The Mass is the most powerful prayer, and so it was with intentions for the legal protection of unborn children and the defense of the dignity of every human person that Catholics gathered at Masses surrounding the 44th anniversary on Jan. 22 of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

Two of the Masses in the diocese were celebrated by bishops: Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg celebrating the diocese’s annual Pro-Life Mass on Jan. 22 at St. Patrick Cathedral, and Bishop Edward Malesic of Greensburg – a former priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg – celebrating a Sanctity of Life Mass sponsored by the Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta at St. Joseph Church in Lancaster on Jan. 23.

Both bishops, in their homilies, encouraged the faithful to offer prayers for the defense of human life.

Bishop Gainer connected his message to the day’s Gospel reading (Matthew 4:12-23) of Jesus beginning his public ministry after learning of the imprisonment of his cousin, John.

“The women I have talked with who had chosen to have an abortion and who subsequently have found God’s mercy and forgiveness in the Church did not choose to terminate the life of their unborn child out of callous disregard for life, but because they wanted to avoid pain and suffering,” the bishop said. “To have brought their child to birth would have turned their life plans upside down and brought them suffering.

“It is human to fear pain and suffering and to want to avoid them. But because we are human, we are capable of finding meaning in suffering,” he said. “Jesus found great significance in his cousin, John’s, suffering, and at the end of his ministry Jesus would enter fully into the mystery of suffering and death and make his crucifixion the means of our redemption. When human pain and suffering are accepted in union with Jesus, our pain and suffering share in his saving work.”

“Prayer can effect change, Bishops Express at Pro-Life Masses

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Words of congratulations as well as caution emerged from political and religious leaders as President Donald J. Trump was inaugurated Jan. 20.

Pope Francis sent best wishes and prayers to incoming President Trump shortly after he took the oath of office.

“I offer you my cordial good wishes and the assurance of my prayers that almighty God will grant you wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high office,” the pope’s message said.

Saying that the human family faces “grave humanitarian crises” that demand “farsighted and united political responses,” the pope said he would pray that Trump’s decisions “will be guided by the rich spiritual and ethical values that have shaped the history of the American people and your nation’s commitment to the advancement of human dignity and freedom worldwide.”

More than 860 religious, civil rights and ethnic and immigrant rights groups urged Trump to protect 740,000 people who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA.

In a Jan. 18 letter to the new
“We believe in the power of our prayer and we believe that our actions can effect needed change in society,” he continued. “In today’s Mass – our most powerful prayer – we pray for a restoration of the legal protection of the right to life for the unborn and we are strengthened and sent to let our voices be heard in defense of the sacred dignity of every human life.”

The power of prayer was the focus of Bishop Malesic’s homily during the Sanctity of Life Mass celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Lancaster the following evening.

“Prayer does change things,” said Bishop Malesic, a native son and former priest of the diocese who was ordained as Bishop of Greensburg in July 2015. “Prayer is what motivates us and guides us and gives us the hope that what we are doing does make a difference.”

Prayers are offered for unborn children; for men and women facing unexpected pregnancies; for “a change in our social order that makes it easier for parents to choose life over death;” for the president, legislators and judges; for those filled with anger toward members of the pro-life movement; and for young people, “that they will not catch the infection of the diseased culture of death that surrounds them in so many ways,” Bishop Malesic remarked.

“What we believe about life in the womb we also believe about life outside of the womb,” he said. “Life, wherever we find it, is God’s gift to us. We must also pray for conditions to be improved for the poor. We pray for immigrants and children in tough circumstances. We pray for an end to our throwaway culture, which regards people as objects to be used and then tossed aside. We pray for an improvement of the conditions of our prisons. We must also pray to defeat those movements that want to make euthanasia legal in our state.”

Attacks on life inside of the womb directly correlate to attacks on life outside the womb, Bishop Malesic said.

“If we don’t respect that innocent life at the beginning, how do we respect life the day after the child is born, or in the days of one preparing to die a natural death?” he posed.

“Our prayers tonight are meant to change many hearts,” he told the congregation. “May our prayers magnify the good that we do on behalf of the unborn. May our prayers also diminish the effects of our sins against life. May we leave behind us a world that is more peaceful for those who live outside the womb, and most especially more peaceful for those who live inside of the womb. May God answer our prayers and make us more thankful for the life given by God, more courageous for those lives who are in danger, and more loving toward all we meet, since we are, after all, people of life who represent God’s Church and who strive to follow the example of Jesus, who welcomed the children and never rejected them.”
From the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Most Reverend Martin N. Lohmuller, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and Titular Bishop of Ramsbury, died on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 24 at the age of 97. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living Roman Catholic bishop in the United States of America.

Bishop Lohmuller was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on June 3, 1944, by Most Reverend Hugh L. Lamb. He was named an Honorary Prelate to His Holiness, Pope, now-Saint John XXIII, with the title of Monsignor on May 18, 1959, and ordained a bishop by the late John Cardinal Krol on April 2, 1970.

He died at St. Joseph’s Manor in Meadowbrook following a lengthy illness.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 1 at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. Burial was in the Cathedral Crypt.

“I was saddened to learn of the death of Bishop Lohmuller,” said Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. “Bishop Lohmuller was a man of great apostolic and personal energy. Through his many good works on behalf of the Church and Her people, he lived out his episcopal motto of ‘Love, Fidelity, Peace’ each day.”

Archbishop Chaput continued, “We are all grateful for the gift of his life and his selfless service. May God grant him the gift of eternal life and give peace to his selfless service. May God grant him the gift of eternal life and give peace and consolation to all those who mourn his passing.”

Martin N. Lohmuller was born to the late Martin and Mary (Doser) Lohmuller on Aug. 21, 1919. He grew up in the Hunting Park section of Philadelphia and attended the former St. Henry Church, where he obtained a doctorate level degree in canon law, which he obtained in 1947.

After his sophomore year at the former Northeast Catholic High School, he enrolled in what was then a minor seminary program for high school age students discerning a vocation to the Priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Following completion of the program of priestly formation and his ordination, then-Father Lohmuller completed a brief stint as chaplain at the Catholic Home in Marple Township. He was then sent to the Catholic University of America as a student-priest to pursue a doctorate level degree in canon law, which he obtained in 1947.

Upon his return to Philadelphia in 1947, then-Father Lohmuller was assigned to the faculty of the former St. James Catholic High School for Boys in Chester. One year later he was temporarily loaned for external service to the Diocese of Harrisburg as then-Bishop George Leech was in need of a Canon Lawyer for his diocesan court. That temporary assignment as a Canon Lawyer would span 22 years.

While in Harrisburg, then-Father Lohmuller was active in the life of various communities. He was the founding pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville. With the establishment of this parish, he became the first ever resident priest in the county’s history. In 1953, then-Father Lohmuller spearheaded planning efforts to open a Catholic hospital in the region. Largely as a result of his work, Holy Spirit Hospital opened in Camp Hill in 1963 in affiliation with the Sisters of Christian Charity. Today, it remains a flourishing Catholic community hospital with capacity to serve over 300 patients.

“We honor the passing of the true founder of Holy Spirit Hospital,” said Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC, retired chief administrator. “He always said he was most proud of this accomplishment—owing everything to the grace of God.”

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, he worked closely with the planning committee and the Sisters of Christian Charity to ensure the vision of a community, Catholic hospital became a reality,” Sister Romaine said. In 1970, Bishop Lohmuller was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and Titular Bishop of Ramsibia by Pope Paul VI. Bishop Lohmuller resigned as Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia in 1994 at the age of 75.

While serving near the seat of government for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania then-Father Lohmuller saw the need for ongoing dialogue between representatives of the Church and elected officials. Through his urging the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) was founded in 1958 to fill that need. He would go on to serve the PCC in various capacities and was a member of its Executive Board for 25 years.

In February 1970, then-Msgr. Lohmuller was notified by the Vatican of his appointment as an Auxiliary Bishop for his home Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Bishop Lohmuller was ordained to the episcopacy at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul on April 2, 1970. The Principal Consecrator was the late John Cardinal Krol, who was then serving as Archbishop of Philadelphia. Bishops John J. Graham and Gerald V. McDevitt, then serving as Auxiliary Bishops of Philadelphia, served as the Co-Consecrators. For his episcopal motto Bishop Lohmuller chose, “Love, Fidelity, Peace.”

