Bishops Launch Letter Campaign Urging Trump to Protect Religious Freedom

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Saying “religious freedom in America has suffered years of unprecedented erosion,” the U.S. Catholic bishops have posted an online letter for Catholics to send to President Donald Trump urging him to sign an executive order promoting religious freedom.

The letter, found at www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns, says the president can “restore the federal government’s respect for the religious freedom of individuals and organizations” with an executive order that establishes a “government-wide initiative to respect religious freedom.” Individuals can sign the letter and hit a link to submit it to Trump.

A leaked draft version of a potential religious freedom order was circulating in the media and among federal staff and advocacy groups at the end of January. When White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer was asked about the draft Jan. 30, he said he would not get “ahead of the executive orders that we may or may not issue.”

A leaked draft version of a potential religious freedom order was circulating in the media and among federal staff and advocacy groups at the end of January. When White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer was asked about the draft Jan. 30, he said he would not get “ahead of the executive orders that we may or may not issue.”

He noted that there have been a lot of executive actions and “a lot of things that the president has talked about and will continue to fulfill, but we have nothing on that front now.”

A White House official told ABC News that the leaked draft on religious freedom is one of hundreds of circulating orders that were either written by the transition team or the White House.

Although Spicer did not elaborate on the leaked document, he told reporters that freedom of religion in the U.S. should mean “people should be able to practice their religion, express their religion, express areas of their faith without reprisal.”

“And I think that pendulum sometimes swings the other way in the name of political correctness,” he added.

The four-page draft has raised concerns among those who said it would legalize discrimination and...
On World Day of the Sick, Bishop Gainer Brings Love of Christ to Hospital Patients

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“...the precious fruits of this sollicitude for the world of suffering and sickness are a reason for gratitude to the Lord Jesus, who out of obedience to the will of the Father became one of us, even enduring death on the cross for the redemption of humanity. The solidarity shown by Christ, the Son of God born of Mary, is the expression of God’s merciful omnipotence, which is made manifest in our life – above all when that life is frail, pain-filled, humbled, marginalized and suffering – and fills it with the power of hope that can sustain us and enable us to get up again.” – Pope Francis’ message for the 25th World Day of the Sick, 2017

Established by St. John Paul II and first celebrated in 1993, the World Day of the Sick calls the faithful to pray in a special way for those suffering from illness, and for their families and caregivers. The day is observed on Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

On this year’s 25th observation of the World Day of the Sick, Bishop Ronald Gainer visited Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and Danville State Hospital, where he celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for a number of patients. At Geisinger Medical Center, he also celebrated Holy Mass.

World Day of the Sick is an opportunity to reflect on the needs of the sick and the suffering. It is also an occasion for those who care for the sick – including family members, health care professionals and volunteers – to give thanks for their vocation.

In establishing the World Day of Prayer for the Sick on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in 1991, St. John Paul II called the Church to observe it as a special time of solicitude for the world of suffering and sickness.

The day is attached to the Feast of Our Lady Lourdes, which commemorates the Blessed Mother’s appearances to the young, impoverished and uneducated Bernadette in Lourdes, France, in 1858. During one of those 18 apparitions, Mary told Bernadette that the faithful must continue to pray for the conversion of sinners, and that we can be co-redeemers with Christ if we unite our suffering to his.

Bishop Gainer lays hands on Thomas Bickert of Shamokin who is a patient at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Bickert of Shamokin who is a patient at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

The bell choir of Saint Joseph’s Church, Danville, provides beautiful musical rendition, during Holy Mass celebrated in Geisinger Medical Center’s research facility. More than 125 faithful, hospital administrators and staff attended the liturgy celebrated by Bishop Gainer.

Above: A patient at the Danville State Hospital is anointed by Bishop Gainer during the Sacrament of Anointing liturgy on February 11.

Left: Mary Lou Olley of Elysburg, a patient at Geisinger Medical Center, is anointed by Bishop Gainer.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

In his message for this 25th observance of the World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis remarked, “The gaze of Mary, Comfort of the Afflicted, brightens the face of the Church in her daily commitment to the suffering and those in need. The precious fruits of this solicitude for the world of suffering and sickness are a reason for gratitude to the Lord Jesus, who out of obedience to the will of the Father became one of us, even enduring death on the cross for the redemption of humanity. The solidarity shown by Christ, the Son of God born of Mary, is the expression of God’s merciful omnipotence, which is made manifest in our life – above all when that life is frail, pain-filled, humbled, marginalized and suffering – and fills it with the power of hope that can sustain us and enable us to get up again.”

The Catholic Witness • February 17, 2017
Two men were accepted as candidates in the diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program during a Mass with the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer on Feb. 4 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Mechanicsburg. William Leavens and Stephen Pichler now join the 45 other men — accepted as candidates this past September — as candidates in the diaconate formation program. Mr. Leavens, shown at left, the husband of Linda Leavens, is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Mr. Pichler, shown at right, the husband of Sharon Pichler, is a member of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York. During the rite, the men were called forward to publicly declare their intentions and resolutions through a series of questions posed by the bishop. Ordination of the new class of deacons is anticipated for the spring of 2020.

Five centuries after the start of the Protestant Reformation, leaders of the Catholic and Lutheran churches came together in a demonstration of unity to release new Bible translations.

At an ecumenical service at St. Eberhard’s Catholic Cathedral, clergy from both churches gathered to release revised German translations of the Catholic and Lutheran Bibles.

The release came as the 500th anniversary of the Reformation neared. It began in 1517 when theologian Martin Luther developed his 95 Theses challenging long-held Catholic practices.

Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising, president of the German bishops’ conference, emphasized the sacred Scriptures as a strong bond shared by Catholics and Protestants.

“It is an effervescent fountain,” Cardinal Marx said of the Bible. “The water drawn from it does not decrease, but increases. The more we debate the Holy Scriptures, the more we experience the mystery of Christ.”

During the last year, the Catholic and Lutheran translations of the Bible were subjected to thorough review and revision. A group of 200 people from both churches participated in the revision process.

“There is no better way to remember our shared foundation — the sacred Scriptures — and together express our appreciation for each other’s translation,” said Lutheran Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

The Reformation, which sparked a religious war, left deep divides between Protestant and Catholics for centuries. In recent years both churches have come closer together.

The release of the Bible translation is one of several ecumenical services being promoted by both churches throughout the year.

“I am very pleased that we are placing God’s word in our midst in such an ecumenically meaningful year as 2017, in which we together recall the events of the Reformation 500 years ago and celebrate them today as a celebration of Christ, to place God’s word in our midst,” Cardinal Marx said.

Bishop Bedford-Strohm also stressed the importance of the Bible as a shared foundation of Christian life, saying it is full of human stories of faith.

“Christian faith today means engaging in these stories, writing these stories into one’s own biography and letting one’s own life be reversed in unity with the great history of God with men and interpreting one’s life in the light of this history,” he said.

Leaders of both churches announced they will use the new Bible translations in future ecumenical services.

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

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

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect

**Catholics, Protestants Release Bible translations in Joint Service**

**By Zita Fletcher**

Catholic News Service

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Job Opening

**BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR**

- **February 18** – Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- **February 21** – Administrative Board Meeting, Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.
- **February 22** – Visit to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnewood.
- **February 23** – Vocation Day St. Leo the Great School, Rohrerstown, 2 p.m.
- **February 25** – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Leo the Great Church, Rohrerstown, 10 a.m.
- **February 26** – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Enola, 10:30 a.m.
- **February 27** – Mass and Blessing of Thrift Shop, Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, York, 8 a.m.
- **February 28** – Finance Council Meeting, Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
- **March 1** – Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, noon.
- **March 4** – Sacrament of Confirmation, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill, 10 a.m.
- **March 5** – Rite of Election, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.

