devils bound senior was also just named to the McDonald’s 2012 All-American team, which means she is one of the country’s top 24 players and she will play in the televised game in late March. She scored a career high 39 points against Lancaster Catholic in early February. Next winter, she will be dropping times in the venerable confines of Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C.

York Catholic’s sports superstars this season, but their team defensive efforts and playoff experience-laden team is arguably why they continue to rack up wins. It’s been more than a decade since the Irish have not posted 20-plus wins, and when they give up less than 33 points a game, they are a hard team to beat under pressure.

Quarterback’s Ups and Downs

Ring True for Teen Battling Cancer

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

In a football season marked by amazing fourth-quarter comebacks and over-time victories, Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow not only connected with wide receivers racing for the end zone. Through prayer and an act of kindness, Tebow also connected with Joey Norris, a 13-year-old eighth-grader from Our Lady of Mercy School in Potomac, Md., who is battling leukemia.

This past fall, while Joey was undergoing cancer treatment at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, his dad, Jim, asked him if he had heard about “Tebowing.” It’s the prayerful gesture made famous by Tebow, who after scoring a touchdown, kneels on one leg and bows his head in prayer, with his arm resting on his bended knee and his fist touching his forehead. Joey, an avid football fan, had earlier drafted Tebow to be the quarterback on his fantasy football team.

After seeing photos of his favorite player praying, the youngster said, “I want to do that.” And there, in his room at Children’s Hospital, Joey knelt down near his chemo pole, and his dad took a picture of him. Later, as the two were walking to their car, wondering what to call Joey’s gesture, his dad suggested, “Tebowing while Chemosing.”

Joey immediately tweeted that photo to Tebow, explaining that “I’m Tebowing while Chemosing!” The youth added that he was a cancer survivor who was trusting the quarterback with his fantasy team.

Within two hours, Tebow tweeted a response back to Joey, noting that the boy’s tweet was “my favorite one of the day,” and he told him, “Praying for you and God bless you, big man!”

Jim Norris said in an interview with the Catholic Standard, Washington archdiocesan newspaper, that Joey had been “on the fourth day of a brutal five-day chemo regiment” when Tebow tweeted him back.

“By the end of the week, it’s worn you out, you don’t feel well. He hadn’t been to school all week,” Jim Norris said. “When Tim tweeted him back, all of a sudden, his eyes lit up. He had the strength to get through that week and couldn’t wait for the weekend.”

Some weeks later, the Tim Tebow Foundation invited Joey and Jim Norris to attend the Bowl at Jan. 1 home game vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. Joey proudly wore his No. 15 Tebow jersey, and before the game at Mile High Stadium, Tebow finished his warm-up tosses and sprinted over to the sideline to meet Joey.

“He gave me a great big hug, and he gave me a game ball they were throwing around in pre-game,” Joey told the Catholic Standard. The quarterback also gave him a copy of his autobiography, “Through My Eyes,” and a student bible.

That game, however, lacked a storybook ending, as Denver lost 7-3, and Tebow had statistically his worst game of the season. Joey said that after the defeat, “you could see the disappointment in his eyes,” and yet Tebow still managed to smile and offer encouragement to his two young guests, talking to them for about 15 minutes and autographing Joey’s jersey, the book and the Bible he had given him.

“Win or lose, Tebow is just the nicest person, all around,” he said. His dad agreed, saying, “He’s the real deal. He’s a caring, loving person who just happens to play football.”

Tebow’s season had its ups and downs, with exciting touchdowns passes and runs, but also missed his marks, thrilling victories and disappointing losses. Joey, who has had his own struggles and triumphs in recent years during his four-year cancer battle, can relate. “He’s such an inspiration to anybody going through anything,” he told Tebow.

The quarterback’s struggles and end-of-game heroics offer a lesson about endurance, Joey said, adding that even when bad things happen during your day, you can turn it around by the end of the day.

