Sacred Heart Dedication

After more than a decade of dreaming, planning and sacrificing, members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall rejoiced in the dedication of their new church on a bright and crisp February 7.

The former church, built on the parish grounds a little more than a century ago, was razed to make way for a larger and handicap-accessible place of worship. Yet, the parish ensured that the characteristics of the former church would be incorporated into the new one. The original church doors and stained-glass windows are prominently featured in the new church, while the façade, lighting and wooden trusses are reminiscent of the historic one.

“Today is a day of rejoicing,” Bishop Ronald Gainer told parishioners in his homily during the Mass. “Millions of Americans will be celebrating Super Bowl Sunday today, but we have our own ‘Super Sunday’ right here at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.”

See the full article and photographs from the Rite of Dedication on pages 8 and 9.

World Day of Sick Calls us to See ‘Face of the Suffering Christ’ in Those Who are Ill

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

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 offering one’s suffering for the good of the Church, and reminding the faithful to see the “face of the suffering Christ” in those who are ill.

“On the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, whose shrine at the foot of the Pyrenees has become a temple of human suffering, we approach — as she did on Calvary, where the cross of her Son rose up — the crosses of pain and solitude of so many brothers and sisters to bring them comfort, to share their suffering and present it to the Lord of life, in spiritual communion with the whole Church,” St. John Paul II wrote in his message for the inaugural World Day of the Sick.

On this year’s commemoration on Feb. 11, Father Robert Sharman, pastor of St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield and Diocesan Director of the Office of Pontifical Missions, celebrated a Mass of Healing and the Anointing of the Sick in the chapel at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, and then celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for several patients in their rooms.

Father Sharman celebrated the solemn sacraments in the place of Bishop Ronald Gainer, who was initially to have been the celebrant, but could not attend because of an unforeseeable change in his schedule.

In the hospital chapel, illuminated by the sunlight streaming through the stained-glass windows, those who are suffering from illness were joined by family members, hospital staff and Sisters of Christian Charity who reside in the adjacent convent for the Mass, concelebrated by Father Avitus Siriva, A.J., and Father Barnabas Shayo, A.J., hospital chaplains, and by Father John Acri, a retired priest of the diocese.

In establishing the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, St. John Paul II “understood the wonderful integration of what we believe as Catholic Christians — that suffering can have deep meaning in one’s life, and that we should not be afraid of it, but, in fact like Christ, embrace it and our pain to understand where God calls us,” Father Sharman remarked in his homily.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Father Robert Sharman, pastor of St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield and Diocesan Director of the Office of Pontifical Missions, anoints the hands of Patricia Moose with sacred Chrism during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Father Sharman celebrated Mass and visited patients at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill on Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick.
Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral

Marking the beginning of Lent, Catholics began the penitential season by attending Mass on Ash Wednesday, observed on Feb. 10 this year. During a noon Mass that he celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Bishop Ronald Gainer placed ashes on the foreheads of the faithful, and also blessed Rice Bowls for members of the congregation to take home and fill with their Lenten monetary sacrifices.

The custom of marking the foreheads of the faithful with ashes in the sign of a cross dates back to the eighth century, reminiscent of the sackcloth and ashes that penitents publicly wore as a sign of their sinfulness.

The ashes are created from burning the palms blessed on the previous year’s Palm Sunday. Marking the ashes in the form of a cross reminds us to be humble and to sacrifice during the Lenten season, and of our own mortality.

Symposium on Catholic Social Teaching

Saturday, March 19
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
Keynote Speaker: Sister Donna Markham, OP, Ph.D., Former Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and the first female President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA
Mass Celebrant: Bishop Ronald Gainer

The day begins with Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by the keynote address.

There will be workshop sessions before and after lunch, including sessions on immigration reform, affordable health care and religious freedom, ecology and Pope Francis’ encyclical, end of life issues, parish social action, faithful citizenship, the dignity of the human person, youth involvement in social justice programs, and a Hispanic ministry workshop. The day concludes with closing prayer.

For registration information, visit the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org.

ITALY
August 27-September 6, 2016

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg invites you on an 11-day pilgrimage with Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, PA

- Rome: Four major basilicas, Catacombs, the Vatican area including the Sistine Chapel. Be in Rome for the potential canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa and/or the Angelus with Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in St. Peter’s Square.
- Assisi: Sites associated with Sts. Francis & Clare
- Orvieto / Lanciano: Eucharistic Miracles
- Loreto: The Holy House of Nazareth
- San Giovanni: Sites associated with Padre Pio
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- Montecassino: The Abbey
- And so much more!

Call for a brochure or to register
800.713.9800

Early registration price $2,999 + $639* per person from JFK if deposit is paid by 5-19-16
Base price $3,099 + $639* per person after 5-19-16

*Estimated Airline Taxes & Fuel Surcharges subject to increase/decrease at 30 days prior
Waynesboro Parishioners Recognized for Mission Work in Africa, Papua New Guinea

Submitted by Jessica Franks
Special to The Witness

Sitting in the chapel during Good Friday services, Mission Doctor Lou Coda tries to make sense of the day.

“The rain begins to hit the metal roof of the small chapel in rural Uganda, during the prayers of petitions. Heavier and heavier, louder and louder, drowning out all voices, so loud that even thinking is difficult. In the center of the chapel, my gaze is held by the crucifix, a wooden carving that depicts Christ dying on the cross. Behind Jesus is God the Father standing with outstretched arms supporting the nailed hands of His son. Unable to think through the pounding rain, laden with the frustrations and pain of infant’s death and the day’s suffering, all that I am able to do is sit and know somewhere deep in my gut that I join in Christ’s suffering. Sometimes, we may not understand God’s purpose for us or sense God’s presence. Our challenge is to accept this and to trust the road God leads us down, wherever it may go. So I am given the strength to wait.”

This is not Dr. Coda’s first medical mission. Lou and his wife, Marty, have returned to Uganda after several short-term mission strips to Uganda and Cameroon. They started their service with Mission Doctors in 1990 with their then-young family, serving a long-term mission to Papua New Guinea. This Pennsylvania couple, parishioners from St. Andrew Parish in Waynesboro, will be honored with the 2016 Mission Doctors Association’s Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award for Parish in Waynesboro, will be honored for their great love and service.