**Diocesan Men’s Conference: Save-the-Date**

April 1, 2017

Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Kreeft

Men of the Diocese of Harrisburg, save the date of April 1, 2017, for the Diocesan Men’s Conference at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg. The theme is: “Fools for Christ: Men Called to Glorify God through His Catholic Church.”

Keynote Speaker is world-renowned Catholic author and speaker, Dr. Peter Kreeft from Boston. His keynote is “Seven Reasons Why Everyone Should Be Catholic.” Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the principal celebrant and homilist for Mass, and will also be presenting two workshops on St. Thomas More as a model for conscience formation.

There are more than 30 workshops choices over three sessions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Rosary and Benediction, more than 20 priests available for Confession, plus good music, food, and fellowship.

Last year, we had 925 men who attended this event. This year we are hoping for 1,000 men. Registration materials are coming soon to your parish, and additional information in upcoming editions of The Catholic Witness.

**Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program**

**Release Bible translations**

**By Zita Fletcher**

Catholic News Service

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Job Opening

**BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR**

- **February 18** – Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- **February 21** – Administrative Board Meeting, Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.
- **February 22** – Visit to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnewood.
- **February 23** – Vocation Day St. Leo the Great School, Rohrerstown, 2 p.m.
- **February 25** – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Leo the Great Church, Rohrerstown, 10 a.m.
- **February 26** – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Enola, 10:30 a.m.
- **February 27** – Mass and Blessing of Thrift Shop, Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, York, 8 a.m.
- **February 28** – Finance Council Meeting, Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
- **March 1** – Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, noon.
- **March 4** – Sacrament of Confirmation, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill, 10 a.m.
- **March 5** – Rite of Election, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.

**Diocesan Men’s Conference: Save-the-Date**

April 1, 2017

Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Kreeft

Men of the Diocese of Harrisburg, save the date of April 1, 2017, for the Diocesan Men’s Conference at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg. The theme is: “Fools for Christ: Men Called to Glorify God through His Catholic Church.”

Keynote Speaker is world-renowned Catholic author and speaker, Dr. Peter Kreeft from Boston. His keynote is “Seven Reasons Why Every- one Should Be Catholic.” Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the principal celebrant and homilist for Mass, and will also be presenting two workshops on St. Thomas More as a model for conscience formation.

There are more than 30 workshops choices over three sessions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Rosary and Benediction, more than 20 priests available for Confession, plus good music, food, and fellowship.

Last year, we had 925 men who attended this event. This year we are hoping for 1,000 men. Registration materials are coming soon to your parish, and additional information in upcoming editions of The Catholic Witness.
God as Father

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

My father was an avionics engineer. As such, he used his hands to not only design airplanes, but also to repair them. He had an affinity for using tools and a creativity in troubleshooting. He was also an amazing tailor! I have memories of him helping me design doll clothes and showing me how to sew simple strips of material into “evening wear” for my Barbie doll. Yes, his mom taught him the basics of sewing! I was always captivated by the strength and the sensitivity of his hands. As I grew, I found not only protection within his hands but also an occasional “attitudinal adjustment.” As an adult child who was also a religious Sister, I used to love sitting on the arms of his easy chair completely folded in his arms. I called this “my daddy hug.” Within his hands, I felt safe. I felt loved.

Back in 1994, finally succumbing to cancer, he journeyed to Heaven. As I grieved this loss, I discovered one of his legacies to me: his hands. In fact, hands have become an important component of my understanding and reminder of God as Father.

As I start my reflection on God as Father, I am very conscious of the fact that many people’s personal experience of a father is not positive. Those hands were not a place of safety or peace. Due to broken families, increasing work responsibilities, pressures about job salaries and family finances, the way our western culture emasculates men, as well as the embellished use of social media and technology, our vision of “father” can easily become distorted. Because of this, trust can be high-jacked as children experience not only the humanness but also the sinfulness of their earthly fathers.

But biblical revelation gives us a glance at what true fatherhood is all about. In fact, the Gospels reveal the face of God as a Father who loves in an amazing way. We read from the words of Jesus we hear, “Which of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him” (Mt. 7:9-11, Lk. 11:11-13).

So, God is not a “far off” deity who just looked down at humanity and yawned in boredom. He is a being who is integral and completely connected to His creatures. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (235) puts it this way: “By calling God ‘Father,’ the language of faith indicates two main things: that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority; and that he is at the same time goodness and loving care for all his children. … [In short,) no one is father as God is Father.”

Let me repeat those words, “no one is father as God is father.” The Fatherhood of God is infinite love and tenderness that sees our brokenness, our weakness, our wounds, and our sinfulness and extends merciful compassion to us. Don’t forget the parable of the prodigal son! The father sees his wayward son at a great distance and goes out to greet him. Jesus tells us that the Father, our Father, God, searches the horizon to find the forsaken, the outcast and the sinner. That’s us! The Creator of the universe looks for us! He hungers for a relationship with us! He reaches out his hand and says to us, “Come to me, please!” He desires to share our joys and sorrows, to be welcomed in our hearts, the center of our being.

On the cross, Jesus calls out for all eternity, “Into your hands I commend my spirit!” This prayer of submission epitomizes what our relationship with God should be. By committing oneself to the Father in this way, you are announcing that your will strives to be in union with His. You are proclaiming that He is in control of your life and that He has a loving plan for you. Jesus could proclaim this as he was hanging on the cross, dying. What a model! If we truly believe this, this is where strength comes from as we undergo our personal earthly trials.

Are your hands open in true acceptance of God as your father? (Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Nurses in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

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 interested 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.

Presentations will be offered:
• March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
• March 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph in York
• May 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph in Danville
• June 6 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Visitation in Shippensburg
• June 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick in Carlisle

LA SANTA MESSA PER LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE
ITALIAN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

Sunday, March 19, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.
HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH
6150 Allentown Boulevard
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Roverend Joshua R. Brommer, Celebrant
Special thanks to: Rev. Joshua R. Brommer, Chaplains for the Italian Apostolate Ministry Very Rev. Edward J. Quinlan, Pastor at Holy Name of Jesus Marie Billow of Daily Funeral Home & Through the generosity of the Collura and Manella families, we will have a traditional Saint Joseph altar created in the social hall where the Italian Apostolate Ministry Committee will provide a dinner reception after Mass.

For more information, please contact: Mariella Amato, 717-278-9420
Maria Disanto 717-554-5698, or disantoll@comcast.net

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association and The St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania invite all Catholic physicians, lawyers, judges, healthcare workers, legal professionals, medical students and law students to a

Lenten Day of Reflection
Saturday March 25, 2017
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710

Guest Speaker and Celebrant: Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.

“This to be Zealous for the Lord”

The morning includes Mass, confessions, Adoration and light refreshments. Free-will offering will be accepted.

For planning purposes, RSVP by March 18 to: CathMedHbg@aol.com
One of the ten plenary speakers for the upcoming Fresh Expressions conference to be hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg next month likens the conference to be hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg next month to be the New Evangelization movement's ripple effect on the whole world.

“Domestic church is so old and for - ward thinking, it has been rediscovered, and thus seems new,” Rev. Dr. Baucum said. The conference “challenges prevailing assumptions of family in Church and society.”

Some churches are oriented toward serving the needs of families, and thus become internally focused, he said. Others see families as a collection of individuals rather than a community or even here in a region.”

Rev. Dr. Baucum offered similar sentiments. “The Church and the family in North America are both suffering. This conference will shed light on the reason why it suffers and what can be done about it. We must remember that God created the family, he was not creating a problem. He was creating a solution to a problem. We still believe that it is the natural focus for evangelization,” he said.

Mr. West said. “When the Church speaks of the new evangelization, we have to recognize that evangelization is aimed first and foremost at us, the people in the Church.”

Fresh Expressions is an international ecumenical movement of missionary disciples that seeks new ways of pro- claiming the Gospel in an increasingly secular society by going beyond the boundaries of the church and meeting people where they are.