Beginning in 1970 Bishop Lohmuller would work closely with Cardinal Krol on a number of major initiatives in the life of the Archdiocese until the Cardinal’s retirement in 1988. One of his early tasks was to oversee the planning and construction of the current Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, which houses the central administrative offices of the local Church. Prior to that time, administrative offices had been spread out in smaller buildings and converted homes in the City of Philadelphia. Following completion of this project, Bishop Lohmuller would play a major role in the success of the International Eucharistic Congress hosted by the Archdiocese in 1976 and the visit of then-Pope, now-Saint John Paul II in 1979.

Later, Bishop Lohmuller would oversee the founding of St. Martha Manor, the first Catholic nursing home in Chester County and serve as pastor of Old St. Mary’s and Holy Trinity Parishes in Olde City Philadelphia while tending to his duties as an Auxiliary Bishop. Bishop Lohmuller officially retired at age 75 in 1994, but maintained a busy Confirmation schedule for the next decade. He spent the final years of his retirement in quiet residence at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish in Jamison.

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As we embark on the New Evangelization, the family is our secret weapon. But not as the target for evangelization or the problem to be “solved”—rather, the family is the main protagonist of evangelization—a family on fire, a family on mission.

Join Bishop Ronald Gainer on March 15 – 17, 2017 in Harrisburg, PA as we reimagine both family life ministry and evangelization in the terms of the domestic church. Explore how the family has been the engine of evangelization in the past, and how it can become the secret dynamic for driving it into the future.

**PLINARY SPEAKERS**

**Bishop Ronald Gainer**

Dr. Margaret McCarthy

Christopher West

Msgr. Renzo Bonetti

Bill Donohgy

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**ARE OUR FAMILIES THE PROBLEM OR THE SOLUTION?**
Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist
Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Some time ago, I went to visit a friend. I had a strange and surprising encounter with one of my students. It was on a Saturday night, about a month after school had begun. I was surprised that the tallest boy in my class had a father who was a "little person." As I stood to greet him, he draped an old folding chair, placed it in front of me, jumped on top of it, looked me in the eye and announced, "I am the shade of the woman who gave birth to my son's passion for learning. He always had talent, but now, because of this, he loves it!" He went on to explain that he truly was his son's spiritual mother. Because of this, he was not able to keep the promise he had made to his son for his future. He anticipated that he should now consider himself part of his family, and, since he was no longer with us, he wanted to address him as "Dad." I could not help think of this story as we focus on the "Our Father" in the Lord's Prayer.

It seems to me that we too need to climb on a chair and view fatherhood at a different level, one that transcends the physical. For two weeks of each month, we should make our own personal "Our Father" prayer and reflect. Let me explain.

By beginning this prayer with the word "Our," Jesus honored in a theological concept that I believe, most of us pass by as we begin to pray this prayer. This word focuses on the covenantal aspect of our relationship with God and one another. This covenant created a people that is "Specially His" own.

Recently, I had a conversation with a young woman about her concept of God. She told me that when she prayed, she pictured an opening into Heaven through which her prayers ascended and God's grace descended. I asked her if she believed that God loved her, she responded, "Yes, after all He is God, right?"

The "Daddy" we pray to is a loving father. The "Daddy" we pray to is the one who sent his son to be born a woman, suffer and die for YOU? That He huggers for a relationship with YOU? That no matter what wrong you have done, can or will do, His love never changes? She responded, "Sure, He's God."

In my own experience, I have come to understand that this woman's understanding of a personal, intimate relationship with God was non-existing. She held God as a being that lived "up there" in Heaven rather than someone who entered into the "mud" of life and pushed us out of the "yucky-stick" with God was non-existing. She held God as a being that lived "up there" in Heaven rather than someone who entered into the "mud" of life and pushed us out of the "yucky-stick" with God was non-existing. She held God as a being that lived "up there" in Heaven rather than someone who entered into the "mud" of life and pushed us out of the "yucky-stick" with God was non-existing.

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Sports and Life...and Eternal Life – Part II

By Jim Gontis

Special to The Witness

Sports, among other things, always bonded my brother and me in a special way. We were pretty good kids, but not paragons of virtue, with an occasional late hit in a band football game, yelling at the top of our lungs that the other was cheating, or ducking an occasional ping-pong paddle that would be hurled in boomerang motion after a hot contested point. Without calling it virtue, I think we both worked at overcoming those things through the years, sometimes after a necessary correction by mom or dad.

After suffering tough losses in the high school state wrestling tournament, my brother and I took different paths. He stopped wrestling and headed to college, and I became a high school wrestling coach. I have a son who is a collegiate wrestler, and another who is a collegiate baseball player. Here’s a challenge: It was easy, easy to allow our passion for sports to become disordered. This can be the case when people allow sports to supplant the proper worship due to God, especially on the Lord’s Day. We owe God our adoration and worship under the virtue of justice. However, just as we are guilty to due to our bit of God’s worship is our worship, love, and adoration, at all times, but most especially on Sundays.

As parents and coaches, we must not delude ourselves and think that it is acceptable to place virtue and right thinking on the shelf, even for a moment, to accomplish our goals. We have a responsibility to our God to be good, and not be whimish when the calls don’t go our way. We should be helping to build up well-rounded boys and girls, men and women...and yes, to build up saints, beginning with ourselves.

Sports are a challenge, a teaching tool, a way to teach children to cooperate with others, to be a good sport, to be humble and grateful. As parents and coaches need to keep in mind that the kids and teenagers they are parenting or coaching are also watching and looking to them. Virtue is crucial – especially the four cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.

While sports are sometimes greatly beneficial to boys and men, we need to recognize the legitimate, God-made differences in both body and soul between the sexes. "Male and Female, He created them...equal and complimentary, but obviously different." What we mean by this is simple: The female and female should compete in against one another like wrestling, boxing, tackle football, and rugby. Sometimes there needs to be separation for reasons of modesty, sometimes for reasons of the sheer physicality, and yes, a certain degree of violence built into certain sports, whether it is a safety running full force into a wide receiver or a wrestler facing a hard cross-face or cranking a power-half against his opponent, or a boxer connecting with a right hook.

Virtue and right thinking does not take a day off simply for the accomplishment of goals.

Put another way, "a good end is not justified by immoral means." The Greeks, inventors of the Olympic Games in 776 B.C., had a saying, "Whom the gods would destroy, they first drive insane." Let us be numbered among the same and not trade virtue for a championship, a medal, or even a scholarship. TiMothy 6:12 calls us not just to fight, but to "fight the good fight of the faith."

In its previous Advent Challenge of The Witness, I mentioned the apostolate SportsLeader, aimed at building virtue through sports. https://www.sportsleader.org/2016/09/dioecese-of-harrisburg-partners-with-sportsleader It was approved and announced in July 2016 by Bishop Ronald Gainer for all diocesan high schools, parishes, and a website that has the potential to bear much good fruit in the Diocese of Harrisburg and is to be implemented in every one of our high schools in every sport, even where other good programs are also being used.

Every high school principal and athletic director at our seven diocesan high schools has received information on it throughout the year, (including information on “virtue of the week”), and every high school administrative team has had a training session in SportsLeader’s core principles. There will be more to come. SportsLeader’s aim is the evangelization, formation, and growth in the virtues of coaches and student-athletes. Some of our elementary CYO coaches have implemented this program this year. We have the potential to bear much good fruit in the Diocese of Harrisburg and is to be implemented in every one of our high schools in every sport, even where other good programs are also being used.

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The Catholic Witness
The Witness
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

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Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats in English and Spanish

Confidential Retreats for those Suffering after an Abortion

Spanish-language retreat will be held Feb. 17–19 in York
English-language retreat will be held April 21–23 in York

The program is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in the past and present, and acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion. Visit www.rachelvineyard.org for information about the confidential retreat. Come and let the healing begin.