As he continues his cancer treatment, that message resonates with Joey. “During those days when you think you can’t go on anymore, you might lose the battle, but in the end, you’ll win the war. That’s more important than anything. Just have faith,” he said.
Students Offer Hope and a Hand in Volunteer Efforts

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

The desire to help or to give back can come naturally, but the motivation and drive to do something with that feeling is sometimes few and far between. But for diocesan high school students Sarah Fuller and Katye Trexler, giving back to their community has become a part of their everyday life.

Sarah, a junior at York Catholic High School, founded Letters of Hope in her local community. The project includes participants from local elementary schools, parish religious education classes, and senior centers. Sarah reaches out to each of these organizations, asking them to help write letters to the children at St. Jude Children’s Hospital, in Memphis, TN. Letters from people of various ages show the young people a different view from each age group. The letters vary in style, as young youth groups might color a picture or draw a happy scene of flowers, while the older groups write letters or create cards out of scrapbook materials.

Sarah’s interest in this project comes from her desire to help people with cancer; her grandmother is a 17-year-survivor of ovarian cancer. She was diagnosed before Sarah was born, but her grandmother and family members never gave up hope, even giving Sarah the middle name Hope. Sarah sent her first batch of letters to the children of St. Jude’s in 2010 and every year since she has sent six batches, each containing anywhere from 30-50 letters.

“This project has given me a sense of selfless giving; you can make a difference without expecting anything in return,” Sarah said. It has taught me organization, perseverance and I never give up finding groups to help. It is nice to show other people in the community they can give back, and I like to bring happiness.”

Sarah continued with advice for other youth who may have an interest in reaching out: “If you have a dream, don’t give up on it, and don’t doubt the ability to make a difference in someone’s life.”

Bishop McDevitt junior Katye Trexler has also founded her own organization, Katye’s Helping Hands. This organization gives loving support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. Katye, the daughter of a police officer, envisioned this project when her mother and she had helped with a family who lost a husband and father in the line of duty. When she went with her mother to make the delivery, she noticed how all the attention was on the mother of the family and began to think of ways in which she could help the children grieve, from one cop’s child to another.

Her project has been running for three years. She leads fund-raisers and then takes the collection and to a “Build a Bear” shop, where bears are created for children ages 13 and under. Children ages 14 through college receive a blue blanket with their parent’s name and the date they were killed in the line of duty. Helping Hands not only gives to officer’s families here in the tri-state, but also to children all over the country. They are connected to a system that alerts them when an officer has been killed. Katye and her mother then contact the department and ask if they can help with their organization, and are given the names and the number of children in the family. Within the week, a teddy bear or blanket is sent to each child.

Katye is also greatly involved in Miss American Dream Teen, and was inspired by one Dream Teen who provides Teddies to hospitals and by another young lady who created Caitlyn Smiles. Being a part of Miss American Dream Teen has helped Katye to promote her project. She’s grateful to her family, who is very supportive and contributes to the program in many different ways.

Katye encourages other teens to get involved in volunteer efforts. “At first it may not seem like it’s going your way, but give it time, you’re new, you’re a start up and you’re doing well. This was the same advice given to me from Vicky’s Angels.”

Letters of Hope and Katye’s Helping Hands are year-round and time-consuming projects. Both Katye and Sarah are strong role models for their peers and the faithful of the diocese. Katye just recently received the bronze award for the Prudential Jr. Scholarship, and both girls are active in clubs at their respective schools; Sarah dances and is active with her local fire company.

Sarah and Katye are examples of how we should live in Christ. They give to others just like Jesus did. As we prepare for Lent, these two young ladies be a real testament of the Catholic faith in action.

For more information on Katye’s Helping Hand’s please visit www.katyeshelpinghands.com. All funds collected are directly used to bring a smile to child’s face. For information for Sarah’s Letters of Hope please visit, www.sendlettersofhope.org. Groups of any age and size are welcome to contribute by writing letters.
Lent Fish Dinners

The Knights of Columbus at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Millmont will serve Lenten Fish Dinners in the church hall on Fridays Feb. 24-26. Attendees will be seated. Each dinner will include family style fried fish meal with baked fish and potato, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, and desserts. A variety of homemade desserts are also available. Eat in or take out. St. Jude Thaddeus Parish hall 760 main street Millmont.