Elise Frederick, Executive Director of Mission Doctors Association, shared, “Honoring these two dedicated individuals is an opportunity to recognize true Missionary hearts. Their lives have been and are a witness of faith and service. For more than 25 years, they have extended their love to the underserved around the world. Care offered with compassion, genuine concern for those who are afflicted with illness and burdened with poverty. Lou and Marty Coda live what all Christians are called to do – recognize Jesus in all people, in the patients in Papua New Guinea, in Cameroon and Uganda. Mission Doctors is honored to have this opportunity to thank Dr. and Mrs. Coda for their great love and service.”

"Each day is full, with children in the pediatric ward, the nursery of premature infants, children in the surgical ward, and outpatient consults," reflected Dr. Coda. "Together, Clare, our eldest daughter on her last rotation of medical school, and I work together through the days’ challenges. Clare was two years old when we made our first trip with Mission Doctors Association and spent several years at St. Mary’s Hospital in Papua New Guinea. There, she spoke pidgin English and spent her days running around the compound with her friends. Now, 25 years later, she is again overseas with us, this time fully of ability and compassion, able to help serve others in need. Perhaps it is wise to trust the roads God leads us on.”

For more than five decades, Mission Doctors Association has trained, sent and supported Catholic doctors and their families. The Mission Doctors Association has received the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award for Parish, named in honor of the first and only person to receive this award in 2003. The award is presented to parishes or individuals who are very poor and suffering around the world, but in doing so, we continue to heal our own weaknesses and bring ourselves nearer to Christ,” Dr. Coda shared.

Some of the challenges have changed but the needs of men, women and children in mission are as great now as they were in 1959, when the MDA was founded by Msgr. Anthony Brouwers. Mission Doctors Association continues to receive requests from mission hospitals and bishops for faith-filled doctors and their families to not only care for patients, but live as an example of Christ’s love in their communities.

For information about Mission Doctors Association, visit www.missiondoctors.org

(Courtesy of Mission Doctors Association)

Dr. Lou Coda and his daughter, Clare, are pictured with a nursing student caring for a young patient. Dr. Coda and his wife, Marty, members of St. Andrew Parish in Waynesboro, are being recognized this year for their efforts with the Mission Doctors Association.

Clergy Appointments

Effective February 15, 2016

• Rev. Raymond LaVoie to Deployment with United States Army until December 2016
• Deacon Stephen Huele to Pastoral Associate at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Buchanan Valley.
• Rev. Brian Wayne from Assistant Director in the Office of Vocations to Interim Vocation Director until June, and continues as Campus Minister, Millersville University.

Effective March 9, 2016

• Rev. John Bateman from Pastor, St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg, to Secretary to Cardinal Edwin O’Brien in Rome for 3 years.
• Rev. Daniel Richards from Parochial Vicar, St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg, to Administrator Pro Tem at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for Post Abortion Healing

For anyone hurting from an abortion experience, there is hope, mercy and forgiveness. If you or someone you know is hurting, there is help. You are not alone.

Consider attending a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

In Philadelphia March 11-13 – Call Geri at 610-399-0890
In York April 1-3 – Call Becky or Joy at 717-788-4959
In Doylestown April 22-24 – Call Evelyn at 215-317-5752

Space is limited, so register early. Visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

• February 20 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
• February 21 – Celebrate Mass at Gettysburg College for Catholic Campus Ministry, 5 p.m.
• February 22 – Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary VIist, Wynnwood.
• February 23 – Preside at Closing of Forty Hours Devotions, St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
• February 24 – Teach High School Senior Lenten Course via wide-area network, 9 a.m.
• February 27 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Catherine Labouré Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
• February 28 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Leo the Great Church, Rohrersville, 2 p.m.
• March 1 – Celebrate Mass at Corpus Christi School, Chambersburg, 9:30 a.m.
• March 2 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 7 p.m.
• March 3 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Middletown, 7 p.m.
• March 5 – Celebrate Mass at Camp Hill Prison, 8 a.m.
• March 6 – Lenten Vespers, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.

Annullment 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@hbgsdioce.org.

March 7 at 7 p.m., Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, Room 103
March 9 at 7 p.m., St. Joseph, York
May 10 at 7 p.m., St. Joseph, Danville
June 15 at 7 p.m., St. Patrick, Carlisle

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For online registration, a full schedule of the day, and a list of workshop topics and presenters, go to www.hbgdiocese.org.

For information, visit www.hbgdiocese.org.

Diocesan Men’s Conference

“The Catholic Witness”

St. Catherine Labouré Church, Harrisburg
Saturday, March 12 from 2:53 p.m.

Girl Scout Pilgrimage and Workshop
Saturday, March 12 from 2-5:30 p.m.
St. Catherine Labouré Church, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Tom Peterson, Founder and President of Catholics Come Home
Mass Celebrant: Bishop Ronald Gainer

The day will also include Divine Mercy Reflection, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Workshop Sessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and lunch. The day will conclude with Mass at 3 p.m.

For online registration, a full schedule of the day, and a list of workshop topics and presenters, go to www.hbgdiocese.org.

Purpose of Mercy

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

When I was a child, my father had to go on an extended business trip to Puerto Rico during one of the snowiest winters in history. As I helped my sister and my mom dig our house out of the most recent snowfall, I wondered what my dad was doing at the time. You see, he would mail 8 mm film movies to us of himself riding a cow on the beaches in the Caribbean, playing golf and other warm weather moments of recreation. After one of the latest snowfalls, I found myself once more home from school and bored out of my mind. At around noon time, I heard the squeak of the brakes on the mail truck. Our mailman was truly the epitome of “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds” (even though the Postal Service has no official motto).

I put on my winter coat, boots and gloves and ventured out to the bottom of my driveway to retrieve a small brown item that the postman had put in the mailbox. To my surprise, I found my name of the surface as well as a plethora of stamps. I had no idea what I had in my hand. As I walked back into the house and stomped the snow off my boots, I called up to my mom, “Ma! There is a package from dad in the mail.” “Yeah?” was her response. “I don’t know how?” She asked for the item I clutched in my hand. She giggled, “You have no idea what this is, do you?” “No idea whatsoever!” I retorted.

She explained to me that it was a fresh coconut that my father evidently had collected and mailed it to us. My sister then explained that if I pried it open, I could drink the coconut milk and delight in the fresh meat. This was going to be a bit tricky. You see, when dad left for Puerto Rico, he locked his tool chest so that my brother would not use his tools.