“The Church and the family in North America are both suffering. This conference will shed light on the reason why it suffers and what can be done about it. We must remember that God created the family, he was not creating a problem. He was creating a solution to a problem. We still believe that it is the natural focus for evangelization,” he said.

Rev. Dr. Baucum offered similar sentiments. “The Church and the family in North America are both suffering. This conference will shed light on the reason why it suffers and what can be done about it. We must remember that God created the family, he was not creating a problem. He was creating a solution to a problem. We still believe that it is the natural focus for evangelization,” he said.

Mr. West said. “When the Church speaks of the new evangelization, we have to recognize that evangelization is aimed first and foremost at us, the people in the Church.”

Fresh Expressions is an international ecumenical movement of missionary disciples that seeks new ways of pro- claiming the Gospel in an increasingly secular society by going beyond the boundaries of the church and meeting people where they are.

“For Jesus, what matters most is the love that is born of the Church, he noted, pointing to Paul’s greeting of the churches that met in the homes of married Christian couples. “Domestic church is so old and forgotten, but it has been rediscovered, and thus seems new,” Rev. Dr. Baucum said.

Mr. West will join a stellar line-up for Christian leaders and thinkers — including Bishop Ronald Gainer, Msgr. Renzo Bonetti and Rev. Dr. Tony Baucum — at the Fresh Expressions conference to be held March 16 and 17 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

The national conference will invigo- rate Christian churches in rethinking their ministry to families as the cen- ter of evangelization. It is particularly aimed at clergy, directors/ coordinators of religious education, youth ministers, educators and those who minister to married couples and families.

“If the family is to serve the cause of evangelization, the family itself needs to be evangelized. You cannot give what you do not have,” Mr. West said. “When the Church speaks of the new evangelization, we have to recognize that evangelization is aimed first and foremost at us, the people in the Church.”

Rev. Dr. Baucum offered similar sentiments. “The Church and the family in North America are both suffering. This conference will shed light on the reason why it suffers and what can be done about it. We must remember that God created the family, he was not creating a problem. He was creating a solution to a problem. We still believe that it is the natural focus for evangelization,” he said.
Campaign

Continued from 1

was too far-reaching, but University of Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett said in an email to Catholic News Service that the “critics are dramatically overstating” what the order can do.

The draft states that “Americans and their religious organizations will not be coerced by the federal gov-
 ernment into participating in activities that violate their consciences.” It also notes that people and organizations do not “forfeit their religious freedom when providing social services, education or health care.” It cites the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which states that government “shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion” unless that burden “is the least re-
 strictive means to further a compelling governmental interest.”

The U.S. bishops, who have made religious liberty a priority, have not released a statement on potential ex-
 ecutive action on religious freedom by Trump but in the online letter available for Catholics to sign stressed such an order should include some of the following measures:

• Relief from the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate. Currently, the mandate—in the issued by the federal Department of Health and Human Services as part of the implementation of the health care law—requires most religious employers to provide coverage of artificial birth control for their employees even if the employer is morally opposed to such coverage. There is a very nar-
 row exemption for churches.

• Preservation of tax-exempt status for nonprofit groups that hold beliefs based on marriage and human sexuality.

• The ability of religious organizations that partner with the federal government to act according to their beliefs regarding marriage, human sexuality and the protection of human life at all stages.

• The ability of religiously affiliated child welfare providers to provide adoption, foster or family sup-
 port services for children that coincide with their reli-
 gious beliefs.

• Conscience protections about abortion in the indi-
 vidual health insurance market.

The bishops’ letter said any executive order on reli-
 gious freedom should make it clear that this freedom should not just be about a person’s ability to freely wor-
 ship but should include “the ability to act on one’s be-
 lief.”

“It should also protect individuals and families who run closely held businesses in accordance with their faith to the greatest extent possible,” the letter said.

Refugee Advocates Outline Arguments for Legal Action on Presidential Ban

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

The breadth of President Donald Trump’s author-
 ity to limit refugees entering the United States will be fought in federal court and some of the legal chal-
 lenges ultimately may end up before the U.S. Su-
 preme Court.

Several lawsuits have been filed challenging Trump’s Jan. 27 executive memorandum that sus-
 pended the entire U.S. refugee resettlement program for 120 days and banned entry of all citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries—Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia—for 90 days.

Another clause in the memorandum established re-
ligious criteria for refugees, proposing to give prior-
 ity to refugees from countries with a valid visa.

One decision came from U.S. District Judge Andre Briotte Jr. in Los Angeles, whose Feb. 1 order “en-
 joined and restrained” the government from enforc-
 ing the president’s memorandum against 28 plaintiffs from Yemen who have been held in transit in Djibouti since the president signed the document. Similar or-
 ders have come from federal judges in Boston; Se-
 attle; Brooklyn, New York; and Alexandria, Virginia.

The court orders are short-term in nature and were issued in anticipation of the cases being argued by both sides during the next several weeks before any poten-
tial restraining orders are issued.

A statement issued Jan. 29 from the Department of Homeland Security said the U.S. Customs and Bor-
 der Protection “began taking steps to comply with the orders.”

More lawsuits are expected and could encompass several parts of the law that govern presidential au-
 thority over who to admit and not admit to the U.S.

Attorney Charles Wheeler, director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network’s Training and Support section in Oakland, California, identified one area of the law that allows the president to suspend the entry of “any class of aliens” if it determined that the entry “would be detrimental to the interests of the United States.” However, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 amended the law to prohibit any foreign-
 born national from being given preference because of their race, sex, nationality, place of birth or place of residence.

“The refugee issue is going to turn on whether [Trump’s action] specifically exempting Christians says that the intention of it is in fact to favor one re-
 ligion over another,” Wheeler told Catholic News Service. “I think that makes [the action] much more morally opposed to equal protection challenges.”

Attorney Charles Roth, director of litigation at the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago, sug-
 gested that a half dozen or more areas of the law could be cited in any legal challenges to the executive ac-
 tion.

“One of the strong arguments is that the president’s

statutory authority doesn’t allow him to make these sweeping rules about everyone from a particular country,” said Roth, who is Catholic.

The executive memorandum is vague enough that questions remain over the status of visa applications for refugees already in the U.S. versus those still out-
side of the country, Roth added.

“It feels to me that the president sees being tough on refugees is the symbolism he’s looking to have. This order doesn’t seem to be designed to be particularly dependable as a legal matter or particularly nuanced to achieve justice and fairness,” Roth said.

Despite the memorandum’s vagaries, Gemma Soli-
mene, clinical associate professor of law at Fordham University’s School of Law, expects the government to defend it on national security grounds and deny that Muslims are being singed out.

Acknowledging that the law gives Trump broad dis-
 cretionary powers with respect to entry into the U.S., she said she found the document “is clearly not well thought out, there isn’t a lot of guidance [for carrying it out].”

“If they were clearly serious on national security, there would be other things [in it] to actually have ef-
 fect on these issues,” Solimene said.

She suggested that the memorandum could have justified its stance by including information about any attacks by foreign nationals from particular countries.

“The reason they made this a national security prob-
 lem or under the guise of national security is because
 it is less challengeable. The government clearly has a lot more discretion when they say this is an issue of national security,” Solimene said.

Abdul Hakim Kiwan, a Syrian refugee from Daraa, and his son, Ibrahim, are seen working at a computer Jan. 30 at their temporary home in Amman, Jordan. Kiwan and his family are part of a U.S. refugee resettlement program that President Donald Trump has suspended for 120 days.

Officials at the Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Charities USA told CNS they do not plan to enter the legal fray, however.

William Canny, MRS executive director, said it is unlikely that Trump would rescind his memorandum so the agency will focus on making sure actions under the new policy address humanitarian concerns, such as family reunification whereby a child or parent is awaiting entry into the U.S.

“The majority [of cases MRS has handled] in recent years have been reuniting families. So now you have families separated [because of the memorandum] and anyone who is separated from family by distance and time … knows the pain,” Canny said.