Lenten Fish Dinners will be held in Divine Mercy Hall at Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel from 11 a.m.-p.m. Feb. 24. At 2:30 p.m., dinner with matching bouquet of flowers and gift basket. Men’s $20, women’s $15, children’s $10. Tickets available at St. Joseph Church in York. Car caravan will leave from the church parking lot. Call 717-838-2340 for tickets. MESCH-STEAD.org or call 717-678-2313.

St. Peter Parish in Columbia will hold its Lenten Fish Fry on Fridays Feb. 24-26. Fish served from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Features fish fillets pan fried, breaded shrimp, and fish in a variety of sauces. World famous shoestring potatoes are available. Put your order in by 4 p.m. on the day of the event. Call 717-873-6921 for the church’s location.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola will hold Fish Dinners in the Parish Church Hall (Lower level) every Friday throughout the lenten season. Each dinner will be led by Father Luis Rodriguez, pastor of Mary, Mother the Church Parish in Mount Joy. June 11-15, 2012. Highlights include open air Masses, Soup Suppers, and hilarious Trivia shows. Mass. Cost is $5.00. Reserve ASAP. Contact Karen Mornet at 717-253-1031.

Retreats & Pilgrimages

The Cursillo Movement of Harrisburg will hold their winter weekends at St. Pius X in Selinsgrove. The weekends will begin on the 2nd and 3rd Saturday of each month and will last two days. Sponsor and candidates can contact Steve or Terry Troy at 717-896-6173 for information or visit www.harrisburg- cursillo.org.

An Eucharistic pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Angels Monastery near Middletown will be held by Father Frank Karwacki, pastor, using DVD renewal services. His theme will be “obedience in spite of Drexel Church in Mechanicsburg March 6 at 7 p.m. Father Miller, pastor, beginning Feb. 28 following 8:30 a.m. Mass. Cost is $5.00. Reserve ASAP. Contact Karen Mornet at 717-253-1031.

Education, Enrichment & Support

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel will offer the Biblical Walk through the Mass Study produced by Father Robert Barron’s series “Catholicism” recently seen on PBS. This program explains what Catholics believe and why, and also displays in visual, dramatic detail the richness of the Church’s global culture. The first lesson will be held Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the church cafeteria. All classes should be held each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Attend any or all of the presentations. There is no cost or pre-registration. For information, call the parish office at 717-829-5629.

For Married Couples! The Covenant of Love (St. Joseph Church, York) will kick off a new series for married couples “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” with the first in a series of 4 Friday night “Date Nights” Feb. 24 from 7-9 p.m. The evenings are free of charge. Visit www.sjy.org for topics and dates. Call 717-755-7503.

An adult education class on the Mass will be presented at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Gettysburg. The class will be led by Father Karl Krawczyk, pastor, beginning Feb. 28 following 8:30 a.m. Father Miller will present an EWTN series. The Lamb’s Supper – The End of the Age and the Coming of the Kingdom of God. This course will explore the relationship between the Holy Mass and the Book of Revelation. This is an excellent refresher course for both regular and new Catholics. The class will begin Feb. 28 and continue the following week for an hour and a half for an complete two series each Monday evening during Lent. This series will be led by Father Robert Barron and will begin at 6:30 p.m. All current 8th grade students are welcome, and parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Call 717-586-7545 for more information.

Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York will present Father Robert Barron’s series “Catholicism” recently seen on PBS. This program explains what Catholics believe and why, and also displays in visual, dramatic detail the richness of the Church’s global culture. The first lesson will be held Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the church cafeteria. All classes should be held each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Attend any or all of the presentations. There is no cost or pre-registration. For information, call the parish office at 717-755-7503.

All married couples may attend this course at no charge. Call 717-755-7503 for information.