Undaunted, I combed the shelves searching for a tool that could assist in this endeavor. I finally found a bent hammer. Using all my strength, I banged away at the hard exterior of the coconut. After several minutes, there was a tiny crack in the shell. “I need something to pry the crack bigger,” I thought. No abandoned screwdrivers were to be found. I then spied an old pair of stainless steel scissors with 14-inch blades. With much gusto, I put the blades of the scissors into the cracked and twisted, and twisted and banging. Finally, I heard a sound that was just a bit alarming. I looked down at the scissors. Both blades were snapped off and were now only about two inches long! The broken blades were deep within the center of the coconut. Giving up a great sigh, I then resorted to a dropping a cinderblock over the coconut in order to experience the taste of victory!

Upon my dad’s return from his business trip, I related to him the entire story and held the two-inch bladed scissors up for his inspection. Between his peals of laughter and shaking his head, he asked, “Ahh, the purpose of scissors are?” I responded, with eyes downward, “Cutting material or paper.” He replied, “You learned an important lesson: Use tools for the purpose in which they were created.”

I cannot help thinking about this experience as I begin to explore the purpose of the Year of Mercy. According to the Papal Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy penned by Pope Francis, the Year of Mercy, is to “gaze attentively on mercy, … an effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives.” (3) Pope Francis wishes that we would be “merciful like the Father.” He goes on to explain that when we experience true mercy, we experience the proof of God’s love for us. “He gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. He reaches out his hand in eternal tenderness and compassion no matter what we have broken, no matter how we have sinned, or how we have hurt others by our actions or omissions. “He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds … The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, he casts the wicked to the ground.” (Psalm147:3,6) Have you ever personally experienced this tenderness of God? If yes, then you have an obligation to share this tenderness; his love, to others. Personal experience of God’s merciful love forever changes an individual. It recreates a “restore point” to the place when we were created anew through His love!

This experience should not be a mere memory, but rather invite us to reach out to others. Through living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, we put on the face of Christ and share that face with others. By feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead, instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, admonishing sinners, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving offenses willingly, comforting the afflicted and praying for the living and the dead, we incarnate Jesus in our time and in our community. In a sense we are fulfilling the purpose of our existence: loving others as God loves us.

During the course of this Holy Year, reach out and share God’s love in a very real way.

As a reminder, does anyone want a nubby pair of scissors?

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives of 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.)
By Amy Yeagle
Special to The Witness

From tiling floors to building fences, a group of Bloomsburg University Catholic Campus Ministry students learned valuable skills this winter break while also helping others. The group of eight students, along with Catholic Campus Ministry director Father David Hereshko and associate director Amy Yeagle, spent January 3-9 volunteering with Habitat for Humanity’s Collegiate Challenge program in Hanover County, Virginia.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit ecumenical organization which focuses on building and rehabilitating houses with the help of homeowner families and volunteers. These simple, decent homes are sold to homeowner families at no profit and are financed with affordable loans. Over 1 million people volunteer with Habitat for Humanity each year to contribute to their mission of eliminating poverty housing (http://www.habitat.org/hw).

While on their mission trip, Bloomsburg University Catholic Campus Ministry was able to assist Hanover County Habitat for Humanity with building one of the six homes they will complete this year. This two-bedroom, two-bathroom home is being built for a single mother and her two teenage children.

“The best part of this trip was definitely building a part of the home and knowing that once it was finished someone will get to live in it,” said student Erica Yerke.

The group’s first task of the week was painting throughout the entire house, which is scheduled to be completed this month. The next job was laying the tile floors in the kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry room. Students took turns cutting tiles, spreading out thin cement, and spacing and laying tiles. Meanwhile, another group of students worked in the backyard, clearing out undergrowth, extending a chain link fence, and building a wooden fence. By the end of the week, the students had also assembled cabinets and measured and cut baseboards. All the work was completed under the guidance of George Robinson, the Habitat for Humanity construction supervisor, along with other adult Habitat for Humanity volunteers from the local community.

“The best part of the mission trip was seeing the house at the beginning and end of the week,” commented student Lyndsey Fraser. “The progress was amazing throughout the week which made the trip very rewarding!”

Outside of the time they spent working, the group also focused on prayer and fellowship. “It was a great week with my friends,” student Meredith Westington noted. Each day began with Mass and ended with a time of prayer and reflection. Individually, each member of the group was also given a booklet for daily prayer and reflection and was assigned a “prayer partner” within the group to pray for throughout the week.

Evenings were spent enjoying meals together, playing games, attending a movie at Richmond’s historic Byrd Theater, and visiting the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore, a nonprofit donation center and home improvement store. The group was also able to experience fellowship with the members of the church where they stayed throughout the week at a covered dish night.

Those involved found the mission trip a rewarding experience overall. Student Marianna Wassmer reflected, “We learned skills, learned about our faith, and learned about ourselves! We were able to give of ourselves in ways that benefited strangers, and the beauty in that was somewhat overwhelming. Giving of ourselves is one of the best ways to let the light of Christ shine.”

“The best part of this mission trip was working with a team to accomplish something meaningful,” added student Dane Moore. “The memories and knowledge I gained were priceless.”

Following this trip, Catholic Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University plans to continue their dedication to service by participating in a spring break mission trip to the St. Vincent de Paul Young Adult Center in Philadelphia.

See more pictures from the trip and learn more about Bloomsburg University Catholic Campus Ministry at http://bloomsburgccm.weebly.com/ and https://www.facebook.com/bloomsccm. Learn more about Habitat for Humanity at http://www.habitat.org/.

(Amy Yeagle is Associate Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University.)

Sopa de frijoles con chayote y arroz
Bean Soup With Chayote Squash and Rice
Recipe from Honduras. Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS
1 onion, diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 T of olive oil
315-oz cans red beans, drained
2 c water
1 vegetable bouillon cube
1 yellow chili, seeded and minced
1 lime, peeled and minced
1 c fresh cilantro
4 c cooked white rice

INSTRUCTIONS
Sauté onion, bell pepper and garlic in oil until translucent. Add beans, water and bouillon, and heat thoroughly. Add yellow chili, jalapeno tomatoes, lime juice and chayote, and simmer on low for about an hour. Add cilantro and serve over rice.