Most of the people MRS has been resettling are women and children, “who for example witness the murder of their father and who are languishing in a camp and who have family to join here in the U.S. to help them, who can’t return to their country, who can’t find work or schooling in the country they’re in.”

“That’s who we take,” he said.

Canny urged federal officials to keep such needs in mind and complete the vetting of refugees as quickly as possible.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, said her agency would avoid joining any lawsuits challenging presi-
dential action, but would focus on making “people aware of what’s happening” with refugees that “is not in line with the Gospel.”
Tragedy Prompts Family to Turn to Saints, Start Company to Share Devotion

By Connor Bergeron
Catholic News Service

Small, colorful plastic Catholic saints can be seen hanging from key chains, zippers and backpacks alongside Hello Kitty and Pokemon.

They’re called Tiny Saints, and founders Joe and Colleen Klinker conceived the idea as they explained the death of their stillborn daughter, Melody Paige, to her older siblings.

The loss of their daughter was unexpected and devastating. It also prompted questions from their children Gracie, 9, and JT, 8. Death was a topic the Klinkers hadn’t anticipated discussing until much later, but it opened a conversation about heaven and who Melody was with there.

Joe and Colleen, former parishioners of Church of the Nativity in Burke, Va., who now live in Florida, began to tell their children stories about saints. But the images they found online didn’t resonate with their children. To bridge the gap, they created tiny, simplistic images of saints.

“Most saints don’t have the appeal to children, unlike Disney or Hello Kitty,” Joe told the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington.

Their digital drawings captured their children’s gaze. JT imagined St. George playing swords with his brother, Sebastian. Gracie pictured Melody chasing after butterflies with St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

“We weren’t going to fall down as a family, and we weren’t going to allow our children to miss out on the grace that comes from a loss like that,” said Joe.

Noticing their children’s reaction, the Klinkers decided there was a potential market. In 2013, they created Tiny Saints. Joe’s brother, Mark, joined the team and guided the artistic vision.

“Obviously, we had to put the arrow in his chest.” St. Sebastian, whose feast day is June 23, was put to death in the third century by a troop of archers.

“ ‘A good example’ – St. Mary and St. Michael – they were no-brainers,” said Joe. “Then you get ones like St. Dymphna – because [she’s the patroness] of mental illness – this saint has a significant role to people.”

The design process begins with research and prayer as Joe gets to know the saint. He reviews popular imagery of the saint and sometimes takes creative licitation.

Sometimes a particular saint is selected because it relates to current affairs, such as St. Thomas More during the presidential election. “One of my favorites is St. Sebastian,” he said. “Obviously, we had to put the arrow in his chest.” St. Sebastian was put to death in the third century by a troop of archers.

They hope to double the roster of saints to 200. The newest saint is St. Francis de Sales, the patron of writers and journalists.

The company has donated hundreds of its products to missions in areas, including Haiti. Because the charms are weatherproof, they can withstand harsh climates.

Tiny Saints can be an introduction to a saint that might lead to a conversation or a prayer. If the Church were a swimming pool, Joe said, Tiny Saints could lead people deeper into their faith.

Joe admits that until he created Tiny Saints he had no special devotion to the saints. He credits Melody for introducing them.

“This beautiful Church that we’re a part of can be overwhelming and terrifying after 2,000 years. I think that’s what Pope Francis is getting at: Go back to these simple things, get to know the saints,” he said.
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

A visit from Bishop Ronald Gainer during Catholic Schools Week was a special and welcome treat for students at St. Catherine Labouré School in Harrisburg, who enthusiastically greeted the diocesan shepherd as he was escorted through the school by Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Anne Sweeney, principal, Father Neil Sullivan, pastor, and members of the Student Council.

Second graders preparing to make their first Confession asked the bishop if he remembered the first time he received the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Fourth graders in gym class entertained the bishop by singing the school’s spirit song, and seventh graders asked him to talk about when he first heard God’s call to become a priest.

Yet in all of their eagerness to ask the bishop about his favorite sport, his favorite saint or his favorite Parable, none of the students would have expected that he would give each classroom a homework assignment.

Silently, they awaited his directive. “Your homework is to go home and tell your parents ‘Thank you’ for choosing St. Catherine Labouré School for your education,” the bishop told the students. “There are many choices that your parents can make for your education, and they chose a Catholic school for you.”

Bishop Gainer made his visit on Feb. 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The day is also known as Candlemas Day, when candles are blessed to symbolize Christ as the Light of the world.

As such, during the Mass that he celebrated for the school community, Bishop Gainer blessed candles to be placed in each classroom. Sister Mary Anne and Father Sullivan then carried lit wicks to light candles held by each teacher in the congregation.

“These candles today symbolize that you are called to be light, just as Jesus is the Light,” the bishop told the students. At the conclusion of the Mass, during which the school community offered prayers for their beloved Msgr. Vincent Topper, who died Oct. 7, students presented Bishop Gainer with a book about the saints, a T-shirt commemorating the school’s Mini-Thon project that week, and flowers for the bishop’s mother.

“As such, during the Mass that he celebrated for the school community, Bishop Gainer blessed candles to be placed in each classroom. Sister Mary Anne and Father Sullivan then carried lit wicks to light candles held by each teacher in the congregation. These candles today symbolize that you are called to be light, just as Jesus is the Light,” the bishop told the students. At the conclusion of the Mass, during which the school community offered prayers for their beloved Msgr. Vincent Topper, who died Oct. 7, students presented Bishop Gainer with a book about the saints, a T-shirt commemorating the school’s Mini-Thon project that week, and flowers for the bishop’s mother. “His visit here today demonstrates his great support of Catholic education, and gratitude to the parents and grandparents who make the sacrifice to send their children to Catholic school,” Sister Mary Anne told The Catholic Witness.

St. Catherine Labouré School recently received re-accreditation through the Middle States Commission, and, as part of its action plan, inaugurated a family Mass night this past fall. The school also offers a Reading Buddies program in which older students partner with the younger ones to promote reading.

The school also has a Disciple of the Month program, in which teachers focus on a different virtue each month. Students who exhibit that virtue are then recognized at the school Mass.

“We’re showing our students the lives of saints who lived various virtues, such as St. Catherine Labouré, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Louise de Marillac. They’re not only learning about virtues; they’re living them in their daily lives,” Sister Mary Anne said.

(Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness)
By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness  

Last spring, St. Andrew School in Waynesboro went “All In” on an expansion project for the school, now in its 91st year. Its capital campaign, “We’re All In!” focused on building a future of confidence on a legacy of excellence.

And now, on the heels of a successful campaign and the generosity of donors, St. Andrew School builds on its future with a new, state-of-the-art wing that will allow for expansion. Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass for the parish and school community and then dedicated the new wing on Feb. 12, much to the anticipation of St. Andrew’s students.

“Up until this point, they haven’t been in the new part of the school, so they’re really looking forward to getting in there,” said Lindsay Salmon, now in her first year as principal. Previously, she had been a teacher there for nine years.

The new wing will house the library and computer lab, music and art classes, and classrooms for grades three through five. The existing wing, which had housed middle school students up until this point, will accommodate seventh- and eighth-grade students as the school begins its expansion in the fall. Seventh grade will be added first, followed by eighth grade in the fall of 2018, according to Mrs. Salmon.

The new wing’s multipurpose room for art and music boasts state-of-the-art sound panels for the band program that began at the school two years ago. The school will begin to phase in new computers next year.

The entire project was completed at a cost of $1.2 million, and Mrs. Salmon expressed her gratitude for the donors who have contributed, including a generous donation from the parish and school, as well as the raffle for a donated 1983 Porsche that raised $75,000. Campaign donations stand at $374,000 with pledges over the next two years at $236,000.

“We are grateful to the school family, to parishioners and to the diocese for supporting our plans to continue to grow our school,” Mrs. Salmon told The Catholic Witness.