The Paschal Mystery, a 4 week Bible study class, will be offered at St. Joseph Church in York during Lent. Classes will begin on the first Sunday of Lent at 7:30 p.m. Entry is free. Participants are of- fered free of charge by the Pastoral Care Department.

A bounteous support service will be offered at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill Wednesdays from Feb. 29-April 4, with a special offering for郝 families on March 31. Please sign up at the Parish Office. A letter will be offered of free of charge by the Pastoral Care Department.

A Family Lenten Evening of Reflection, sponsored by the Parish Council of Sts. Cyprian and Valentine Parish, will be held at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church in Mechanicsburg on March 6 at 7 p.m. Presenter will be Ann Barlow. The program will feature the movie “Theology of the Heart” and discussion. Sponsored by the Parish Council of Sts. Cyprian and Valentine Parish.

A silent auction to benefit Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in St. Marin Hall will be held in the social hall at St. Joseph’s Church in York from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 4-6. The silent auction will be held in the Parish Hall at 717-755-7503.

St. Stan’s School, Shamokin, Pennsylvania, will hold a prayer meeting to pray for the health and well-being of the future recipients. If you are interested in coming to visit or starting a group to pray, you can contact Carolina Rashidi at 717-341-4113 or Kathy Dalius at 703-378-4933 or katy@dsb.com.

A spaghetti dinner will take place Feb. 19 from 4-9 p.m. at Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Red Lodge. Tickets will be sold at the door. Dinner costs $7.00 for adults, $3.00 for children 1-12, and those under 6 eat free. You can call 717-678-2317.

The Our Lady of Lourdes, New Holland Knights of Columbus Council 13461 will host a Lenten breakfast and lunch being served at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27. Cost is $5.00 for a la carte and $10.00 for a family of four. The Church of the Holy Spirit in Palmyra will serve Lenten Fish Dinners in the church hall.
HHS Compromise

Continued from 1

step in the right direction,” but said “we reserve judgment on the details until we have them.”

“We hope to work with the administra-
tion to guarantee that Americans’ con-
sciences and our religious freedom are not harmed by these regulations,” he added.

The USCCB president said Ameri-
cans of all faiths and of no faith had responded with “remarkable unity” against the HHS mandate because they were “worried about the erosion of re-
ligious freedom and governmental in-
tervention into issues of faith and morals.”

Catholic who has co-chaired the bipar-
tisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus
since 1982, said the policy announced by Obama “is the discredited old pol-
cy, dressed up to look like something else.”

He said the requirement that insur-
ance companies provide contraception and sterilization free of charge to all
employees of religious organizations
would still place the cost ultimately on several levels.

But Carr told the social ministers
that the USCCB leadership subse-
sequently scrutinized the new rule and
realized the conference could not offer its support. In a statement issued late Feb. 10, the USCCB said Obama’s decision to re-
tain the contraceptive mandate “is both
unsupported in the law and remains a
great moral concern.” The conference
also said the continued “lack of clear
protection for key stakeholders ... is un-
acceptable and must be corrected.”

After his 45-minute address, which
largely focused on the bishops’ qua-

drellian document on “Faithful Citiz-
enship” traditionally released in ad-
vance of a presidential election, Carr
told Catholic News Service that the
revision on who pays for contracep-
tion coverage still contains “the very
things we object to.”

Carr cited the rule’s “exceedingly
narrow definition” of what consti-
tutes a religious organization, which
remains unchanged. He said the ad-
ministration still does not seem to
understand the role of religious orga-
nizations and the ministries they of-
fer to society.

“If you’re not religious because you care for those who are not mem-
bers of your faith, if you are not reli-
gious because you employ people who are not members of your faith ... that’s the heart of who we are,” he said.

“The inattention to self-insured
plans is a major, major problem. It in-
some way doubles the problem,” he added.

“Instead of all the moral gymnas-
atics, why don’t we let religious
institutions don’t have to do what
they think is wrong,” Carr said. “Just
do it.”