To register for either the Spanish or the English retreat, call 717-788-4959.
E-mail vdryorkpa@gmail.com for the Spanish retreat.
E-mail undefeatedcourage@gmail.com for the English retreat.

MATTHEW 25
grant applications accepted through March 31

Grants are available for organizations that provide
FOOD, CLOTHING AND/OR SHELTER to the less fortunate within their community.

Criteria
✓ parish and pastor supported organization
✓ 501(c)(3) status
✓ located within the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg
✓ in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church

For an application:
www.hbgdiocese.org/m25

“Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”
MATTHEW 25:40

Bishop Gainer’s
Public Calendar

• February 4 – Rite of Candidacy to the Permanent Diaconate, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Mechanicsburg, 9 a.m.
• February 5 – Celebrate Mass and Mortgage Burning, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 10:15 a.m.
• February 6 – Stewardship of Mission visit to Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown, 9:30 a.m.
• February 7 – College of Consultants Meeting, Bishop Daley Hall, Diocesan Center, Harrisburg.
• February 9 – Celebrate Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Lewistown, 9 a.m.
• February 11 – Celebrate Mass for World Day of the Sick, Geisinger Medical Center, noon, and visit to Danville State Hospital, Danville.
• February 12 – Celebrate Mass and Dedicate New Building, St. Andrew Church, Waynesboro, 11 a.m.
• February 13 – Groundbreaking for new athletic stadium, Lancaster Catholic High School, 10 a.m.
• February 15 – Attend Catholic Campus Ministers Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
• February 18 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

The Gruesome Reality of Abortion

By A. B. Hill
Special to The Witness

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published a book that changed the course of American history. Her brutal depiction of slavery in Uncle Tom’s Cabin illustrated the real human cost of the defining political controversy of her time. Stowe’s tale of one fictional family’s harrowing experience with slavery is based on “a collection and arrangement of real incidents” which she describes as a “mosaic of facts.” (4 Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin, 1858)

Uncle Tom’s Cabin was an instant best-seller that brought the debate about slavery into most American homes. It changed what people knew and understood about it, and shed light on how our laws perpetuated the practice. When Americans in the North accepted the truth about slavery, their resolve to outlaw it strengthened. It was not enough to be personally opposed to slavery; they were willing to take up arms to end it.

Abortion is the defining political controversy of our time; but do we know and understand its real human cost? A recent report shows that 31,818 abortions were committed in Pennsylvania in 2015. (This is 308 fewer than in 2014.) But all but a handful of these abortions used one of three methods:

Medical/Non-Surgical. (11,314 abortions) For pregnancies up to 10 weeks, chemicals are used to end the life of the baby. A woman takes Mifepristone (RU-486) in the form of a pill at an abortion clinic. “By blocking the action of progesterone, mifepris- tone alters the endometrium (the uterine lining), induces bleeding, and causes the uterine lining to shed.” (www.medicationabortions.com) With blood and nourishment cut off, the baby dies inside his mother’s womb. One or two days later, the woman takes another drug called Misoprostol (Cytotec) which causes contractions and bleeding to expel the dead baby from the womb.

Suction Curettage. (18,908 abortions) Also known as vacuum aspiration, this method is used between 5 and 14 weeks of gesta- tion. Typically the woman’s cervix is dilated then a plastic tube “is carefully and gently inserted into the uterus and then attached to a suction, or vacuum aspiration, machine. When the machine is turned on … the contents of the uterus will be emptied … To ensure that the abortion is complete, extracted tissue is examined immediately after the procedure.” (The Abortion Resource Hand- book (1997), pg. 152) In layman’s terms, the living unborn child, now about 4-5 inches long, is forcibly sucked out of her mother’s womb. Then technicians count the arms, legs, head and torso to make sure all parts of the baby are accounted for.

Dilation & Evacuation. (1,588 abortions) This particularly gruesome method is used for later term abortions between 13 and 24 weeks. Abortions after 24 weeks are illegal. The woman’s cervix is dilated. The amniotic fluid is suctioned out first, and then the doctor inserts a sharp instrument to dismember the live baby inside the womb. The tool has sharp teeth that firmly grip the child’s arms, legs, torso, and head. One by one, the body parts are forcibly ripped off and removed from the uterus. The baby’s head at this stage is too big to pull out intact, so the doctor will crush it before pulling it out. Babies at this second trimester stage have fingerprints and toenails, and they can feel pain. Their mothers start to feel them kicking; and many babies born at 20 weeks will survive outside the womb. (abortionprocedures.com)

A new legislative session has begun in Harrisburg present- ing fresh opportunities to shape pro-life public policy. With faith,perse- verance, and the courage to tell the truth, abolition- ists in the 19th century outlawed slavery. Will citizens 150 years from now say the same about us and abortion?


Suffering from Abortion?

Reading about the brutal practice of abortion is painful for many. If someone you know suffers because of involvement with abortion, please encourage him or her to talk to a priest, attend a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, or contact the nearest Project Rachel Ministry by visiting the “Find Help” map at www.hopeafterabortion.com or calling (866) 3RACHEL. . . . And please pray that many will seek and receive the gift of God’s infinite mercy.
Refugees

Continued from 1
humanitarian aid organization. Five million of those who have been displaced have sought refuge in other countries.
In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services has resettled Syrian refugees in recent months. And, just as with those they serve from places like Nepal, Bhutan, China and South Korea, the goal of resettlement is self-sufficiency.

The program works with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which liaises with the Department of State, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to classify and vet refugees.
Case managers meet the refugees upon their arrival at the airport, and services — rooted in the corporal works of mercy and the principles of Catholic social teaching and ethics — welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless.

Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services provides an apartment with basic furnishings, clothing, English as a Second Language classes, and employment skills training.
“It is all provided with the goal of making them financially self-sufficient within three months,” said John Leedock, Director of the program’s Immigration and Legal Services component.

“Ninety percent of the refugees that we resettle are gainfully employed within those first 90 days,” he pointed out. This includes the newly-resettled Syrian refugees, whose children are in school, and the families are assimilating into life in America.
Integration is key to a successful resettlement.
“Imagine being forced to flee from your home in an instant. You don’t want to leave, but you have no other choice if you want to secure your safety and your life,” Mr. Leedock said.

“Soon you find yourself as a refugee in the United States. You have to learn English. You have to learn the ways of the culture, find a job. You can’t do those things, however, without a welcoming community to assist you.”

Refugees are resettled through Catholic Charities are fluent in English, and have held professional positions as physicians, teachers and business owners in their homeland. For them, attaining skilled job and returning to their profession is quite possible.
Yet, other refugees have known nothing but life in a tent city. They’ve never seen a car, and don’t know how a toilet works.
For them, education and integration are critical.
“Our job is to teach them about our culture, show them how things work, welcome them,” said Peter Biaucci, Assistant Executive Director of Catholic Charities.

One example of successful integration can be found in Harrisburg’s Nepalese community, resettled by Catholic Charities. They are gainfully employed and well educated. Some have opened restaurants and grocery stores, and are positively contributing to the larger community.
When communities don’t offer a welcoming situation, refugees become economically liabilities. When integration is done well, refugees become economic assets, Mr. Leedock said. “We, as receiving communities, are called to look at how we can also learn about their culture and be welcoming and supportive.

The efforts we are undertaking to help serve refugees is not foreign to the work of the Church,” Mr. Biaucci said. It is rooted in Scripture, and in the tenants of Catholic social teaching: dignity of the person, preferential option for the poor, welcoming the stranger, call to community. The Church has always taught to support the refugee, and has been a place of hope.

(Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services welcomes people who wish to support the program. Furnishings such as beds, dressers, as well as clothing are welcome. The program is also seeking volunteers who can assist in ESL classes, computer training, vocational training and legal services. For information, contact the program at 717-322-0568.)

Catholic News Service

President Donald Trump’s executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States, has brought a flood of criticism from Catholic leaders across the U.S.
Church leaders used phrases such as “demonization” and “Christianity at risk” to describe the Jan. 27 action that left ready-approved refugees and immigrants stranded at U.S. borders and the State Department of Homeland Security to rule that green card holders – lawful permanent U.S. residents – be allowed into the country.

“This weekend proved to be a dark moment in U.S. history,” Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said in a Jan. 29 statement. “The executive order to turn away refugees and to close our nation to those, particularly Muslims, fleeing violence, on religious reasons, is not only contrary to both Catholic and American values. Have we not repeated the disastrous decisions that turned away the poor and vulnerable? Do we not know that history well, for, like others, we have been on the other side of such decisions.”

The design and implementation of the ban have been rushed, chaotic, cruel and oblivious to the realities that will produce enduring security for the United States,” he said. “They have left people holding valid visas and other proper documents detained in our airports, sent back to the places some were fleeing to pray or not allowed to board planes headed here. Only at the 11th hour did a federal judge intervene to suspend the unjust action.”

“The Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States,” which suspends the entire refugee resettlement program for 120 days, bans entry from all citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries – Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Somalia – for 90 days. It also establishes a religious criteria for refugees, proposing to accept only those that are not of the Muslim faith who have been approved by the FBI to be of non-Muslim faiths.

“We are told this is not the ‘Muslim ban’ that was called for prior to the presidential campaign, but these actions focus on Muslim-majority countries,” said Father Michael McGivney, executive director of the Center for Global Justice at the University of San Francisco.

“Our job is to teach them about our culture, show them how things work, and don’t know how a toilet works. Yet, other refugees have known no other side of such decisions.”

Parish and Community Outreach Project

Catholic Charities of Harrisburg’s Immigration Legal Services provides low-cost legal services to immigrants in the Harrisburg Diocese. In the spirit of the Church’s teachings, we provide a range of services that include helping families to reunite with loved ones abroad and assisting immigrants with the naturalization process.
In partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Justice for Immigrants Campaign, we offer free community education programs to parishes in our diocese. Programs and resources are created by the Justice for Immigrants Campaign and designed to help Catholics understand immigration through the framework of Catholic social teaching.
If you are interested in learning more about starting an immigration ministry in your parish, or getting involved in this work, please contact us.

John Leedock
Director, Immigration Legal Services
Office: 717-232-0568
E-mail: J.Leedock@echbg.org

Refugee Action Blocking Refugees Brings Outcry for U.S Church Leaders

A Syrian child looks on after arriving at an airbase in 2016 in Subang, Malaysia.

The USCCB runs the largest refugee resettlement program in the United States, and Bishop Vasquez said the Church would continue to engage the administration, as it had with administrations for 40 years.

In a separate statement, Jesuit Refugee Service-USA said the provisions of the executive action “violates Catholic social teaching that calls us to welcome the stranger, and the compassion and solidarity that we would wish for ourselves.”

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We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope,” Bishop Vasquez said.

President Donald Trump signed the document at the Pentagon, said Bishop Jose S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope,” Bishop Vasquez said.

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

In his encyclical letter, God Is Love, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that “the Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable.” The Holy Father further explained that “for the Church, charity is not a kind of optional extra. It is an indispensable, mission of Catholic Charities within our diocese. Catholic Charities has been the charitable arm of the Church in our diocese for over seventy-seven consecutive years. Through the programs and services of Catholic Charities, we provide help and create hope for thousands of needy individuals and families every year. Often, those we serve are in need of the basic essentials of life: food, shelter, and clothing. The simple response we give to immediate needs and specific situations is an expression of love for our neighbor, a love that springs from our Catholic Christian faith. It is a love that is not limited to those who share our faith. The service provided by Catholic Charities is for all those in need, in imitation of the Good Samaritan. The programs of Catholic Charities are numerous and diverse, as are the many needs of the less fortunate in our midst. They are real help for homeless families: a home for needy pregnant women; a residence for women addicted to drugs or alcohol; foster parent and adoption services; individual and family counseling; alternative schools for youth who cannot function in a traditional school setting; and services for immigrants and refugees. It is amazing to consider the diversity of the work of Catholic Charities in our diocese! I wish to thank the excellent staff of Catholic Charities who are distinguished not only by their professional competence, but by their loving dedication to those they serve. With them, I also thank our volunteers, our Board of Directors, and our donors and benefactors for their participation in the charitable mission of the Church. I commend our commitment to serve the needy in our midst is not an optional part of the Church’s life. As Pope Benedict reminded us, it is part of our identity and mission as the Body of Christ in the world today. May the Lord bless our service of love and help us to be ever more faithful to our call to serve Him “in the least of our brothers and sisters.”

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

We just completed our 77th consecutive year of providing human services to the people of the Diocese of Harrisburg and South Central PA. 2015-2016 was a challenging year for us on many fronts. We made significant changes both programmatically and from a personnel perspective. These changes were required for us to remain competitive and be in concert with the changing landscape of human services in Central Pennsylvania.

We continue to evaluate our programming and service delivery and to insure that we are doing the right things right and that we remain efficient and effective in our service to our clients.

We updated our Vision and Mission Statement and completed a comprehensive Strategic Plan which will serve us well until the year 2020.

We also initiated changes to our method of electronic record keeping and billing. We changed service providers and parallel systems for a period of time.

From a purely financial perspective, we ended the year in the black for the third time in several years. This was not done without some pain and sacrifice as mentioned above but with a clear vision and a dedicated staff.

As a testimonial to our seasoned and dedicated staff and volunteers, we were able and privileged to serve nearly 3,566 individuals and provide over 129,221 client services which included items such as meals, beds, nights, counseling hours, training, pantry items, material assistance, etc. As our motto states, we “Provide Help and Create Hope!” and we proudly serve one client at a time treating each with dignity and respect.

As always, and as we have done for the past 77 years, we will continue to provide help and create hope for the most vulnerable in our society.

As Bishop Gainer, Fr. Gillilan and the Board of Directors look to support and guidance. I also wish to acknowledge the Administrative Staff and the Program Directors who as a result of their hard work and dedication to our Mission, contribute immensely to the success of the Agency. Furthermore, I offer my heartfelt thanks to all employees and volunteers of the Agency for their commitment and perseverance. They are focused on the sole goal of providing help and creating hope to each of the clients that we are privileged to serve.

I wish to thank all our donors and benefactors for their continued support enabling us to fulfill our Mission of helping those in need.

May God continue to bless us and give us the strength to forge ahead and carry out His Mission to help those who cannot help themselves. May He give us the resolve and commitment to help those in need.

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Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Row 1, left to right: Kate Downes, Lydia Thomas, Lisa Puck; Row 2, left to right: Debra Clark, Carole Klinger, Peter Basaccu, Annette Martin; Row 3, left to right: Mark Totaro, Kelly Slabonik; Missing: Chris Vandeenberg

CORPORATE OFFICERS

Row 1, left to right: Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Mark A. Totaro, Ph.D.; Row 2, Very Reverend David L. Damenuer

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Row 1, left to right: Christopher Mecham, Linda Weber, Kate Downes; Row 2, left to right: Debra Clark, Carole Klinger, Peter Basaccu, Annette Martin; Row 3, left to right: Mark Totaro, Kelly Slabonik; Missing: Chris Vandeenberg

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Row 1, left to right: Walter J. Legens most, Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer (Corporate Officer), Camille Kostavel-Cherry, Zeneria McCollins Owens (Board Secretary), David S. Gaal, John P. Pagana, MD; Row 2, left to right: Richard Bernese, Louis E. Santangelo; Row 3, left to right: Joseph F. Schatt (Board Treasurer), Maria DiSante, Rev. Daniel C. Mitzel (Board President), Very Reverend David L. Damenuer (Corporate Officer), Ron Tries; Missing: Brian P. Downey (Board Vice President), Barbara Yolyn Groce, Cathryn Irvis, Edward J. Kraus, Valerie Pritchett, Matthew Schlosser, Jeffrey Tarrock

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

77 YEARS OF PROVIDING HELP & CREATING HOPE

February 3, 2017 • Catholic Witness - 7
A copy of the latest audit report is available upon request by contacting Catholic Charities
4800 Union Deposit Road / Harrisburg, PA 17111
(717) 657-4804 / Fax (717) 657-8683

ADOPTION SERVICES
Based in Harrisburg, Adoption Services offers information for adoptive parents who
are interested in welcoming a child to their family. In some cases, the family chooses
to adopt a newborn infant while other agency clients are matched with an older child
or group of siblings engaged with the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption Network
(SWAN).