“What makes St. Andrew School special is that we’re a family,” she said. “Parents and grandparents step up to volunteer, and they are visible here for the students. We can all count on each other.”

(For information about St. Andrew School, visit www.saintandrewschool.org or call 717-762-3221.)
College Students Reflect on Bearing Witness to Hope and Healing at March for Life

Bearing Witness
By Karen Bruskewicz

I am so very blessed, as the Lay Catholic Campus Minister at both Elizabethtown College and Franklin and Marshall College, to share my days with amazing and faith-filled young adults. This year, students from our campuses were joined by equally wonderful students from Millersville University and their Campus Minister, Father Brian Wayne, for our trip to Washington, D.C., to attend the National March for Life. Twenty of us journeyed together to stand for those who cannot stand for themselves, to give voice to the voiceless, and to open our hearts more fully to the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

Our group actually stayed two days in Washington. We spent Friday listening to and learning from speakers and fellow pilgrims, and walking and praying for the needs of unborn children, their parents and their families, in union with the hundreds of thousands who walked with us, and those we carried within our hearts. Saturday, we continued to pray for the unborn and the needs of all those who are at risk and marginalized in our country, and in our world, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, as well as at The Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery.

All in our group were filled with much gratitude for the many graces God bestowed upon us throughout the trip. I pray we continue to bear witness, and act, to support the fundamental right to life and the dignity of every human being; ensure that all parents and families find the aid they need to safely birth, feed, shelter, raise and educate their children; and care for all who suffer and are in need, journeying together as brothers and sisters on this side of eternity. In the following reflections, several of our students from Elizabethtown College have shared their own insights about their experience.

(Karen Bruskewicz is the Lay Campus Minister at Elizabethtown College and Franklin and Marshall College, and a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill.)

‘I Saw Christ’
By Emily Derois

Friday morning, I hopped into a car and joined the caravan of Elizabethtown and Millersville students on their way to the March for Life. I was excited to go, ready to publicly show my support for the unborn and expectant mothers. This was my first march, and I didn’t know what to expect.

When our group finally joined the throngs of bundled marchers, I was struck by the amount of people present, all giving up their day for this cause. A sense of togetherness permeated the air and strengthened our resolve. Often I’ve felt isolated in my pro-life beliefs. I was self-conscious mentioning my pro-life convictions in the classroom, afraid to cause offense. But as I shuffled among hundreds of thousands of individuals marching for life, I knew that they too recognized the humanity of the unborn child. They too realized the vulnerability of the expectant mother. I was not alone.

That day held so many moments that touched my heart. Millennials mourned the death of one-third of their generation. Women held up black signs that read “I regret my abortion.” Franciscan friars walked the cold road barefoot. Families prayed and sang. I saw love and gentleness. Everywhere I looked, I saw Christ.

Even after the march ended, our trip continued, and I was given more moments to recognize Christ in others. Saturday we visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is the largest church in the United States, and it was flooded with people. I strolled through the countless chapels dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I was surrounded by strangers, but when gazing together upon images of Our Lady, they became my brothers and sisters.

We then walked to D.C.’s Franciscan Monastery. There, I touched relics from the Holy Land, walked through replica catacombs, saw marble statues of the martyrs. But the most impactful moment came after the tour. We were looking around the church when we found a crucifixion scene. We climbed steep stairs onto a balcony. Our chaplain, Father Brian Wayne, explained that the height of the balcony is the same as the estimated height of Calvary. We rose to face life-sized statues of Our Lord, the good and bad thief, Our Lady and St. John, at Jesus’ feet sat a stone taken from Calvary. Each of us touched the smooth rock. It was a powerful reminder that the measurable love Christ has for each of us.

Attending the march and visiting the shrines reminded me of why I want to become a journalist in the pro-life movement. This is the side of hope and healing. This is the movement that embraces and values every person, born and unborn. This isn’t about an agenda. It’s about people. I pray that this march opened hearts and minds to the beauty of every life. I pray that the pro-lifers continue in their courageous defense of the vulnerable.

(Emily Derois is a junior at Elizabethtown College, majoring in Professional Writing. She is a member of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Parish in Dauphin.)

Finding Hope in the March for Life
By Sara Allocco

Attending the 2017 March for Life was an opportunity unlike any other. A 19-year-old college student who has dreamed of attending for years, I was encouraged and inspired by the devotion of its participants to the fight for life. The sheer diversity of the march’s participants was a remarkable sight. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and agnostics put whatever individual differences they might have aside to stand in solidarity with the unborn. Young children, holding on to their parents’ hands, proudly waved their handmade signs in the air. Dominican friars marched the entire route barefoot. Some of the marchers traveled just a few minutes while others journeyed several thousand miles across the country to celebrate life in our nation’s capital. Despite the recent events inciting further division among Americans, hope was present in Washington, D.C. To quote the NFL’s Ben Watson, “In a time of relativism, we must remain convinced that the truth is greater than any trend.”

Many pro-life citizens in the United States face opposition when it comes to the issue of abortion. Friends and family members may choose to end even
March for Life

Continued from 10

The closest of relationships over a difference in opinion. True change cannot be accomplished until we rec-
ognize that creating a dialogue with our peers is more rewarding than insulting and degrading them. As was a key point at this year’s march, we must treat women with unplanned pregnancies and their families with the utmost compassion and respect. What struck me about the March for Life was the hospitality shown to participants and observers, a refreshing change from the hostility our nation has witnessed in recent times. In the organizers’ own words, “If you’re human and alive, you are welcome at this march.”

Despite the promising steps taken toward ensuring the smallest members of society are protected, uncer-
tainty still exists. The reality of abortion is not always mentioned as often as it should be in our schools and parishes. College students and other individuals find it difficult to talk about the subject. They may feel unsettled by negative reactions from their classmates and professors or saddled with an indifferent mind-
set. For every indifferent student, there exists many more with the same attitude. They choose to remain silent because they believe others will do the work for them. To an extent, they’re correct. Others will decide to partake in this cause. To go about one’s daily life in indifferent ways and to believe the rest of the world of their conception and promising that despite the trials and challenges they will endure as mothers, we will be there to love and support them.

The March for Life made a profound impact on my faith. As a college student, I understand that these four years can be a difficult time for many. At the time of this march, I was often reminded of the crosses so many bear in college: the losses of friends and rela-
tives, disease, mental illness, and so on. It may seem difficult to devote time to the issue of abortion when we are all at different points in our lives and unsure of what lies ahead. Yet a 2016 World Youth Day Pilgrim, I am reminded of Pope Francis’ instruction to never be afraid. His words equally apply to our stand for life and the fair treatment of the unborn and their mothers.

Though each member of our group was strongly stricken with the needs of others, they are deserving of the same love and protec-
tion. “If you’re human and alive, you are welcome at this march.”

For these reasons, I went to the march more em-
powered than ever to be a witness of the pro-life cause. Walking down Constitution Avenue, I saw people holding signs about how they chose to keep their children with them, and Saints, for women who were raped, but kept and loved their children.

The day following the march, my campus ministry group went to the Basilica of the Immaculate Con-
ception. This is the third time I have gotten to see the full circle. Isn’t it incredible how the patroness of our country has a shrine in the very place of our protest? It is the perfect spot for pilgrims to come and pray for the unborn and struggling women. Mary herself had an unplanned pregnancy, and if she had said “No,” we would not have been saved by Jesus. Never had I held such a profound respect for Mary because, in modern terms, Mary was basically a scandalized teen mom who was rumored to be pregnant with a child that was not her boyfriend’s.

Essentially, what I realized out of the march is adoption needs to become a higher priority for everyone. I expect many women abort because they don’t have any hope of having their children. On this issue, a big pro-life step, the foster care and adoption systems need to be amended. What is more, I felt a pull to wards adoption the whole trip, so hopefully I will be able to adopt many of my own children one day.

(Author’s note is a freshman Psychology major at Elizabethtown College and a member of Immacu-
late Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York.)

College Students Devote Time to Mother Maria Kaupas Center’s Winter Service Program

By Jake Betz

Special to The Witness

After surviving the frenzied pace of final exams and term papers at the end of the semester, college students typically like to wind down over the holi-
days by sleeping late, enjoying the comforts of home and reconnecting with family and friends.

For 10 non-consecutive days, beginning in mid-
December and ending in mid-January, 13 students from the Mount Carmel-Kulpmont area followed a different routine by getting up early, attending morn-
ing Mass at Divine Redeemer Church and spending much of their time helping others.

The students were participants in the second an-
nual winter service program sponsored by the Moth-
er Maria Kaupas Center. The Center, whose primary mission is to encourage young people to live lives of leadership and service in their Church and com-
nunity, challenges this students to look at the world around them and resolve to work to make things bet-
ter.

To qualify for the winter service program, a stu-
dent has to be a member of one of the four Catholic parishes in the area – Divine Redeemer, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Mount Carmel or Holy Angels in Kulpmont. The 13 students selected this year had to complete an application, write an essay about why they wanted to perform community service, and receive approval from their pastor.

Participating in the program were: Lee Amorese, Heather Bolick, Angelina Duda, Dylan Fiamoncini and Zach Wasilewski from Divine Redeemer; Eliza-
tbeth Cooper, Catherine Fletcher, David Fletcher, Emily Kim, Grace Kulpmont, Magdalena Callahan, from Our Lady’s, and Sydney Casey and Bryce Fiamoncini from Sts Peter and Paul.

Seven of the 13 – Amorese, Bolick, Duda, Wasilewski, Callahan, Casey and Bryce Fiamoncini – were also involved in the first winter program in 2015-16.

The colleges and universities were represent-
ed among the student participants: Lebanon Val-
ley (Amorese); Shippensburg (Bolick), Mansfield (Callahan), Bloomsburg (Casey, Bryce Fiamoncini, Thomasina Kulpmont), Susquehanna (Cooper), Penn State (Dylan Fiamoncini), Lehigh (Catherine and David Fletcher), Kutztown (Padula) and Lock Haven (Duda).

“This was really a great group of students,” said Father Martin Moran, pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish and the founder of the Kaupas Center. “They did everything we asked of them, worked well to-
gether and were unselfish in their commitment to help people.”

The college students worked at the Mount Carmel Area Food Pantry, painted the public meeting room at the Mount Carmel Township Municipal Building, prepared and served meals and stairwells at the Kaupas Center, made homemade chicken soup and then delivered it to senior citizens and visited Mount Carmel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Serenity Gardens to sing Christmas carols with residents.

The students also worked from two to four days in their respective parishes. Their pastors were all very supportive of the group’s efforts and it was a great success.

“This year, two students from our parish joined from students from other local parishes, to share faith, friendship and service. We were honored to have a lunch with the students one afternoon and to wel-
come them into our community in a very special way,” said Father Michael Hutsko, pastor of Sts. Pe-
ter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church. “The par-
ticipants in this parish provided invaluable ser-
vice liturgically, by fully planning and participating in the very special services prescribed for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, New Year’s Day and the Feast of the Theophany. They accompanied me on home visitations and the traditional house blessing. They visited the homebound and those confined to assisted living facilities bringing Christmas cheer to the sick and elderly. It was great to see our parishes provide a true resource center for all facets of ministry to church and community. The vision of Father Moran and Jake Betz’s leadership has helped bring the message of the Gospel to the larger Mount Carmel/ Kulpmont communities.”

“It was good for our students from Holy Angels to have the opportunity to serve others,” remarked Father Andrew Stahler, pastor. “By visiting and demonstrating love and friendship for people in their hometown and by working to make the community and the parish better, they are living as Jesus wants all of us to live.”

“The winter service program for college students is a great way to get the students more deeply in-
volved in their parish and community during their winter break and to also give practical help to that is much appreciated,” said Father Frank Karwacki, pastor Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Students are volunteers, not employees, but in ap-
plication of their service, the Kaupas Center pro-
vides each with a $300 stipend to provide some small assistance in pursuing their college education. Last year, the Center was fortunate to have a grant to sup-
port these stipends, but that grant was not renewable this year.

The Kaupas Center paid these stipends through available funds and also had help from the parishes.

“In addition to money that Father Stahler, Father Huts-
ko and Father Karwacki for their support,” said Mr. Betz, Mother Maria Kaupas Center director. “Most importantly, we thank you for encouraging students from your parishes to apply for the program.”

(Jake Betz is the Director of the Mother Maria Kaupas Center. For more information about the center, visit https://mothermariakaupascenter.wordpress.com/)
Judge Neil Gorsuch Nominated to Fill Supreme Court Vacancy

Catholic News Service

President Donald Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the seat on the U.S. Supreme Court that has been empty since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February.

Gorsuch is a man the country needs, Trump said in announcing his nominee the evening of Jan. 31. “Judge Gorsuch has demonstrated legal skills, a brilliant mind, tremendous discipline,” he said.

When Trump announced his choice at the White House, in the audience was Maureen McCarthy Scalia, the widow of the late justice. One of the couple’s children also was present: Father Paul Scalia, a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

In his remarks, Gorsuch said he was thankful for friends, family and faith giving him balance. He also said he was honored and humbled to be chosen as a nominee to the nation’s highest court. His father had hired him to clerk for two Supreme Court justices and also worked for the Department of Justice.

He also is an adjunct law professor at the University of Colorado and he wrote a 2009 book arguing against the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Gorsuch hasn’t written a ruling specifi- cally on abortion, but he has strong views on religious liberty. He sided with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their challenge of the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act. And in Hobby Lobby Stores v. Sebel- ius, in June 2013, the 10th Circuit or- dered the federal government to stop enforcement of the federal mandate against Hobby Lobby, the Oklahoma- based Christian chain of retail arts and crafts stores. In his concurrence, Gor- such said the contraception mandate substantially burdened the company’s religious exercise — a decision the Su- preme Court later upheld.

Gorsuch is an Episcopalian. Scalia, who had been one of six Catholic mem- bers of the court, was often described as his most conservative voice and known for his strict interpretation of the Con- stitution’s intent.

“All too often, our efforts to protect unborn children and other vulnerable humans have been overridden by judges who believe they have a right to impose their own policy preferences,” Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said in a statement.

“We are heartened that Judge Gor- such appears to share Justice Scalia’s view that federal judges are constrained to enforce the text and original intent of constitutional provisions, and on all other matters should defer to demo- cratically elected lawmakers,” Tobias added.

President Donald Trump nominated him to be a U.S. Supreme Court justice Jan. 31 at the White House in Washington. Gorsuch will fill the seat that has been empty since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February.

Knights of Columbus CEO Carl Anderson said in a statement that the Knights applaud the president’s Su- preme Court nominee: “From his writ- ings and his record, it is clear that he will interpret the Constitution as it was written, including our First Amendment right to religious freedom, and the right to life of every person.”

Anderson noted that Gorsuch was confirmed without opposition to the 10th Circuit in 2006 and that the same year he received a “unanimously well qualified” rating from the American Bar Association. “It is hard to imagine a better, and more qualified, candidate.”

‘We are Called to be Saints,’ Bishop Barres Says During Installation Mass

Catholic News Service

Bishop John O. Barres told the con- gregation that packed St. Agnes Cathed- ral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., Jan. 31 that he and they are called to be “men and women of communion and mis- sion.”

“We are called to be saints,” he said in the homily during the Mass for his installation as the fifth bishop to head the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Bishop Barres, 56, said he looked forward “to experiencing the vibrant, welcoming, new evangelizing parishes of the diocese” and getting to know as many people as possible.

He succeeds Bishop William F. Mur- phy, who had headed the diocese since 2001 until his retirement was ac- cepted by the pope in December. When he was named to Rockville Centre Dec. 9, Bishop Barres had headed the Dio- cese of Allentown since 2009.

Catholics of the Rockville Centre Diocese were joined in the packed ca- thedral by many people who arrived by bus from Bishop Barres’ former diocese. Other guests included local government leaders and several ecumenical and interfaith leaders of Long Island.

Before the Mass began, as the dioces- an choir started the procession of hun- dreds of clergy, including more than 60 bishops and three cardinals. The prelates included Bishop Murphy, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, who was the main presider, and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Cardinal Dolan introduced Archbish- op Pierre, who read the apostolic let- ter from Pope Francis naming Bishop Barres as the leader of the Catholic Church in Rockville Centre. Bishop Barres then carried the letter around the cathedral so the document could be “inspected.”

Then, Cardinal Dolan and Archbish- op Pierre escorted Bishop Barres to the cathedra, the bishop’s chair. He was presented with his crosier, or bishop’s staff, and then was greeted by represen- tatives of the diocese, as well as civic, ecumenical and interfaith leaders.

In addition to greeting the active Catholics in his new diocese, Bishop Barres reached out to those who have been away from the Catholic Church.

“I appeal … to every inactive Catho- lic in the diocese to gently come back … to the power of the word of God, the power of the sacrament of penance, the power of the Catholic Mass,” he said. “I am so very sorry if you have been hurt or disappointed by the Church in any way, and we stand here today to support you, to listen to you and to love you.”

During his tenure in Allentown, Bish- op Barres initiated a pastoral planning process for parishes across the diocese. He called on every parish to establish a parish council and made support for Catholic schools a priority, enhanced evangelization and pastoral ministries; and encouraged use of social media to spread the Gospel and evangelize.

On the national level, he is a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and is the USCCB’s episcopal liaison to the Pontifical Mis- sion Societies.

On Dec. 9 when Bishop Barres was named to head the Rockville Centre Diocese, Bishop Murphy said of his successor: “It is my deep conviction that he will be a bishop for all of us without exception. He has shared with me his love of youth and his care for the elderly. He has a keen sense of par- ish life and has a special expertise in education. He has a deep love for the poor.”

Bishop Murphy also said Rockville Centre’s new bishop “will be a good neighbor to our brothers and sisters” in other Christian denominations as well as members of the Jewish and Muslim faiths, and the many civic and political leaders with whom the Church works “in building up Long Island for future generations.”

He described Bishop Barres as “a man of prayer” above all.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columbus: Catherine Burke, Josephine Orzolek, Audrey Nardelli.

BUCHANAN VALLEY – St. Ignatius Loyola: Sandra Gailey-Nordin.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Teresa Donohoe, Joanne Garm, Donald Miller, Leonard Murdock.

CONEWAGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Mary “Mert” Smith.


HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Irene Mandell.

HARRISBURG – St. Francis of Assisi: Apolinio Cruz, Sr., Jose Rodriguez Cruz, St. Margaret Mary: Joseph Giusti.

HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Elizabeth Libhart, Cosme Villarreal.

KILMINGTON – Holy Angels: Rita Henry Baum, Paul Brodbecck.

LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: George D. Reitnuck, John Neumann: Alice Boulton, Benjamin Compton, Donald Hicks, Dolores Reilly, Janice Speth, Ginny Uhrn.

LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Patricia Winter.


LYKENS – Our Lady Help of Christians: Ralph Corwin, Daniel Mahoney, Elva Spicher.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Robert Bakaric, Jeannette Lankiewicz, Doris Ralph.

MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: David M. Beam, James Ehret, Mary E. Fiorentino, Tom Floyd, David Gossman, Ann Tomlinson.


NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Therese: Paul Intner, Charles “Phil” LaFetter, Irene Sabatino.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Stephen P. Doud, Michael B. Guerin, Sylvia Sheffer.


QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Siena: Virginia Abel, Vilma Swiderski.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Clara Godleski, Rosemary Keegan.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Slavica Petrovic.

SUNBURY – St. Monica: Joseph M. Shiko.


Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill is selling tickets for its Dream Car Raffle. The grand prize will once again be a new 2017 Lexus NX 200t SUV (MSRP $44,677) from Bobby Rahal Lexus. The winner may select the vehicle color of their choice from in stock vehicles at the time of the auction. The grand prize winner may elect to select a $35,000 cash prize in lieu of the new Lexus. Two second-place prizes of $500 each will be awarded, as well as three $1000 third-place prizes.

There are only 4,000 tickets available for the auction. Tickets can be purchased for $25 each or five tickets for $100. The raffle will take place on Feb. 25. After covering the cost of the vehicle, printing, and marketing, all proceeds will benefit the sale of a new Lexus, 504 tickets for the sale will be used to support financial aid for Catholic students and to enhance technology access for students. Tickets are available for purchase from Good Shepherd School, 3400 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Visit the school’s website to reserve your tickets and see official rules at www.gscha.org/Lexus. Once tickets are reserved, you will have 10 school days to send in your check or money order to the school. Call Good Shepherd School with any questions at 717-737-7261.

St. Thomas More Society Sponsors Lenten Day of Reflection at St. John Paul II National Shrine

The St. Thomas More Society of Central PA is sponsoring a Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 11, at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in conjunction with the Shrine’s exhibit, “God’s Servant First: The Life and Legacy of Thomas More.” The exhibit features one of the most extensive collections of relics and artifacts related to St. Thomas More ever to appear in the United States. Although Thomas More has always been a popular saint in the United States (undoubtedly John Carroll, America’s first bishop and archbishop, was an admiral of More), attention to More has increased here recently as challenges to religious liberty have also increased.

In addition to a replica of St. Thomas More’s chamber in the Tower of London, the exhibit includes diaries, memoirs and other manuscripts while he was imprisoned in the Tower, early editions of More’s works such as Utopia, and two first class relics. The exhibit also includes other personal items of More’s such as a hat and Crucifix and a brick from More’s home. In addition, the exhibit includes items that reflect More’s time and his influence upon his time such as a first folio of Shakespeare’s Richard III, which was influenced by More’s own writings, a copy of Henry VIII’s Defense of the Seven Sacraments, also influenced by More, and a chasuble sewn by Henry’s first wife, Queen Katherine of Aragon. In all, the exhibit features more than 60 items related to St. Thomas More.

The Shrine and the exhibit open to the public at 10 a.m. Guests should expect to spend at least a couple hours viewing the artifacts. At 2 p.m., Msgr. William King, canon lawyer and pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, and Widener Commonwealth law professor Randy Lee will speak on “St. Thomas More and the Art of Discerning Integrity.” After the talk, there will be an opportunity for Eucharistic adoration from 3-4 p.m. with music provided by harpist Mary-Teresa Lee, and this will be followed by Mass at 4 p.m. The Shrine closes at 5 p.m. Pennsylvania attorneys can receive one hour of ethics CLE credit for the talk by Msgr. King and Professor Lee.

Those wishing to receive CLE credit should contact Professor Lee at glee@widener.edu for details prior to the event. While the talk is free to anyone, there is a $25 fee for the CLE credit. For information on a tour bus transporting attendees between the Harrisburg Diocesan Center and the Shrine, please contact Linda Carroll at sancentralpalm@gmail.com or call 717-737-7213.

The Shrine is located at 3900 Harewood Road NE, Washington, DC 20017. Admission to the Shrine and the exhibit are free. Donations are accepted to support the ministry of the Shrine. The St. Thomas More exhibit will be leaving the Shrine on March 31.

Obituaries

Save the Date for Lancaster Catholic’s Society of the Pillars of Truth

As Lancaster Catholic High School prepares to celebrate our 90th Anniversary, it is with great joy that we announce the creation of The Society of The Pillars of Truth!

This society’s purpose is to recognize men and women who have attended LHCHS since our founding and have dedicated their lives to the service of the Church as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, as well as to honor the various Religious Communities that staffed our school through the years.

Please mark your calendars to join the LCHS Community to honor these men and women: Friday, evening, Nov. 10, 2017 at Lancaster Catholic High School. More information will be sent out in late spring.

In order to make sure we recognize all eligible members of the LCHS community, your help is needed. Please call the Advancement Office at 717-509-0313 or email advancement@lchsys.org with the names of any former LCHS student you believe answered the call to serve as a Catholic priest, deacon, religious sister or brother.

Diocesan Cemeteries

Good Shepherd to Raffle Lexus SUV for School Fund-Raiser

Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill is selling tickets for its Dream Car Raffle. The grand prize will once again be a new 2017 Lexus NX 200t SUV (MSRP $44,677) from Bobby Rahal Lexus. The winner may select the vehicle color of their choice from in stock vehicles at the time of the auction. The grand prize winner may elect to select a $35,000 cash prize in lieu of the new Lexus. Two second-place prizes of $500 each will be awarded, as well as three $1000 third-place prizes.

There are only 4,000 tickets available for the auction. Tickets can be purchased for $25 each or five tickets for $100. The raffle will take place on Feb. 25. After covering the cost of the vehicle, printing, and marketing, all proceeds will be used to support financial aid for Catholic students and to enhance technology access for students. Tickets are available for purchase from Good Shepherd School, 3400 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Visit the school’s website to reserve your tickets and see official rules at www.gscha.org/Lexus. Once tickets are reserved, you will have 10 school days to send in your check or money order to the school. Call Good Shepherd School with any questions at 717-737-7261.
**Diocesan Notebook**

Compiled by Jen Reed

**Spiritual Offerings**

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York will have a Charismatic Women’s Night/Fastenacht on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. and worship music begins at 6:30 p.m. Father Anthony Swany, pastor, will give the dispensation. The Mass is sponsored by St. Rose of Lima, St. Joseph and St. Patrick Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups in York. For more information, contact 717-724-4611 or smkjdr@gmail.com.

Centering prayer. Receive instruction on the method and benefits of Centering Prayer from Carolyn Yankov. She will provide a morning retreat on Feb. 5 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Rose Convent in York (950 W. Market St.). The retreat will be served in a self-chosen lunch. We have a refrigerator and microwave. There will be six follow-up sessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for five weeks beginning Feb. 15 at St. Rose, York. For more information, contact Father Keating, question & answer, and group Centering Prayer. There is no fee. Support material will be available. Contact Rich Erdlen to register: richteyrouz23@gmail.com or 717-779-8750.

**Pilgrimages and Retreats**

You are invited to join Father Kenneth Smith on an annual trip to Lourdes and from April 1-7, 2017, as well as an information session March 12 at noon at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Lancaster. Father Smith is the Bishop McDevitt High School Class of 1967 Spirituality Committee Chair. A retreat for teens in grades 8-12, “Give it up for Lent!” will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lancaster Feb. 25 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sponsored by “Sorted Out,” the retreat will feature host Scott Anthony, Leo Goodman, and music by Don Peris. There will be 30’s single, married, Catholic or not, are invited to attend. Father Daniel Richards, pastor, of St. Rose of Lima Parish in York, will present. For more information, visit: www.fatherdanielrichards.com.

**Lent: Give It Your All!” is the theme for Theology on Tap on March 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the community room at The Abington Inn. Pie, cookies, and beverages will be served. There will be a discussion of the Spirituality of the Community. For more information—especially if you’d like to volunteer to help—contact Kathy O’Donnell at 717-404-6320.

Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboria Church in Harrisburg. Confirmations are heard in English and Polish after every Mass.

A Rosary Rally celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Fatima will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and Apparitions on Saturday and each month in the Square at 12 noon at the Fatima Shrine in Rosslyn, VA.

Friday, March 3 is World Day of Prayer 2017. World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical celebration of prayer and music prayerful. Join the prayer service to honor the women of the Philippines. The theme this year is, “Am I Being Unfair to You?” St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) of the parish has organized this fellowship and light refreshments following the service. The service will begin at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent’s, 220 Third Street in Hanover. For additional information, contact Sandy Clark at 717-632-1481 or sandymlk@hotmail.com.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York will have a Charismatic Parish Night on Thursday, March 9, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The evening will feature a charismatic prayer service and group prayer introduced by the retreat will feature host Scott Anthony, Leo Goodman, and music by Don Peris. There will be 30’s single, married, Catholic or not, are invited to attend. Father Daniel Richards, pastor, of St. Rose of Lima Parish in York, will present. For more information, visit: www.fatherdanielrichards.com.

A Lenten Evening of Music, Stories and Prayer with Va’limar Parish will be presented on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Croatian Community Center. Please bring your Bible and a Rosary. There will be a $5 donation at the door./rest

A Lenten Evening of Music, Stories and Prayer with Va’limar Parish will be presented on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Croatian Community Center. Please bring your Bible and a Rosary. There will be a $5 donation at the door.

**Fundraisers & Events**

Bishop McDowell High School Class of 1967 will hold its annual Spring Dinner at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center in Lebanon on Saturday, April 8, 2017, for 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The evening will feature a silent auction, a live auction, a raffle, live music, and a cash bar. For more information, contact the Bishop McDowell Class of 1967 Reunion Committee at 717-397-0457 or email bishopmckreunion@gmail.com.

Tour the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland, the home of the Black Madonna and Baby Jesus, and the birthplace of the Polish Constitution. The tour includes a visit to the Shrine and a meal at the Czestochowa Inn. The tour will take place May 14-17, 2017.

Tour the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland, the home of the Black Madonna and Baby Jesus, and the birthplace of the Polish Constitution. The tour includes a visit to the Shrine and a meal at the Czestochowa Inn. The tour will take place May 14-17, 2017.
While reveling in his team’s first ever District 3 Class AA Championship earlier this month, Bishop McDevitt head wrestling coach Dean Shields couldn’t say enough about his athletes. “They’re a great group of kids. They absolutely love each other. They really feel like this team is a brotherhood,” he told The Catholic Witness.

The Crusaders nabbed their first District 3 crown in a spirited see-saw match against perennial powerhouse Bermudian Springs, 36-30, on Feb. 4 at Milton Hershey’s Spartan Center, then rolled into the PIAA team wrestling tournament, where they bested Saegertown, 36-29, and Chestnut Ridge, 39-30, before losing to eventual state runner-up Northern Lebanon, in the semifinals. The match against Northern Lebanon came to a 30-30 tie, with the Vikings winning on criteria for most bouts won.

The Crusaders’ performances this season should be an inkling of things still to come, including in upcoming individual competition. Bishop McDevitt resurrected its wrestling program in 2009 after a 30-year hiatus. “The Holy Spirit brought a lot of coaches and kids to this program, and we’re really happy and thrilled,” Coach Shields said. “The coaches are good men who know how to coach wrestling, of course, but they’re good leaders for the kids as well.”
Holy Name of Jesus Burns Mortgage

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Just six years after celebrating the dedication of their new church, the members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg celebrated the burning of the church’s $8.5 million mortgage.

Bishop Ronald Gainer burned the mortgage at the conclusion of a Mass there on Feb. 5.

The Romanesque-style church, which seats 1,400 people and is home to a 100-seat chapel, was dedicated on Dec. 18, 2011 – the Fourth Sunday of Advent – by the late Bishop Joseph McFadden.

Father Edward Quinlan, pastor, commended the members of the Capital Campaign Committee for their efforts, especially with creative posters placed throughout the parish to remind parishioners of the campaign when it was underway.

“People have been so very generous in making pledges to the campaign, and faithful at using the payment envelopes,” observed Father Quinlan. “Those who were unable to make pledges were very generous with their donations as well. Ultimately, this allowed us to pay off the mortgage over the course of these six years.”

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Father Edward Quinlan, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, holds a lighter as Bishop Ronald Gainer burns the parish’s $8.5 million mortgage for the six-year-old church.