Carr also questioned the process
used by the White House in its effort
to alleviate the concerns of religious
groups about the rules first made pub-
lie Jan. 20 by Secretary of Health and
Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

“If you’re going to try and deal
with the problem, you ought to talk
to people who have the problem,” Carr
said, explaining that in revising the
mandate, no one from the White
House had been in touch with any
bishop or conference official.

Carr said that the White House
only called Cardinal-designate Dolan
as well as the USCCB the morning of
Feb. 10 hours before its announce-
ment to provide details about the rule change. White House officials subse-
sequently visited the USCCB to
explain the revision and answer any
questions, Carr added.

The White House did not immedi-
ately return a call seeking comment.

USCCB Official: Revision in Coverage Still Violates Religious Liberty

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

A revision in a federal health care mandate that would shift the payment of contraception and ster-
ilization coverage from religious employers to health insurance companies still infringes upon religious liberty and must be ad-
dressed, said an official of the U.S.
Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The mandate’s narrow exemp-
tion for religious organizations and
how the revision pertains to self-insured parties, like many di-
oceses and Catholic organizations,
could still force entities morally
opposed to contraception to pay
for such services, said John Carr,
executive director of the U.S. bishops’
Department of Justice, Peace and
Human Development.

“The fact is we have to go back
to the beginning,” Carr told sev-
eral hundred people during the
opening session of the Catholic
Social Ministry Gathering Feb. 12.
“The best way to get out of this is
to not get into it. We should
not have the government deciding what’s a ministry or not. We
need the administration to revise it, we need the Congress to repeal it or we need the courts to stop it.”

Carr also said that making no-
cost contraception available to
American women seems to be a
top legislative priority of the ad-
ministration.

“Lots of people have said, ‘What
are the priorities of the Obama ad-
ministration?’” Carr told the gath-
ering. “Well, we know one. It’s free birth control for everybody.”

President Barack Obama an-
nounced the revision Feb. 10, after
three weeks of intensive criticism
over a federal mandate that would
require most religious institutions
to pay for contraception they find mor-
ally objectionable. The rule allows
religious employers not to offer
such services to their employees
but would compel insurance com-
panies to do so.

Options on HHS Mandate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Court decisions</td>
<td>Reverse mandate and/or expand religious exemption</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislation in Congress</td>
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<td>Action by Obama administration</td>
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<td>Change in administration through elections</td>
<td>Heavy fines for employers and employees</td>
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<td>Keep offering present health plans</td>
<td>Higher costs and possibly worse coverage; employees still required to subsidize contraception</td>
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<td>without substantial changes</td>
<td>Violates Jesus’ call to serve all who need help</td>
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<td>Ignore or defy mandate</td>
<td>Church subsidizes medications, procedures to which it is morally opposed</td>
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<td>Stop providing health insurance for</td>
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<td>church employees</td>
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<td>Give employees funds to buy own</td>
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<td>health insurance</td>
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<td>Close Catholic institutions that</td>
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<td>serve all/restrict services to</td>
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<td>Catholics only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comply with mandate to include</td>
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<td>contraception, sterilization in</td>
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archbishop from 2003 until last July, when Archbishop Charles Borromeo Seminary.
Cardinal Bevilacqua delivered the keynote address at the address of the Harrisburg's Eucharistic course in the summer of 2000. Philadelphia Catholic high school teachers, said: “We did some good things together. We had our differences, but it was never personal. We both worked for Catholic education and had different ways of going about it, but our hearts were in the right place.”
Rita Schwartz, president of the Association of Catholic Teachers, the union representing Philadelphia Catholic high school teachers, said: “We did some good things together. We had our differences, but it was never personal. We both worked for Catholic education and had different ways of going about it, but our hearts were in the right place.”

Karen Handel, vice president of public
Komen announces Jan. 31 that it will no longer give grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates for breast cancer screening referrals and then reinstated these grants Feb. 3 after significant protest.
In her resignation letter, Handel said she had supported Komen’s decision to stop providing funding to Planned Parenthood, but she also noted that discussion of the move had begun long before she joined the organization last year.
Handel said the decision to withhold grant funding from Planned Parenthood was nonpolitical and was “based on Komen’s mission.”