In addition, Child Preparation Counseling is offered to children preparing for
adoption. During this series of sessions, children participate in activities and exercises
designed to help him/her adjust to the adoption process by reviewing their past,
identifying and discussing feelings and concerns, and strengthening their bonds with
his/her new family.

SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE
Based in Harrisburg, Specialized Foster Care places children who have been separated
from their families by the court system into loving homes.

If a child cannot be returned home, an alternative permanent placement plan is
developed. Adoption is often times an appropriate course, and the Pennsylvania
Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) works with many foster parents to adopt their
children and provide a permanent and caring home.

LOURDESHOUSE
Located at the Saint Samuel Center in Harrisburg, the Lourdeshouse Maternity Home
provides quality services to pregnant women who have nowhere else to turn. The
program symbolizes the commitment of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg to
uphold the dignity and sanctity of all human life.

All of the residents at Lourdeshouse are provided with childbirth and parenting
classes, case management, and transportation. In addition, case managers assist
residents in obtaining employment, housing, education, and counseling. Residents
may come to Lourdeshouse at any time during their pregnancy and may remain in the
program up to eight months. Pantry items such as food, diapers, clothing, furniture,
and toiletries are also available to both residents and other women in the community
who have a child twelve months of age or younger. Services are funded in part through
the Real Alternatives Program.

FAMILY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Family Based Mental Health Services is a comprehensive program that delivers
services to children and their families in both home and community settings.

Families entering the program are at risk of having their children placed into foster
care. The goal of the program is to strengthen family relationships and stabilize the
family through therapeutic interventions. Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department
of Human Services, the program provides a team centered approach proven to be
successful in keeping families together or reuniting children with their families.
The Family Based Mental Health Services Office provide services for families in Adams
and York Counties.

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Foster Care</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - English As A Second Language</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - Employment Services</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - Gain Program</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - Tap Program</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - Resettlement Program</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - Match Program</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irs - Legal Advising Services</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Intensive Family Services</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York/Adams Family Based</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise School</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen House</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crescent Way</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Way</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Shelter</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdeshouse - Residents</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdeshouse - Babies</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Counseling</td>
<td>215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancaster Counseling</td>
<td>202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paradise Counseling</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Counseling</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,566</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
Catholic Charities Counseling is dedicated to providing access to high quality
outpatient counseling for children, adolescents, and adults in small, friendly,
confidential offices located in Harrisburg, Lancaster, York and Abbottstown (Paradise
School Facility). Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling,
and parent child counseling; provided regardless of religious affiliation. These clinics
are licensed by the PA Department of Human Services. Bilingual Spanish services are
provided at the Lancaster office.

YORK INTENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES
Based in York, the Intensive Family Services Program provides services in the homes
of families who have open cases with York County Children and Youth Services.

Through a partnership contract, Children and Youth Services refers families to the
Intensive Family Services Program. These families are in need of parenting skills,
connection to community resources, and family therapy.

Emphasis is placed upon strengthening the family in order that children can remain
in their homes or return as quickly as possible from foster care. Team members work
intensively, with multiple weekly sessions, in order to make an immediate impact upon
families facing numerous issues.

REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Funding</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service fees</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way allocation</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions and bequests</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of funds held in Trust</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Funds</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counseling services</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-home counseling services</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized youth services</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized residences</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration/refugee services</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other program expenses</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GREATER ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE FOR NEWCOMERS

Kirka is a Bhutanese national with Refugee status. He was resettled in the US after spending 21 years of his life in a refugee camp in Nepal. He fled from Bhutan in the early 1990’s and experienced hardships such as lack of food, clothes and shelter. Through all he endured he was able to complete a bachelor’s degree in Arts in Nepal. In August of 2014, Kirka and his family were resettled in Buffalo New York. After 3 months, Kirka migrated to Harrisburg in search of employment.

When Kirka came to Catholic Charities he was working full time through a temporary agency. He was looking for a higher paying job to sustain his family’s needs. He registered for advance computer training classes offered by Charities Employment Services. With his determination and good work ethic, Kirka successfully completed the training class. He accepted a job as a Receiver with a goal of becoming a supervisor and eventually a senior management position. As a result of his training he was able to upgrade his job with higher wages.

Kirka is very optimistic about the future and the endless possibilities. He is determined to succeed and sees himself as the only one who can deter him from his goals. Kirka continues working towards his goal of becoming a manager and providing a bright future for his family.

INTERFAITH SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

Located at the Saint Samuel Center in Harrisburg, the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families is the only homeless shelter in the Harrisburg region specifically serving families.

During their brief stay of four to six weeks, families work with the shelter staff on issues that may have caused their homelessness: employment, education, childcare, healthcare, transportation, and other related issues. Upon completion of the program, as many as 90% of the families achieve a stable level of housing and a better quality of life.

EVERGREEN HOUSE

Located at the Saint Samuel Center in Harrisburg, Evergreen House provides a nurturing and therapeutic environment for women recovering from the disease of addiction. The length of the program for each client is based upon the person’s individual needs and treatment plans. Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, all care is confidential and provided in both one-on-one and group settings by licensed and certified staff in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching.

Located at the Saint Samuel Center in Harrisburg, Evergreen House provides a nurturing and therapeutic environment for women recovering from the disease of addiction. The length of the program for each client is based upon the person’s individual needs and treatment plans. Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, all care is confidential and provided in both one-on-one and group settings by licensed and certified staff in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching.

Paradise School staff provides crisis intervention, supervision during lunch and break periods, social skills, education and school district coordination. In addition, the program utilizes a therapeutic environment, one in which personal growth and change takes place through positive relations between the youth and the program staff as a result of individual, group, and family therapy programming.

The program’s educational component is operated by the Lancaster Intermediate Unit 13 and is funded by contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Lancaster County, and other managed care organizations.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Immigration and Refugee Services (IRS) of Catholic Charities provides a wide range of social and educational services to immigrants, refugees, visitors and non-English speakers. The IRS services of Catholic Charities has a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual staff who are dedicated to teaching people how to help themselves.

Employment Services guides adult refugees, asylees, and other qualified immigrants to self-sufficiency through job readiness counseling, referral services, job placement, and ongoing post placement support and counseling. Relationships have been established with hundreds of businesses throughout the Central PA Region. Every effort is made to match the best client to employers to provide ongoing support to ensure job retention.

English as a Second Language (ESL) offers classes for adults in several locations throughout the greater Harrisburg area. Classes are free and are open to all adult, non-native English speakers. Morning and evening class options are available to accommodate a wide range of work and family schedules. We provide pre-literacy, beginning, intermediate and advanced class levels. Classes are taught by professionally trained teachers experienced in ESL instruction methods.

Refugee Resettlement Program offers the following services to newly arrived refugees. Pre-arrival agreements, airport reception, temporary housing, food & other basic necessities, orientation & acculturation to the United States, English as a second language classes, job placement and referrals to social service agencies. Our goal is to assist refugees to achieve self sufficiency within the first 120-180 days after their arrival. It is through self sufficiency that they can begin to fulfill their dreams of a better life of safety and security.

Match Grant Program assists eligible asylees with enrollment into this program that provides employment services. Limited financial assistance is also available for housing and utility bills.

Immigration Legal Services provides high quality immigration legal services to low income immigrants and refugees in Central Pennsylvania. In addition our staff provides public education, training and community outreach in order to promote social justice in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching.

WILLOW WAY AND CRESCENT WAY

Willow Way (located in Harrisburg) and Crescent Way (located in Lancaster) are the latest addition of services designed to serve women in recovery. Both facilities are owned and operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Both locations offer in house staff that provide support to help connect residents to counseling, manage daily operations, reinforce accountability, and support family living.

These homes are located in beautiful residential neighborhoods within walking distance to commercial areas and public transportation which is ideal for employment, shopping, and attending support meetings.

PARADISE SCHOOL

Located in rural York County, the Paradise School Program, in partnership with Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12, seeks to provide a productive learning environment while providing an academic and behavioral education.

Educational services are provided by the Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 and are staffed by certified special educators. Other staff members include an Instructional Assistant as well as a School Psychologist, Speech Therapist and Occupational Therapist as itinerant support staff.

Paradise School staff provides crisis intervention, supervision during lunch and break periods, social skills, education and school district coordination. In addition, the program utilizes a full spectrum of community resources including parks, libraries, movie theatres, skating rinks as well as frequent and ongoing utilization of the Appalachian Trail as part of their educational and therapeutic tools.

INTENSIVE DAY TREATMENT

Based in Lancaster, the Intensive Day Treatment Program serves at-risk youth from age nine to fifteen who possess significant emotional and behavioral health needs.

An alternative to residential treatment services, the program runs Monday through Friday and aims to increase anger management skills, to improve social skills, and to enhance educational achievement. The program utilizes a therapeutic environment, one in which personal growth and change takes place through positive relations between the youth and the program staff as a result of individual, group, and family therapy programming.

The program’s educational component is operated by the Lancaster Intermediate Unit 13 and is funded by contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Lancaster County, and other managed care organizations.
MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc. exists to respond to the human service needs of people throughout the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania. Catholic Charities fosters the ideals of Christ through a caring, living faith by: promoting and advocating respect for the sanctity of human life, underscoring the central role of marriage and the family in society, and providing a continuum of high-quality services to individuals, children, youth, married couples, families, and the elderly.
Jubilant Crowd Gathers in Washington for Annual March for Life

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

Tens of thousands of pro-lifers filled the grounds near the Washington Monument and marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 27 as both a protest of legalized abortion and a celebration of successful pro-life efforts across the country.

In years past, the March for Life — which takes place on or near Jan. 22 to mark the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that legalized abortion virtually on demand — has been almost a battle cry for the uphill and constant fight faced by those in the pro-life movement hoping for more abortion restrictions and ultimately an end to abortion.

This year’s March for Life, under mostly sunny skies and 40-degree weather, was decidedly more upbeat, in part because of the presence of the vice president himself.

Pence was the first time a vice president attended the rally. Pence, who has marched at the event before as a participant, addressed the March for Life rally in person.

“Life is Winning in America,” Vice President Tells March for Life Rally

Pence told the crowd: “This is a time of incredible promise for the pro-life and pro-adoption movement,” she said.

“Your courage, your conviction and your faith are impressive and consequential,” she told the crowd.

Pence’s wife, Karen, introduced her husband. She noted this March for Life was not the first for the Pence family; they have attended the event for the past 16 years, “but it is the warmest,” she joked. By midday, the temperature in Washington was in the low 40s. Previous marches have taken place in frigid temperatures. Last year’s was affected by a blizzard.

Karen Pence said of her husband that she had never met anyone “who has more compassion for women, for children and for the American people. He is one of the kindest people that I know.”

Before Pence spoke, Kellyanne Conway, special advisor to Trump, took the podium.

“I am a wife, a mother, a Catholic, a counselor to the president of the United States of America, and yes, I am pro-life,” Conway said. “It is such an honor to stand with the vice president of the United States and so many leaders, families and students from places near and far today.”

“Your courage, your conviction and your faith are impressive and consequential,” she told the crowd. “This is a new day, a new dawn for life. Why are we here? What does it mean to stand together to be part of this incredible movement, to face criticism, ridicule, and laws and lawmakers against life?”

Pence said of the march: “This is a message of love,” she said. It was a message written with a black marker: “Respect all women, born and unborn.”

Many of the march signs were pre-made placards with messages such as “I am pro abundant life” or “Defund Planned Parenthood” and “I am the pro-life generation.”

The city of Washington, fresh from the inauguration crowd and the women’s march held the next day, seemed prepared for this march.

On the Metro, when two older women asked a young woman for directions and pointed to the group with signs that they wanted to join, the woman looked up from her phone and asked if there was a protest today.

“I’m the March for Life,” one woman said. A few seconds later she added: “It’s not a protest; it’s more of a celebration.”

Some noted that the march had a distinctly different tone than the Women’s March on Washington six days before.

Two women who stood on the sidelines with some of the few handmade signs at the march, described themselves as feminists and said they found the pro-life march more positive and less angry.

“This is a message of love,” said Bridget Donofrio, from Washington, holding aloft a poster-board sign with words written with a black marker: “Respect all women, born and unborn.”

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CNS/TYLER ORSBURN

A pro-life advocate holds a sign Jan. 27 during the annual March for Life in Washington.

CNS/YURI GRIPAS, REUTERS

A child rests as U.S. Vice President Mike Pence speaks during a rally at the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 27.

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A child rests as U.S. Vice President Mike Pence speaks during a rally at the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 27.
Pro-Life Leaders Praise House Vote on Hyde Amendment

**Catholic News Service**

U.S. House passage of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, also known as the Hyde Amendment, permanently bans the use of federal government funds for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. The measure passed 238-183 on Jan. 24. In a statement, President Donald J. Trump indicated before the House vote he would sign the measure if it comes to his desk.

The 2 million figure Smith and Tobias cited comes from a report issued late last year by the Charlotte Lozier Institute, a conservative research group. The report estimated the number of illegal abortions performed in the United States from 1976 to 2019, the year before the Trump administration's new Hyde Amendment policy was implemented.

President Donald J. Trump was praised by pro-life leaders for his support of the Hyde Amendment. The 45th president, who is a Presbyterian, offered congratulations on Trump's inauguration and said that the partnership between the two countries built throughout history is "essential to our shared prosperity and security."
The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will host a Prayer Shawl Retreat Feb. 25 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. In addition to time for prayer, knitting/crocheting, fellowship and lunch. Take advantage of this opportunity to come together and share your handiwork, parsleying, sharing stories and enjoying one another's company. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Ay at 717-664-7079 or lorelle@377-7375-7551.

The Mass in Polish language will be celebrated Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laborie Church in Harrisburg. Confessions will be heard 30 minutes before the Mass.

A Rosary Rally celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions is prayed the third Saturday of each month at 9:15 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in York. The rally is led by Father Anthony Swamy, pastor. Please contact Mary Ann Ay at 717-664-7079 or lorelle@lorelle@377-7375-7551.

The Haiti Mission Committee of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community is planning a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the weekend of September 1-9, 2017. The pilgrimage will be led by Father Steven Fauser on a trip that includes traveling to Israel, Egypt and Jordan. More information can be found at www.georgesintl.com.

You can be assured that your pilgrimage is planned with the utmost care to ensure your safety and enjoyment. All information here is based upon current knowledge of events in the Middle East. Conditions in the area are subject to change at any time and flight departures may be delayed or canceled. Georges International Tours endeavors to provide the most current information but does not guarantee the accuracy thereof. In case of a flight cancellation or rerouting, every effort will be made to provide substitute flights, if available. Should it be necessary to change flights, additional fees may apply.

You are encouraged to visit their website at www.georgesintl.com or call 717-272-2169 ext. 222.

The Spiritual Offerings

Day of Prayer is an ecumenical celebration of informed prayer and worship music begins at 6:30 p.m. Father Anthony Swamy, pastor, will be the celebrant. Please contact Mary Ann Ay at 717-664-7079 or lorelle@lorelle@377-7375-7551 for more information.

Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 12 p.m. Holy Mass. The Mass is sponsored by the Pilgrims of Praise with Father Anthony Swamy, pastor. Please contact Mary Ann Ay at 717-664-7079 or lorelle@lorelle@377-7375-7551 for more information.

A retreat for teens in grades 8-12, “It’s God. I’m Back” and “When We Grow Old,” will be held on March 25 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. The retreat is a perfect time to get ready to re-discover young graces in the company of our Lord with and without other young adults. For more information, contact your Catholic Campus Ministry/Newman Club or the office of the Father Superior at 717-209-1628 or cath@stmaryllanigan.org.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

You are invited to join Father Steven Fauser on a Pilgrimage to Poland and the Czech Republic from September 15-23, 2017. Contact Father Fauser at 717-737-6428 ext. 222 for more information.

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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.

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Robert Brubaker, Joan Joyce, Patricia Watson.


CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: James Thomas Clark, Julienne C. Forget, Thomas Leon Harrelson, Steven Joseph Kovacs, Jr., John Michael Worhach.

COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Edward Landi, Charles Sutsko.

ENOLA – Our Lady of Lourdes: Blaine Pennington.

FAIRFIELD – Immaculate Conception BVM: William Mooney.

GREENCASTLE – St. Mark: James Clark.

HANOVER – St. Joseph: Grace P. Brady, Ethan Lee Butz, Robert O. Gerkin, Hugh “Red” Klunk, Mary Ann Williams; St. Vincent de Paul: Jeffery Dell.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Kenneth Dietz, Jr., Netty Upegrove; St. Francis of Assisi: Julio Colon Cruz; St. Margaret Mary: Jane J. Graff, Felicia Mika, Gerald O’Donnell, James Prencipe.

HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Mildred Ortenzi.

KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Martha Savitski.


MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: Dorothy C. Shemonski.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Margaret Graci, James Michael Sipe.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Leonard Cybulski.


YORK – St. Joseph: Rita Lucia, Cynthia Morrison; St. Patrick: Jean Criste.

 Sister M. Rosamund Dupak

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Sister M. Rosamund Dupak died at Emmanuel Center in Danville on Jan. 14. She was 96.

Born in Exeter, Pa., she graduated from St. Cyril Academy in Danville and earned a bachelor’s degree from Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., and a master’s in drama from Villanova University. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville in 1939.

Sister Rosamund was involved in the ministry of education in parish schools in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. She was the superior and principal at St. Columba School in Bloomsburg from 1971-1979. In 1980, she was elected to the Leadership Team of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and served as assistant to the General Superior until 1984. She then returned to St. Columba School and taught fourth grade until 1988.

She helped to begin a Golden Age Club for the elderly while in Olyphant, Pa., helped to direct the Religious Education program at Sacred Heart Parish in Peckville, Pa., and taught at St. Cyril Academy and Andrean High School in Indiana. Sister Rosamund served as Administrator at Maria Hall in Danville from 1994-1998, and retired there in 2012 before becoming a resident of Emmanuel Center.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 20 at Maria Hall in Danville. Burial was in the sisters’ cemetery there.

REMEMBER our Deceased Clergy

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

Msgr. Walter Shaufl, 1992
Deacon Stephen Banks, 1996
Father Paul Miller, 2004
Father Philip DeChico, 2006
Msgr. Lawrence Overbaugh, 2008
Father Brian Conrad, 2011
Deacon James Sneeringer, 2011
Father Joseph Hilbert, 2014
Father Louis P. Ogdin, 2015.

Annunciation Student Wins Leadership Contest

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Shippensburg is proud to announce that Nathaniel “Nate” Smith, a fourth grader, was chosen as a winner in the 2016 “How Are You a Leader?” poster contest sponsored by The Ned Show.

Nate’s design was chosen from over 2,000 entries, representing four countries, to be the winner of the 4th grade category. Nate’s drawing demonstrates how he is a leader in his life. Nate said that as a leader, he is “. . . kind to people and I help people. I never give up. I encourage others.”

Nate was presented with a certificate at a recent school liturgy and will be receiving a NED prize pack in the future. Nate is the son of Ms. Angela Rick, a resident of McSherrystown. The Ned show is presented by All for KIDZ, and focuses on character education for school students.

Bishop McDevitt Swim Team Participates in National Championships

The Bishop McDevitt High School swim team recently participated in the 81st National Catholic High School Swimming and Diving Championships held at Loyola University of Maryland. This was McDevitt’s first time attending. Top swimmers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., were represented at the meet. Competing against some of the best swimmers in the Mid-Atlantic region, Bishop McDevitt’s team had several athletes make it into finals.

Sophomore Josiah Lauver took second place in the 100 back, breaking the school record with a time of 51.36. Lauver also set new school records in the 50 Free (21.81) and the 200 Free (1:45.01) and was a member of the 200 Free and 200 Medley relays.

Senior Jenna Clancy also set a new McDevitt record in the 100 Free, taking 8th place with a time of 55.59. Jenna placed 12th in the 50 Free and was a member of the girls’ Medley and Free relays.

The boys’ 200 Free relay team of Josiah Lauver, Max Blake, Mason Roadcap and Jonathan Mata claimed 6th place and broke yet another McDevitt record with a time of 1:29.60.

Other team members making it to finals (top 8) included: Boys 200 Medley Relay – Jonathan Mata, Zack Miller, Matt Yoffie and Josiah Lauver 7th place; Girls 500 Free – Claire Finnerty, 8th place; and Girls 200 Free Relay – Nicole Augustine, Claire Finnerty, Emily Dempsey and Jenna Clancy, 7th place.

Assistant coach Addie Lauver said, “I was very proud of the kids’ performance both in and out of the pool. They represented Bishop McDevitt in a very mature and positive manner. It was nice to be a part of an event where athletes are brought together through their faith.”

St. Theresa’s Basketball Team Takes to Court at Mount St. Mary’s

The St. Theresa Boys Basketball program in New Cumberland had an exciting opportunity to participate at Mount St. Mary’s University recently during the men’s NCAA collegiate contest with St. Francis of Loretto, Pa., which the Mount won, 78-72. During halftime, St. Theresa’s Boys’ Novice I Gold team played in front of a full house in Knott Arena, in an experience they are sure not soon to forget. Following the men’s college game, the Varsity Boys team played a regular season league contest against Sacred Heart of Hanover in the arena, which the St. Theresa Saints won 54-37.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-821-2222 or email: Report Abuse @hbgdiocese.org.

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

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Margaret Graci, James Michael Sipe.
Harrisburg’s Catholic Worker House Marks 20 Years of Mercy in Action

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Clustered among a line of brick row buildings in Harrisburg’s Allison Hill, the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Worker House stands as a beacon amid the suffering and brokenness that can besiege those who live in the neighborhood, deemed among the largest pockets of poverty in central Pennsylvania.

The house – one among a block of dilapidated and abandoned buildings two decades ago – today shows its age and wear, but what it might lack in curb appeal, it more than makes up for in its mission and its impact on the area’s residents.

Here, the corporal works of mercy flow. “We plug ourselves in to the needs of the people of Allison Hill, put mercy into action,” said Naeed Smith, the manager of the Catholic Worker House and a familiar face around its Market Street locales, working to be a neighborly presence.

“The need is overwhelming – poverty, drugs, violence – but we try to do what we can with the resources that we have,” he told The Catholic Witness.

The house is an outreach of the Catholic Worker Movement, an effort begun in 1933 by journalist Dorothy Day and philosopher Peter Maurin, who published The Catholic Worker newspaper to promote justice and mercy.

The movement is committed to the life and dignity of every human being, and to nonviolence and works of mercy. “Houses of Hospitality,” like the Catholic Worker House in Harrisburg, have developed from the movement as a means of sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for those with addictions.

Today, there are 228 Catholic Worker Houses around the world. “We put ourselves into the community’s situations of suffering and brokenness, to work to affect change,” Mr. Smith said.

He’s been a part of the Catholic Worker House since its inception in the mid-1990s. Its roots stem from the efforts of Father Daniel Misrachi, former pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, which is located directly across the street from the house. With the parish’s longstanding daily soup kitchen and the earnest efforts of a few men in recovery from addiction, the house quickly became a place of help and hope.

The block at that time was two-thirds abandoned and a derelict lot, with a second abandoned building littered with deserted cars, mattresses and liquor bottles. The properties would eventually be purchased by the city of Harrisburg, and a government project assisted with the block’s rehabilitation.

On Nov. 3, 1996, the Catholic Worker House was officially dedicated on the feast of its patron, St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639), who lived his life meagerly to care for the hungry and the ill in his home of Lima, Peru.

In its ministry, the Catholic Worker House has been a place of welcoming resettled people from Catholic Charities’ Immigration and Refugee Services, and has also worked to deliver unsorted produce from a local farmers’ market to residents of Allison Hill.

Through a Greenbelt Initiative, the house adopted the abandoned lot, transforming it into a green space with flowers, trees and a bench for respite – a reminder of the call to care for creation.

The house itself continues to offer a safe space for men who are recovering from addiction or who were recently released from prison. In order to stay there, they are required to either have a job or work in service for the house. Recently, a resident began renovation of one of the last two derelict properties on the block, and he also does minor repair work for homes in the neighborhood.

A doctor lived at the Catholic Worker House for a year and a half to introduce a “Cure Violence” program, teaching conflict resolution skills.

Others involved in the work of the house have participated in prayer vigils in response to violence in the city, and are involved with the Pax Christi peace movement and the cooperative Interfaith Alliance in Harrisburg.

Since the establishment of the house 20 years ago, a number of faith- and community-based operations have set up services on the block in an effort to revitalize the community. These ministries include the Josh-ua Group and Learning Center for Youth, which supports at-risk youth through educational and vocational opportunities; the Silence of Mary Fund, which provides a family environment and services for those in need; the Shalom House, a temporary shelter for women and children; and Egidio House for men in recovery or coming out of prison; the Common Ground, which offers breakfast and community house; and Heart of the Community Church, which offers dinner on a routine basis.

The various groups have been working together in a type of shared ministry for the neighborhood and its people.

“Allison Hill is the largest pocket of poverty in central Pennsylvania, and thus an area of great need,” said Rick Woodard, Board Chair of the Catholic Worker House.

Eleven years ago, he established the Allison Hill Fund, which helps support the efforts of the ministries there.

“Before the fund, we were 11 faith-based groups in ministry, but we didn’t have a connection. Now, we meet quarterly to connect, offer referrals and share services like free computer classes and help with housing and food,” Mr. Woodard said.

While it has helped eradicate poverty and violence in Allison Hill, we have had success with feeding the hungry, providing furniture and getting people out of gangs and graduating from high school,” he said.

The shared ministry of the Allison Hill Fund has helped the Catholic Worker House to continue its mission of mercy, Mr. Smith remarked.

“It’s a network of looking out for one another and witnessing to what we’re called to be as a society, especially for those who are most vulnerable in our communities,” he said. “We need to be a voice for the vulnerable and the people on the fringe of society – those who live in poverty, those who are discriminated against, those who suffer from addiction.”

Living and serving at the Catholic Worker House is a vocation for Mr. Smith, who was first attracted to the Catholic Worker Movement while studying at the University of Cambridge and theology and spirituality at King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

“When you’re called to a vocation, you receive a grace...you do not have to be Jonah and wash up on the shore,” he said.

“Incarnating the reality of what’s going on in the world is what the Catholic Worker House is all about,” he said.

(For information on the efforts of the Catholic Worker House and how to help, contact the house at 717-831-2642. For additional information on the international Catholic Worker Movement, visit www.catholicworker.org.)

Mark Your Calendars for Parish Encuentro!

In anticipation of the upcoming Diocesan Encuentro, we are offering parish presentations as part of the call to all Catholics to formation, missionary activity, leadership development, and identification of ministerial “best practices.” We want to support you in Faith and the Mission of the Church, so please plan to make it one of these presentations:

• Sunday February 12, 2017 at Immaculate Conception of the BVM Church, Berwick (beginning with Mass at 12:30 p.m.)
• Thursday March 16, 2017 at San Juan Bautista Church, Lancaster at 10:30 a.m.
• Friday May 19, 2017 at Immaculate Conception of the BVM Church, Berwick (beginning with Mass at 12:30 p.m.)
• Saturday May 13, 2017 at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Harrisburg at 10:30 a.m.
• Saturday March 18, 2017 at San Juan Bautista Church, Lancaster at 10:30 a.m.
• Saturday April 29, 2017 at St. Peter’s Church, Gettysburg at 10:30 a.m.
• Monday May 22, 2017 at St. Peter’s Church, Gettysburg at 7:30 p.m.
• Saturday June 17, 2017 at St. Francis Xavier Church, Gettysburg at 10:30 a.m.
• Sunday July 23, 2017 at St. Peter’s Church, Gettysburg at 10:30 a.m.

For information on the efforts of the Catholic Worker House and how to help, contact the house at 717-831-2642. For additional information on the international Catholic Worker Movement, visit www.catholicworker.org.)

¡Marquen sus calendarios para el Encuentro Parroquiano!

En anticipación del próximo Encuentro Diocesano, ofreceremos presentaciones parroquiales como parte del llamado a todos los católicos a la formación, a la actividad misionera, al desarrollo del liderazgo y a la identificación de las mejores prácticas ministeriales. Queremos dar apoyo en tu fe y Misión de la Iglesia, así que por favor planea llegar a una de estas presentaciones:

• domingo 12 de febrero de 2017 en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Berwick (comenzamos con Misa a las 12:30 p.m.)
• sábado 18 de marzo de 2017 en la Parroquia San Juan Bautista, Lancaster a las 10:30 a.m.
• sábado 13 de mayo de 2017 en la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, Harrisburg a las 10:30 a.m.
• sábado 17 de junio de 2017 en la Parroquia San Francisco Javier, Gettysburg a las 10:30 a.m.
• sábado 22 de julio de 2017 en la Parroquia de San Juan Bautista, Lancaster a las 10:30 a.m.

Todas las presentaciones serán en español y están abiertas a todos. Para más información, visite www.hbgdiocese.org/hispanicministry, o llame a Jackie a (717) 657-4804, ext. 313.
The celebration of Holy Mass, wishes for prosperity in the new year, festive dance and music, and traditional food ushered in the festivity of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, at St. Anne Parish in Lancaster Jan. 29, as the Vietnamese Catholic community there gathered for what is considered to be the most important celebration of their culture.

"Tet is a very important occasion because it combines everything culturally into one celebration," said Father Tri Luong, pastor of St. Anne’s, which, in addition to Sunday Masses in English, is also home to a Sunday afternoon Mass in Vietnamese that draws upwards of 250 worshipers each week.

Ministry to the parish’s Vietnamese members includes the celebration of the sacraments, marriage preparation and an RCIA program in their native language, as well as a youth group of nearly 30 members that meets weekly. Sacramental preparation for young people preparing to receive first Holy Communion, make first Penance and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is offered in English so that the young people interact with their peers in the parish, Father Luong pointed out.

“Ministry to Vietnamese Catholics is very important, and I am glad that it can be offered here,” Father Luong said. “We offer the sacraments in Vietnamese because the first generation does not speak the English language, and we want them to live their faith.”

“I have seen situations of people who do not come to Mass when it is not celebrated in their own language, and as a result, their spiritual life is diminished,” he added. “When a person’s spiritual life is diminished – especially in a Vietnamese family – it impacts the entire family, not just the individual.”

During the celebration of Tet on Jan. 29, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the 1 p.m. Mass (after celebrating the regular 10:30 a.m. Mass there in English). The readings and songs were given in Vietnamese. Bishop Gainer offered his homily in English, and Father Luong translated it to the congregation in their native language.

In his homily, the bishop encouraged the congregation to live the Beatitudes that Jesus announced in the day’s Gospel reading (Mt. 5:3-12A).

“Jesus is the very truth that he teaches. He is the Lesson, the Word made flesh,” the bishop said.

“These blessings, these Beatitudes that he is announcing, are not saying ‘Try hard to live like this.’ They are saying that people who surrender to the power of God’s grace can live like this already; they should be happy and celebrate,” he said.

The Beatitudes, Bishop Gainer said, “are a summons to live in the present in a way that will make sense in God’s promised future.”

“In this Eucharist, we are in communion with Christ, our master teacher. In Christ, we have communion with one another,” he told the congregation. “Let us ask Jesus, who is our sanctification and redemption, to give us the grace we need to understand what he teaches us, and to live what he shows us in the Beatitudes.”

Above: A choir leads the congregation in singing the opening hymn during Mass in the Vietnamese language at St. Anne Church in Lancaster.

Left: A Vietnamese lion and children dressed in traditional attire were part of the Tet festivities at St. Anne Parish in Lancaster Jan. 29.