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Feeding the Faith: CRS Story of Hope ~ Call to Family, Community and Participation

(The Catholic Witness continues here a Lenten feature on stories of hope from Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Program, which helps lift people out of poverty from our Lenten sacrifices. You can find information about the Rice Bowl initiative at www.crsricebowl.org.)

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, Call to Family, Community and Participation, we are called to come together in the name of our Lord to share God’s love and justice in word and deed. We are guided on how we are to live and work as a community with each other and with the help of others who are involved in the effort of eliminating poverty (http://www.crsricebowl.org/CallToFamily.html)."
BISHOP’S ANNUAL LENTEN APPEAL
FEBRUARY 21, 2016

“This year the Lenten Appeal takes place during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, proclaimed by Pope Francis. What better way to enter into this Lenten season during this Jubilee Year then by making the mercy and love of God manifest to all those in need. We are challenged to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. These works are the heart of this annual appeal.

May our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving bring us to a deep encounter with the risen Jesus this Easter. Your generous support of the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal and the ministries and programs it provides is the catalyst the Lord uses to draw all people to Himself.”

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
2016 Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal letter

A Gift to the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal supports the ministries of the Diocese of Harrisburg in meeting the social services and ministerial needs of the people in our 15 counties.

Human Services

Catholic Education
Catholic primary and secondary schools, Diocesan Institute, and Religious Education

Communications
The Catholic Witness, Telecommunications, and Social Media

Evangelization
Adult Religious Formation, Beginning Experience, Bible Study, Campus Ministry, Catholic Scouting, Charismatic Renewal, Ecumenism, Engaged Encounter, Health Care Ministry, Landings, Marriage Encounter, Persons with Disabilities, Prison Ministry, Retrouvaille, Senior Adult Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Youth Ministry

Administrative Support
Archives and Financial Administration
"I WILL DRAW ALL PEOPLE TO MYSELF"

The Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal supports a variety of programs and ministries that teach the faith including catechetical faith, formation for adults, respect for life, Catholic education, marriage and family life, ministry to youth and young adults, senior adult ministry, Catholic Campus Ministry, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children, as well as pastoral outreach to those in need physically, mentally and/or spiritually.

The Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal also supports works of mercy throughout the 15 counties of central Pennsylvania by providing ministry to the sick in the area hospitals, persons with disabilities, as well as those incarcerated in county prisons, two state correctional facilities and one federal penitentiary located within the boundaries of the diocese.

Communicating the faith is reflected through the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Witness, sent to more than 75,000 households, the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org, Insight, an electronic diocesan newsletter, Wide Area Network (WAN) for schools, as well as various television and radio spots and through social media.

Ways to Give

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

One-Time Gift
A one-time, outright gift can be made at any point during the year of the appeal.

Payment Methods
The following payment methods are accepted: cash, check (payable to your parish), VISA, MasterCard, and/or stocks and securities.

Many companies will match charitable donations through an Employee Match Program. Contact your employer to determine if a matching program is available.

For credit card gifts please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/blkcc
Sacred Heart Parishioners  
Rejoice in Dedication of New Church  
that Incorporates Former’s Features  

By Jen Reed  
*The Catholic Witness*

Gazing up at the crucifix, stained-glass windows and church doors she has known since she was a child, 83-year-old Maryann Krause beamed at the sight of her new church in Cornwall.

“It’s everything I had hoped for, and more!” she expressed, as she smiled wide with joy and gratitude for the new Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.

“At first, I was sad that the old church had to be torn down, because it held so many good memories for me,” Mrs. Krause told *The Catholic Witness*. She had received the sacraments in the historic church – including marriage to her first husband, Frank Bahsteter, Jr., in 1956 – and her five daughters were raised there too.

“But this new church looks so similar to the old Sacred Heart I’ve loved, and I’m so excited about it,” she said.

Mrs. Krause’s reaction to the new Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cornwall seemed to resound that of her fellow parishioners as they gathered for Mass and the Rite of Dedication celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer on Feb. 7.

“Today is a day of rejoicing,” the bishop told parishioners as they filled the parish’s social hall before processing in song to the new church, where he handed the keys to Father Rodrigo Arrazola, pastor, and led the eager congregation inside.

At that moment, many of the parish’s 450 families were seeing the interior of their new church for the first time, and were overjoyed to see so many familiar features – the original wood doors, crucifix and stained-glass windows, including the Gethsemane window – incorporated from the previous church.

Lighting, wooden trusses and archways also help to retain the character of the former church, while new features include statues of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi; antique Stations of the Cross during the Rite of Dedication of an Altar, Bishop Ronald Gainer anoints the altar with sacred Chrism. “The altar is the primary symbol of Christ in the midst of the worshipping Church. It is from that altar that the people of God are fed. It is from that altar that the sacrifice of Christ’s death and the glory of his Resurrection is re-presented to us,” the bishop said in his homily.
Dedication

Continued from 8

acquired from a church in Chicago, and a spacious narthex, confessionals, meeting rooms, dressing rooms, and a kitchenette.

The new church, with a seating for 300 people, is triple the size of the former, and is accessible to persons with physical disabilities – one of the main goals of the $2.9 million project. Stairs leading into the former church had prevented parishioners with mobility challenges from entering, necessitating a Sunday morning Mass in the adjacent social hall.

“This beautiful new church is a huge accomplishment for our community,” said Father Arrazola, noting that the project had been a vision of the parish for more than a decade, beginning with initial plans from former pastor, Father Andrew Marinak.

“It took a lot of sacrifice and working together for us to do this,” he said. “I told parishioners, ‘Together, we can do it’, and, by the grace of God and with lots of hard work and prayers, we did. This is a wonderful community.”

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish traces its roots to 1848, when St. John Neumann gave permission for a church to be built at nearby Colebrook for Catholics working in the area. The original church was dedicated in honor of St. Lawrence in July of 1853, and closed less than a decade later after parishioners moved out of the area when the iron furnaces closed.

In 1886, Msgr. Adam H. Christ of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in nearby Lebanon oversaw construction of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cornwall, and Father Charles McMonigle was appointed its first pastor.

The original church was dismantled in 1914 under the pastorate of Father Edward O’Flynn, to relocate to a larger tract of land on the current parish property, and parishioners lovingly moved the church, piece by piece, to rebuild it.

The church underwent renovation and restoration work as the parish continued to grow, particularly under the leadership of pastors, Father Stephen Jordan, Father Matthias Siedlecki, Father Joseph Smith, Father Andrew Marinak, Father Paul Fisher and Father Rodrigo Arrazola.

Ground was broken for the new church on Sept. 29, 2014, in a ceremony celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer, and the 1,500-member parish community had been gathering in the parish social hall for Masses while their new house of worship was being constructed. For several years prior to the groundbreaking, one of three Sunday Masses was celebrated in the hall to accommodate crowds and parishioners with physical disabilities.

Dennis Tulli, Pastoral Council President and a member of Sacred Heart for 40 years, acknowledged that a number of parishioners initially resisted plans to build the new church, but said they eventually came to favor the project when they recognized the parish’s intention to incorporate the former church’s character into the new one.

“There is a huge construction – the stones, the glass, the steel, the wood – to God, the real Church is all of us, the believing community,” Bishop Gainer said. “St. Paul reminds us that the temple of God is built of the living stones.

“This living community has an outward expression in the building where the living temple gathers,” he continued. “That is why the church building is so sacred – it is an outward expression of the mystery of the Body of Christ.”

“We devote this church exclusively to the worship of God, and, as a parish family, you continue to live the Gospel, and to live your life in Christ.”

~ Bishop Ronald Gainer Rite of Dedication, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Cornwall

Shirley Karinch brings forth an altar candle during a procession of parishioners preparing the altar for Mass. She has been a parishioner at Sacred Heart for more than 80 years.

Elliana Moyer carries a candle in a procession of parishioners bringing altar cloths, flowers and candles to prepare the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Joined at the altar by concelebrating priests and by deacons of the diocese, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrates Holy Mass in the new Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cornwall on Feb. 7. Above the altar is the original crucifix from the former church, affixed to a larger background.
Pope Francis gave a vaccine to a boy held by Mexico's first lady Angelica Rivera during a visit to the Federico Gomez Children's Hospital of Mexico in Mexico City Feb. 14.

Pope Francis told Mexican bishops Be Unified, Speak out on Tough Issues

**By David Agren**

**Catholic News Service**

Pope Francis demanded forceful denunciations of drug violence in Mexico, where the president said more than 100,000 lives have been lost over the past 10 years, as he met with bishops Feb. 13, the first in a series of meetings during his six-day trip to the country.

“Drug violence is a sin,” the pope said, asking the bishops to use their voice on behalf of the faithful to denounce the violence and its causes.

The pope also stressed the need to lead persons and groups who hope to replace crime with new forms of dialogue, negotiation and bridges that can lead us on the way of committed solidarity,” the pope said.

Those who identify themselves as Christians must be exemplars of dialogue and solidarity, he said, and those who truly value politics as public service must as well. There is no other way, the pope said, to build “a society in which no one feels like a victim of the culture of waste” and, therefore, disposable.

Mexico’s population is about 120 million; 28 percent of them are 14 years old or younger and another 18 percent are 15-24 years old. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ranks Mexico as one of the countries with the greatest inequality and reports 21 percent of its population lives in poverty.

Pope Francis told government leaders that those young people are a treasure, a bundle of energy and hope for the future. But the country cannot realize its full potential if current generation of adults and leaders do not teach values and, especially, if they do not live them. “A generation is formed in a present made up of men and women who are upright, honest and capable of working for the common good,” the pope said.

With respect to crime, he said, all Mexicans can be helped to contribute to building a better society where there is “real access” to necessary material and spiritual goods: adequate housing, dignified employment, food, true justice, effective security, a healthy and peaceful environment.
The funeral of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died of natural causes Feb. 13 while in Texas on a hunting trip, left Washington, the Supreme Court building, and the nation with questions about the future of the court, about its leadership and about the process of selecting a successor. 

The Catholic Church has a rich history of involvement in the U.S. Supreme Court, from the days of the nation’s first Catholic jurist, John Marshall, to today’s Catholic broth...
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.


**Seven Sorrows Announces NCEA Distinguished Graduate**

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Middletown announces that the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has named Jo-Ann Shipkowski the NCEA Catholic Elementary School Distinguished Graduate for her outstanding personal achievement. Ms. Shipkowski was a member of the Seven Sorrows’ graduating class of 1964. Throughout her life, she exemplifies what it means to be a Catholic school graduate, using her God-given talents to serve others in her career, community, and church.

Upon graduating a FLL team at his alma mater, Adam is a member of Eastern York’s service others in her career, community, and family. She is also the main caregiver for her 94-year-old mother. Ms. Shipkowski is most deserving of this award as shown through her actions throughout her church, community, and life.

**St. Leo’s First Lego League Team Competes in Regional Championships**

St. Leo the Great School’s first Lego League Team, Cyborg Lions, brought their robot, Wall-E, to the regional championships at University of Pennsylvania on February 6 after taking 2nd place in a formal scrimmage against 18 other teams in Downingtown in December.

At the regional championships, the team earned a Spirit Award, one of three judges’ choice trophies given at the event. A total of 47 participated, and the recognition places St. Leo’s team in the top ten percent of the teams in the competition.

“It is amazing the success this young team has had during its inaugural year,” remarked Ms. McLean, principal at St. Leo’s, located in Roberstown. First Lego League (FLL) is part of the FIRST organization. FIRST in an acronym meaning: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. FIRST offers four robotics programs covering first through high school. FLL is for students in grades 4-8. St. Leo’s Cyborg Lions are comprised of two fifth graders and four fourth graders.

“I am so proud of these kids. The confidence they show while competing against much older kids is amazing,” assistant coach Tina Johnson added.

While most people would think the program is a focus on building a robot, the program is so much more,” described Coach John Bridgen. The students use the LEGO EV3 platform to design, build, and program the robot to compete in various missions on a 4x8’ table as accurately as possible; the design and build of the competition. The team is also given a task designed to test their collaborative efforts and they must orally explain the process they used to design and program their robot to solve this year’s missions. The 2015 missions were centered around the theme Trash Trek, which was all about recycling. The Cyborg Lions selected the problem of water bottle waste. As part of their solution they identified bottle water filling machines to reduce plastic water bottle trash. They presented their idea to the St. Leo the Great School Board and the team was approved for a unit to be installed outside their gym. This was approved by the board in January.

Adam Wolnikowski a graduate of Saint Leo’s, approached Principal McLean with the possibility of starting a FLL team at his alma mater. Adam is a member of Eastern York’s TechFire224, and showed off their award winning $22,000 robot to St. Leo’s STEM classes.

To learn how to start a school team, contact John Bridgen at jbridgen@inteksystems.com. For information about the school, call 717-394-1742, ext. 323.

**Beginning Experience Weekend Planned for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse**

The Beginning Experience Team for the Harrisburg Diocese announces that they have booked Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa., for a Beginning Experience Weekend April 29-May 1. Beginning Experience weekends are an approved Roman Catholic program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse, separation or divorce. Hundreds of people have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

The weekend is led by persons who are widowed, separated or divorced and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

The following is a testimonial of a person who attended the Beginning Experience Weekend in the fall of 2014:

“I can tell you that any encounter with the Beginning Experience weekend has brought me greater peace and given me an extended family of lifelong friends who I quickly grew to love and lean on. If you or someone you know is suffering the isolation and pain that can accompany the loss of a spouse or marriage, I encourage you to seriously consider attending the Beginning Experience weekend.”

Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. Check the Diocesan Website, www.hbgdiocese.org, and go to marriage and family.

**Remembrance of the Deceased**

Please pray for the following clergy who died in February during the past 25 years:

Msgr. Walter Shaull, 1992
Deacon Stephen Bankos, 1996
Father Paul Miller, 2004
Father Philip DeChico, 2006
Msgr. Lawrence Overbaugh, 2008
Father Brian Conrad, 2011
Deacon James Snee, 2011
Father Joseph Hilbert, 2014
Father Louis P. Ogden, 2015.

**Dioecesan Catholic Cemeteries Pre-Arrangement: An Act of Love**

At Harrisburg Diocesan Cemeteries, we encourage families to consider pre-arrangement of their cemetery needs. Just as preparing a will is a kind and responsible act, arranging for your final resting place is equally wise and compassionate. Many of our families are surprised to learn how many advantages pre-arrangement actually provides.

**Why Prearrange?**
Relieve Your Family of Difficult Decisions.
Widower Choice of Grave Locations.
Enjoy Peace of Mind.
Only You Can Decide What is Best For Your Family.
Our Diocesan Cemetery Managers are available to assist you to make an intelligent, unhurried decision, with information that will help you make a decision that’s right for you and your family, at the right time for you.

**For More Information Visit Our Website**
www.hbgdiocese.org/cemeteries

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**Oblituarie**

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. Theresa: Terrence Flanagan, Catherine Garrett, Catherine Harris, Celeste Lennon, Robert McGinley, Mary Sieger.

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Compiled by Emily M. Albert

SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

Mass and Confessions in the Croatian language will be celebrated Sunday February 21 at 7 pm with confessions at 4:30 pm prior to the Mass at the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 815 South Second Street, Strieklhelm.

A Pro-Life Mass is celebrated on the first Saturday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Parish, 301 East Main Street in Elysburg. Father Yohe will preside. For information, contact Father Yohe at 717-657-4804 ext. 224 for more information.

To be in the Polish language will be celebrated February 21 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Hamburg. Confessions are heard in English and Polish after Mass.

Catechum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 7 PM. Father Pius will preside. The enquirers may encounter their Lenten Season by aiding Jesus through prayer, praise, worship and music. A reception will be held in the cafeteria. For more information call 717-583-0240.

Traditional Latin Masses are celebrated at the following places:
- the St. Lawrence Chapel at 110 State Street in Harrisburg, 7:10 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, and 7:15 a.m. Sunday for the Traditional Latin Mass. For information, call 717-235-2156 ext. 214.

The Irish Prayer Group will be hosting a life in the Spiritual Seminar beginning Wednesday, March 16 at 7pm at the St. Columba (Bloomsburg) Voyagers will be presenting a musical program of Irish music at 7:30 pm at the Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 215 S. Willow Street, Sunbury. For information, call 717-574-6783 or 717-572-2084.

A  $300/pp deposit will hold your spot. For this tour is popular and filling quickly, so don’t wait! For more information please call Dianne at 570-204-2082.

For additional information, email katia.felty@ynalez@gmail.com or 570-295-2906.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

St Mary Magdalen School, located in suburban North Wilmington, DE, seeks qualified applicants for the position of Assistant Varsity Softball Coach. The school is committed to building a diverse community that values and respects all individuals. Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest to Mr. Tim Luong, Pastor, St. Anne Parish, 600 S Poplar Avenue, York, PA 17403, ruckmancmd@yahoo.com. There is no cost, but preregistration is required. For any questions, please call the program office at 717-686-4711.

For additional information, email katia.felty@ynalez@gmail.com or 570-295-2906.

For full details, go to www.nycatholic.org/opportunities.

FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS

An Encounter for college-aged young adults and recent graduates will be held April 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Catholic Social Center, 1901 Evergreen Avenue, York. The event is sponsored by the Diocesan Office for Young and Adult Youth at myyouth@hbgdiocese.org or 717-665-4324.

Word, Worship, & Works of Mercy is the theme for the 2016 Lenten Reflection at St. Joseph Church on South Street, Millersville. The event will be on Friday, March 18th at 7pm at 794 Thomas Smith, keynote speaker at the 2015 National Catholic Bible Conference and master of ceremonies in the Apostolos and Presbyter in the Fiery Mysticism of the F-M, and frequent Catholic TV and radio guest who wows his charitable, dynamic, and engaging talk and empowers the audience to explore the universe with a satellite of gods and spirit life and give people a solid tool to deal with their own personal challenges. There is no charge for the Renewal though a fee will be taken during evening. A Closing Reception will be held in the church Social Hall following Tuesday even while he is at St. Joseph Church on Mount Carmel and we will be in the same building. For more information call 717-721-6575.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Cornwall, is pleased to announce the 17th Annual Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Spring Gala. The gala will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 6:30 pm at St. Joseph’s Hall. Please join Father Yohe and the parishioners in a night out under the stars in support of the parish. Tickets are $150 per couple or $90 per person. For information, call 717-725-6861.

St. Bernard’s Parish is hosting a Lenten Retreat March 6 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Bernard’s Parish, 701 Sherrman’s Valley Road, Bloomfield 17005. The retreat will begin with an eight-concert series of music, followed by a dinner at 5:30 pm and the dance at 7:00 pm. In order to assist the Parish in planning the retreat, it is asked of the participants to RSVP by March 1st to 717-372-2169 ext 224.

This tour is popular and filling quickly, so don’t wait! For more information please call Dianne at 570-204-2082.

For additional information, email katia.felty@ynalez@gmail.com or 570-295-2906.

For details on how to attend, please visit www.georgesintl.com.

Retreats, Pilgrimages & Trips

April 4 bus trip to Washington, D.C. with Father Richard O’Brien OFM, Cap., sponsored by St. Joseph’s Year of Mercy Fund. The bus will depart from the Diocesan Office at 7:00 a.m. for a day of fun and relaxation in the nation’s capitol. The price is $45 which includes transportation and driver tip. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary will be on board for prayer on the bus and Father Richard will have an open forum on board for the morning. The beautiful film “The Letters” about Mother Teresa will be shown during the bus ride. The retreat will offer an afternoon of relaxation and Mass and Confessions at The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception are in the evening. The price is $40 including lunch. For information, contact Father Richard at 717-665-7405 or ron406@msn.com.

Train Mission Trip to Kingston, Jamaica. Father Timothy Morace, Parrish of Immaculate Heart Mary in Abington, will lead a week-long retreat to the country of Jamaica. The trip will be held to the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica on Sat Oct 7-2016. This mission trip is being coordinated by John Muco and his parishioners. The group will have the opportunity to experience the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy to extend God’s merciful love to all. The cost is $1,300 pp with airfare. For information or to register, call Theresa Seniors’ Little Flower Club will be traveling to Norfolk, Va., for the Military Tattoo Show that originated in Scotland. The musical program features artists from other parts of the world and American military bands performing. The cost is $200.00, gratuities included. Deadline: March 15, 2016. Questions call 476-6076.

For additional information, email katia.felty@ynalez@gmail.com or 570-295-2906.

“The St. Columba (Bloomsburg) Voyagers will be presented at the 2016 International Balloon Festiival for 6 days departing October 7, 2016. We will start with 2 nights in Albuquerque followed by 3 days at a Balloon Fiesta in Taos. The Albuquerque Balloon Festiival is an international event, the world’s largest of its kind, hosting over 700 balloons from 45 countries. The Voyagers will have the opportunity to mingle with balloonists from around the world. We will also visit in some of their favorite sites. We are a 501C3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization. For information, contact St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 717-407-6177.

For details on how to register, please visit www.georgesint.com.

This year’s theme is the “Bow-Tie Ball”. In March 2016 is $2295/pp inclusive – but don’t wait! For more information please call Dianne at 570-204-2082.
A Lenten Fish Dinner will be held at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Friday February 12, February 26, and March 11 from 4-7 p.m. at 901 N. High St. Duncannon. Dinner is held on Friday, February 12, Friday February 19, Friday March 4, Friday March 11 and Friday March 18 from 4-7 p.m. in the Activity Center. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds benefit the parish educational programs.

Lenten Fish Dinners on Wednesdays, February 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 4-7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served in the parish social hall at the intersection of Route 419 and Cornwall Road. Menu includes baked or fried fish and baked potato, applesauce, cole slaw, rolls, coffee or tea. Take-out is also available! The dinners will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council 15351. All proceeds are to be used for educational programs.

Sunbury, from 4-6 p.m. The menu consists of: Breaded fish, breaded shrimp with your choice of Baked Potato, French Fries, appetizers such as onion rings, homemade dessert, coffee or tea. Salad will also be available. Cost is $9 for adult dinners and $5 for child’s (12 and under) dinner fish.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York will be holding their au- mal seafood fundraiser during the Lenten season. Lunches and dinners will be served every Friday through March 19 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dinners will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. For more information visit our website at www.stroseoflimayork.org.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will host it’s fifth annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, February 12, 19, 26 and March 4 and 18, from 5-7 p.m. at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road. Dine in or take out. There will be adult, senior, children and reduced portion dinners available. Children un- der 5 eat free. For more information, call 717-334-4084. No fish fry March 11.

The Knights of Columbus of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Mifflintown will serve its annual Lenten Fish Din - ners in the church social hall on Fridays, February 5 through March 18 from 4-7 p.m. All-you-can-eat meal includes Fried and baked fish, popcorn shrimp, fried clams, French fries, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, puddings, and a selection of homemade desserts. Pay at the door: Adults $12; Ages 6-12 $6; children 5 under free. St. Jude is located at 3918 William Penn Hwy (Old Route 22) in Mifflintown, directly across from Tuscarora Junior High School.

Peter St. Patrick in Columbus will begin its Lenten Friday Fish Fry on February 12. In its 37th year, the menu features a variety of fish platters including baked haddock, oven-baked shrimp, crab cakes and other non-meat dishes all prepared by the women of the parish. Desserts made by pa -rishioners are also available. The public is invited and may eat in or take out every Friday through March 18, from 4-6:30 p.m. The church is South Second and Union Streets. Stations of the Cross are held in the Church beginning at 7 p.m.

St. Mary’s Lenten Fish Fry will be held at 1758 Fowler Ave, Berwick, every Friday of Lent, February 12,19,26, March 4,11 and will be open 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. The menu includes: Fried fish and fried shrimp served with cole slaw, baked beans, potato, French Fries, corn, baked beans and cole slaw. Price of dinner $8, extra sides available for purchases. For information 570-759-9277 or fax 570-759-6637.

St. Matthew Parish in Dauphin is having 3 fish dinners during the season of Lent. Please join us on Fridays February 12, March 4 and March 18 from 4-7 p.m. 50/50 tickets are available. Dinners will be held at the Parish Activity Center (P.A.C.), 607 Stoney Creek Drive, Dauphin, 17018. Baked haddock, pierogies, home-made crab cakes and a children’s menu will be available. In addition, desserts will be offered a la carte. Take out is also available! The dinners will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council 15351. All proceeds after expenses benefit St. Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church.

Church of the Holy Spirit, Palmyra, is holding a fish fry every Friday in Lent (except Good Friday) from 3-7 p.m. Serving your choice of Fried Fish, Baked Fish, Fried Shrimp or Crab Cake. Dinners included fries, slaw, or applesauce, rolls and bottomless cups of coffee or tea. Pierogie Dinners offered with applesauce and slaw. Pricing for every pocket, dine-in or take-out. Cold drinks and desserts available, sorry we are not able to take phone orders.

Lenten Fish Dinner: Please consider joining us at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, K. of C, Council #1537, for some fun and fellowship while supporting our annual Lenten Fish Dinner being held Friday evenings, February 12, 19, 26, March 4, 11 and 18 from 4-6:30 p.m. in our Social Hall located in the basement of our Church. Dinner choices will feature Beer Battered Haddock, Oven Baked Cod, and Breadcr Krimp with your choice of Baked Potato, French Fries and Mac & Cheese. Kids Meal will be Baked Fish Sticks or Mac & Cheese with a side. Adult dinners are $10 per person and kids’ meals are $5 per person. Coleslaw, Dess - ter and Beverage included. Take-outs are available. Church address is 2121 n 3rd Street, Harrisburg.

Saint Monica Church, Sunbury will be holding its Lent - en Suppers on Friday, February 12, February 26, and March 11 in the Saint Monica Parish Center, 109 Market Street Sunbury, from 4-6 p.m. The menu consists of: Breaded fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Bread & Butter, and a dessert. Cost is $8.50.

Lenten Fish Dinners

The following Lenten dinner information was submitted by the parishes. Lenten dinner information can be sent via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org. You can also find a listing online at www.hbgdiocese.org.
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.

Our Lady also instructed Bernadette, who suffered from asthma, to “Drink of the waters.” Though no water was apparent, Bernadette dug down into the mud and revealed a stream that emanated from a fountain. Today, that miraculous water continues to flow, and millions of pilgrims visit Lourdes each year to receive healings of body, mind and spirit.

“Lourdes gives people a different vision of life – one that is formed in faith,” Father Sharman said. “In faith, we can believe – and we do – that sickness, pain, suffering, failure and scandal, all of these problems, can lead us to God. With the help of God’s grace, this experience makes us recognize that we are dependent upon God. Sickness can allow us to see our need for God, and unite us from those things that bind us to the earth, through sickness, we can contemplate eternal realities.”

Father Robert Sharman celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist during Mass in the chapel at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, where the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was celebrated Feb. 11.

Father Sharman reflected in his homily, reminds those who are sick that “your suffering is not in vain, that if you are united to the suffering of Christ, you can also experience, through him wholeness, holiness and eternal happiness. If that’s the purpose that crucifix serves, then it’s more medicinal than anything [a patient] can be prescribed. ‘To see things through the prism of faith is to experience things differently,’ he said. ‘Two people can walk into this beloved Holy Spirit Hospital, and walk through the same corridors and visit the same rooms. One person can see pain and suffering and blood and pus, and say, ‘This hospital is a terrible place.’ And the other person can walk through the same rooms, and they can see healing and care and affection and education, and they can see the hospital is a wonderful place. What forms that? The vision of faith.”

Holy Spirit–A Geisinger Affiliate Begins Emergency Department Renovation in Anticipation of New Level II Trauma Center

In preparation for a new Level II Trauma Center, Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill will begin a major construction project that will also expand the size and capabilities of its Emergency Department.

“We are preparing to become a Level II Trauma Center in October 2016,” said Kyle Snyder, Holy Spirit’s vice president of operations. “It will save critical minutes for area patients suffering from severe, life-threatening injuries.”

A two-story addition with a rooftop helipad will be built onto the John R. Dietz Emergency Center. The project will also expand the number of treatment rooms in the Emergency Department and include a dedicated and secure Behavioral Health treatment area.

“When Holy Spirit affiliated with Geisinger Health System last year, we began planning for a trauma center in addition to many other advanced clinical services in south central PA to better serve the community,” Snyder said. Geisinger has a Level I Adult and a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center at its main campus in Danville and Level II Trauma Centers at Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre and Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton. Currently, there are about a dozen Level II trauma centers in Pennsylvania.

According to the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, which accredits trauma centers, there are four levels of trauma centers in Pennsylvania. Both Levels I and II are required to provide the same level of medical care and expertise. However, a Level I trauma center is required to perform research, have a surgical residency program, and an annual volume of 600 major trauma patients. A Level II trauma center must have an annual major trauma patient volume of 350.

In addition to the construction and renovation work that is necessary for the Level II Trauma Center at Holy Spirit, the project will also expand the number of treatment rooms in the main emergency department and provide a dedicated and secure behavioral health treatment area.
Rite of Election Marks Time of Preparation for Newest Catholics

The annual Rite of Election, celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, is a significant step in the process of Christian Initiation. It formally enrolls the names of the catechumens – those who will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil – in to the Book of the Elect.

A total of 141 catechumens representing 38 parishes gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on Feb. 14, where they were presented to Bishop Ronald Gainer.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Pope Sends off Missionaries of Mercy to Help People Open Hearts to God

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis marked the beginning of the Church’s Lenten journey by sending off several hundred religious and diocesan priests on their own special path as “missionaries of mercy” in local parishes.

“Look upon your servants, Lord, that we are sending as messengers of mercy, salvation and peace. Guide their steps” and sustain them with “the power of your grace,” the pope said during a special Ash Wednesday liturgy in St. Peter’s Basilica Feb. 10.

“May Christ’s voice resound in their words and Christ’s heart in their gestures,” he said.

More than 700 of the 1,142 missionaries specially appointed by the pope attended the Mass. Dressed in white vestments and purple stoles, the men received the pope’s mandate to preach about God’s mercy and special authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.

People cannot keep going on their own, and that is why the apostle Paul doesn’t urge people to “do something, but to let themselves be reconciled by God, to allow him to forgive us,” he said.

“Let’s listen to Jesus, who says to those who are weary and burdened, ‘Come to me,’” since “only the Lord’s grace liberates us and offers peace and rest, the pope said.

He said the Lord asks people to close the distance that has grown and “return to me with your whole heart.”

The Lenten journey invites people to “be protagonists, embracing three remedies, three medicines that heal [people] from sin” – prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

“May Lent be a time of a healthy ‘pruning’ back of falsehood, worldliness, indifference; of no longer thinking that everything is fine as long as I am doing well; of understanding that what matters isn’t acceptance, seeking success or approval, but the cleansing of one’s heart and life.”

Pope Francis gives ashes to a woman as he celebrates Ash Wednesday Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 10.

CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis gives ashes to a woman as he celebrates Ash Wednesday Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 10.