“I am troubled that the Komen foundation has come under such heavy fire for their recent decision to tighten and focus their funding guidelines,” said Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life.

“The week we have all been witness to highly partisan attacks from pro-abortion advocates and an ugly and disgraceful shakedown that highlights Planned Parenthood’s willingness to pursue a scorched-earth strategy to force compliance with their pro-abortion agenda,” she said in a statement.
Yoest also noted that Komen donors are “now confused about their association with the nation’s largest abortion provider.”

A statement from Komen’s founder and CEO Nancy Brinker posted on the Dallas-based organization’s website Feb. 3 apologized to the American public “for recent decisions that cast doubt upon our commitment to our mission of saving women’s lives.”

Brinker said the reaction to the decision to discontinue the funding was “unsurprising for our supporters, partners and friends and all of us at Susan G. Komen. We have been distressed at the presumption that the changes made to our funding criteria were done for political reasons or to specifically penalize Planned Parenthood. They were not.”

She also noted that Komen had planned to stop funding grant applications made by organizations under investigation but that it will “amend the criteria to make clear that disqualifying investigations must be criminal and conclusive in nature and not political.”

Planned Parenthood is currently the focus of an investigation by U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., to see whether the organization used federal funds to pay for abortions, which would be illegal. Stearns is chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
Komen raises millions annually for the detection, treatment and research of breast cancer. One of its signature events is the annual Race for the Cure held in communities around the country. Planned Parenthood, which provides abortions, also offers free breast exams and provides referrals for mammograms, considered key to early detection of breast cancer. The Komen foundation over the years has said that it intended its contributions toward breast cancer research to be focused on research that is not directly concerned with abortion.

In a letter to Congress last April urging lawmakers to exclude from the federal budget any funding for Planned Parenthood or its affiliates—such as those that perform abortion—a pro-life leader said that the organization’s decision to end its relationship with Planned Parenthood was based on a new policy that says grants cannot be given to organizations that are being investigated by government authorities, whether it is at the state, local or federal level.

In the new statement, Brinker said the group’s goal in the grant process is “to support women and families in the fight against breast cancer.”

Amending our criteria will ensure that politics has no place in our grant process. We will continue to fund existing grants, including those of Planned Parenthood, and preserve their eligibility to apply for future grants, while maintaining the ability of our affiliates to make funding decisions that meet the needs of their communities.”

She also added that the organization hopes everyone involved will be able “to pause, slow down and reflect on how grants can most effectively and directly be administered without controversies that hurt the cause of women. We urge everyone who has participated in this conversation across the country over the last few days to help us move past this issue. We do not want our mission marred or affected by politics — anyone’s politics.”

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Known as the oldest African American Church in America, Saint Francis Xavier Church in Baltimore was founded in 1864 – the same year the U.S. Senate passed the 13th Amendment that outlawed involuntary servitude in the country. And though the Civil War still raged on and would for yet another bloody year, the death of more than 250 years of slavery in America had finally come, freeing nearly four million slaves across the South.

Several dozen members of the St. Francis Xavier choir came to Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Harrisburg, on Sunday, Feb. 12 – the 203rd birthday of President Abraham Lincoln, who helped scribe the 13th Amendment – to bring powerful, soulful musical renderings to the more than 600 faithful who attended the annual Mass in celebration of African American Catholic Faith and Culture.

Bishop Joseph McFadden was the main celebrant and homilist. “We must start realizing that all of us are ill. There is a deeper ill we have than a physical illness – it is sin which makes our soul sick. We all sin. We live in a society that does not recognize that truth… And we all know what a great sin of racism in our country.”

By Chris Heisey

To God Be The Glory!

Sterling Summers and Dr. Rita Smith Wade-EL recess out of the Cathedral after serving as lectors for the Holy Mass.

Kenyatta Hardison leads the choir in lively song.

Bishop Joseph McFadden receives the offertory gifts.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS