First in the Diocese, First in the Country: Annunciation School is STEM Ready

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

At Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in McSherrystown, students are thinking outside of the box. And in some cases quite literally, using recycled boxes for STEM projects.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and is a new era of study using critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that is being introduced to schools around the world as well as those here in our diocese.

Annunciation was recognized this past December as the first school in the country to earn the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools Program of Distinction in STEM.

“Annunciation BVM School takes seriously our commitment to prepare students both spiritually and academically for what awaits them after high school and college,” said Principal Patricia Foltz. “We are thankful that Middle States has recognized our STEM program as a Program of Distinction, which is an affirmation of our efforts to educate the whole child to be prepared for what awaits them after high school and college.”

More STEM, page 10

Pro-life Pilgrims Stuck on Highway Find Fellowship, Blessings

By Jessica Trygstad
Catholic News Service

Catholic youths from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis were among those stuck on the Pennsylvania Turnpike overnight on the way home from the annual March for Life in Washington.

And they had stories to tell that include attending an impromptu roadside Mass complete with a snow altar.

“Each trip has something in it, but this one will be hard to forget,” said Jack Dorsey, a chaperone from St. Pius X Parish in White Bear Lake, Minn.

The Minnesota buses carrying about 130 people left Washington after the march Jan. 22, but didn’t beat the storm that slammed much of the East Coast. At 8 p.m., they came to a stop on the Pennsylvania Turnpike – about 100 miles east of Pittsburgh, and hunkered down for the night. Traffic was at a standstill after a tractor-trailer jackknifed near a mountain tunnel and snow continued to accumulate on roads before the accident was cleared.

Bill Dill, from the archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life, said the group had plenty of snacks and fuel, but several people ventured out the next morning to get water. That’s when they noticed many buses from the march and stuck up conversations with fellow pro-life advocates, many of whom were Catholic.

“You can imagine the fraternity among these people,” he told The Catholic Spirit, the archidiocesan newspaper.

While meeting up with others also stuck on the road, Dorsey met a priest from the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, who suggested they have a Mass.

Students already were playing in the snow, so Dill and Dorsey asked them to make an altar, which was no small feat in the powdery snow.

The students from Epiphany Church in Coon Rapids, Minn., used pro-life signs from the march as shovels and then packed the snow for the altar so it wouldn’t collapse. Once complete, they also laid the signs across the altar so that nothing would tip over. Using sticks, they made a cross to place against what they dubbed “John Paul the Great Hillside Chapel.”

“No one diocese had everything they needed to have a Mass. We didn’t have a priest or hosts, but we had the inspiration,” Dorsey said. “Omaha had vestments, but not a Mass kit. It all came together within an hour. You could see and feel that the spirit was there.”

Dill and his wife, Tiffany, walked along the roadside inviting people to Mass, which was celebrated by Father Pat Behm from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, and concelebrated by at least six other priests. Dorsey estimates about 600 people from a handful of states attended.

“People just started filing in. It was really cool to look on both sides and see people just streaming in to come to Mass,” said Dorsey, who offered his umbrella during Mass to protect the Eucharist from the snow. Pat Miller, high school faith formation director at St. Michael in Prior Lake, Minn., played music.

Before the Mass, Dill said one of the priests notified the local diocese, Al-

More PRO-LIFE, page 7
Pope: Live Your Faith during Lent, Perform Works of Mercy

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

Lent is a time of conversion and a time to deepen one’s faith, demonstrating and sharing it through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, Pope Francis said.

“Faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit,” the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins Feb. 10 for Latin-rite Catholics.

Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming strangers, offering instruction, giving comfort — “on such things will we be judged,” the pope wrote in the message, which was released at the Vatican Jan. 26.

Particularly during the Year of Mercy, he said, Catholics are called to recognize their obligation to feed God’s mercy, the greatness of God’s love seen in the death and resurrection of Christ and the obligation to assist others by communicating God’s love and mercy through words and deeds.

“The root of all sin” is thinking that one is god, something often expressed in a total preoccupation for accumulating money and power, the pope wrote. And just as individuals can be tempted to think they have no need of God, social and political systems can run the same risk, ignoring both God and the real needs of human beings.

“Love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness,” Pope Francis wrote. It is the only response to the longings “that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches.”

“The danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor,” he said, “the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is hell.”

But through acts of mercy and charity, “by touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering,” he wrote, “sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need.”

“In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited,” he wrote. “In the spiritual works of mercy — counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer — we touch more directly our own sinfulness.”

In the Christian life, Pope Francis said, “the corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated.”

Cardinal Francesco Montenegro, president of Caritas Italy and head of the archdiocese that includes the Italian island of Lampedusa, told reporters at a Vatican news conference that the pope’s message, like the Bible, “does not stop simply at recognizing the fact that there are in this world many poor people and separated.”

As part of Cor Unum’s celebration of the Year of Mercy, he said, it has developed materials for a retreat day for people engaged in Church charitable activity. The materials are online – www.corunum-jubilee.va – and can be adapted for use by a group, a parish or a diocese.

Lenten Guidelines Focus on Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

The traditional Lenten practices of piety, fasting, almsgiving and other forms of self-denial are recommended by the Church.

The faithful observance of Lent should manifest itself especially in the imitation of Christ in daily life and in the readiness to sacrifice time and talents whenever possible in personal, parish and community efforts for those in spiritual or material need. The spiritual hunger of the unchurched locally and whenever possible in personal, parish and community efforts for those in need.

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The cardinal said that from his own experience as archbishop of Agrigento, he has seen how people’s faith and joy have grown and become contagious when they not only go to Mass, but also volunteer to assist the thousands of migrants who land on Lampedusa’s shore seeking safety and a better life for their families.

Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso, secretary of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the office that promotes and coordinates Catholic charity, told reporters that Pope Francis wants to help Catholics rediscover the traditional corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which seemed to have been left on the shelf with dusty old books. Maybe, he said, “it was no longer fashionable” to preach about the daily actions of believers or maybe “our ecclesial practice has become quite institutionalized and politicized.”

“The works of mercy are a very simple, concrete, direct, alive, daily, easy, accessible-to-all way of living the Jubilee of Mercy,” he said. “The works of mercy describe what we as Christians can actually do every day, and that is why I find them so fascinating.”

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Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal Commitment Sunday, 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 than 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.”

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Annual Appeal Letter

Prison Ministry Mass, Celebrant, Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer.
Tom O’Neill Begins Role as Director of Marriage & Family Ministries

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Tom O’Neill has joined the Diocese of Harrisburg as Director of the Office of Marriage & Family Ministries, and began his position on Jan. 4.

Originally a native of Syracuse, N.Y., Mr. O’Neill has an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia and a master’s degree in Philosophy of Religion, Theology and Ethics from the University of Chicago.

Mr. O’Neill served as the Assistant Director & Marriage Preparation Coordinator for the Office for Family Life at the Diocese of Arlington for six and a half years. While there, he managed programs in marriage preparation serving 1,200 couples per year, as well as programs in marriage enrichment, men’s ministry, and evangelization. He created the diocese’s men’s conference, growing it from 330 to 1,100 men, and established a fall men’s retreat and a men’s ministry newsletter. He also worked in evangelization efforts, including creating a debate series on apologetics called “The Devil’s Advocate.”

Mr. O’Neill has also worked for the March for Life Education & Defense Fund and, prior to studying for his master’s degree, was the Executive Assistant to the Provost & Chief Operating Officer at the Washington National Cathedral. His service there included work on the memorial service for the seven astronauts killed in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003, and the state funeral for President Ronald Reagan in 2004.

As Director of the Office of Marriage & Family Ministries, Mr. O’Neill oversees programs in marriage preparation including God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage, Catholic Engaged Encounters, and Natural Family Planning instruction in both English and Spanish. He also works with programs in marriage enrichment including Retrouvaille, a program for couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage, and Beginning Experiences for those suffering from the loss of a spouse through separation, divorce or death.

The Department of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Harrisburg is accepting applications for the Principalship of Trinity High School located in Camp Hill. Trinity currently enrolls 535 students from 13 surrounding public school districts in grades 9-12, predominantly from the west shore of the Susquehanna River, adjacent to the city of Harrisburg. As a Catholic school, Catholic identity is based on the integral role we play in the Church’s mission to proclaim the Gospel, build faith communities, and promote service and outreach in mercy thus extends here at home and abroad.

The first priority within most family life ministries is marriage preparation, and secular scientific research has shown that people who participate in a marriage prep program have a significantly lower chance of divorce,” Mr. O’Neill said. “Familiy is at the center of society. It’s at the center of most people’s faith life. It’s where we are originally formed.”

The role of the Office of Marriage & Family Ministries is to assist families in their desire for God, Mr. O’Neill said. “For a lot of families, the faith is something between a heritage that they received from their parents and something they do sometimes on the weekend. It’s not necessarily at the center of their lives or what drives their decisions and values,” he remarked. “Yet, there is a re-awakening to the faith” he said. “There is a growing movement of putting faith back at the center of family life and taking a more purposeful look at the faith. Who we are, who we are as a family, you see marriages that are stronger, families that are stronger. The Good News is that Christ and the faith are true, and the more that people give themselves over to the Truth, the better things will be.”

As he begins his ministry here in the diocese, Mr. O’Neill is taking time to assess all of the family ministry programs and their potential for continued growth, and he is hoping to visit as many parishes as possible.

“I hope to establish relationships throughout the diocese, not only with the programs that we have in the office, but with all of the parishes and pastors,” he said. “I hope that our priests understand that we really want this office to be an energetic and willing partner with the parishes, and that we’re active and enthusiastic about supporting the families in their parishes.”

Mr. O’Neill and his wife, Crystal, are the parents of Anastasia, 4, Damien, 2, and Alexandra, who is due in mid February. They are members of Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg will have its annual “Soup Salad and Sermon” Lenten Lunch on Tuesday, February 23 at 12:00 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. This informal event is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy lunch and to learn about the important ministries provided by our agency. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the guest speaker.

There is no charge for the lunch, although a freewill offering will be taken to support the Immigration and Refugee Services Legal Advising Program. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Christopher Meenan at 717-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeenan@cchbg.org.

Shepherds Parish in Camp Hill.

Diocese Thanked for Contributions to Collection for Church in Latin America

Father Robert M. Gillett, Jr., Diocesan Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, recently received a letter of thanks from Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo, M.Sp.S., Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle and Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, for the $39,526.50 that the people of the diocese contributed to the 2015 Collection for the Church in Latin America.

In his letter, Bishop Elizondo noted that in 2015, the subcommittee was able to award more than 400 grants totaling more than $6.5 million. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the collection, which was taken up in parishes and families throughout the diocese — along with a collection for the diocese — to aid the Church in central and eastern Europe and in Africa — in January.

“As we embark on this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I ask that you continue to support this collection and encourage your parishes to do the same,” Bishop Elizondo wrote. “Such support becomes a way for the faithful in your diocese to show their solidarity with and to participate in an act of mercy for those who live on the margins in this region of the world. Our solidarity and outreach in mercy thus extends here at home and abroad.”
Pope: Patch up Family Feuds, Forgive, Let Go of Painful Past

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Let the Year of Mercy be the time to end all family feuds, to forgive each other and let bygones be bygones, Pope Francis said.

“I think about so many brothers and sisters who are estranged from their families; they don’t speak to each other,” he said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square Jan. 27.

“This Year of Mercy is a good occasion to meet up again, to embrace each other and forgive each other, to leave bad things behind,” he said.

The pope continued a series of talks dedicated to divine mercy, looking specifically at how God has always been faithful and merciful toward his people.

God never ignored the Israelites’ cry of suffering and he sent Moses as a “mediator” on his behalf to free his people and lead them to salvation, the pope said.

“We can do this work, too, during this Year of Mercy, of being mediators of mercy with works of mercy” that bring people together, foster unity and offer people comfort and relief, he said. There are “so many good things people can do.”

“Mercy can never remain indifferent before the suffering of the oppressed, the cry of those who are exposed to violence, reduced to slavery, condemned to die,” he said.

Such suffering has existed throughout history, including in today’s world, he said, and that can often make people feel “helpless, tempted to harden their hearts and think about other things.”

God, however, is never indifferent, as he always fixes his gaze upon those in pain and intervenes by helping people become aware of and involved in the lives of those who suffer and are oppressed, he said.

In remarks to pilgrims from Iraq and other nations in the Middle East, Pope Francis again highlighted that God is not deaf to the plight of those facing “injustice and persecution.”

God always “intervenes and gives, with his mercy, salvation and assistance,” the pope said. “He practices patience with the sinner in order to bring about conversion and he seeks the lost until they return because he ‘wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.’”

“May the Lord bless all of you and protect you from evil,” he said.

The pope also invited Catholic individuals and groups who are involved in charitable service to take part in a day of spiritual retreat.

Individual dioceses will be sponsoring such events during Lent, he said, and he asked people to take advantage of the special occasion to reflect more deeply on God’s mercy and become more merciful.

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 717-788-4995
In Doylestown April 22-24 – Call Evelyn at 215-317-5752

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

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Receiving The Catholic Witness electronically is a great way for college students and people who live outside of the diocese to stay in touch with the Church in Harrisburg. It’s also an alternative for those who wish to read the paper online instead of receiving a copy in the mail.

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And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org.
CRS Rice Bowl Inspires Catholics to Do More with Less at Lent

From Catholic Relief Services

This Lent, as they have for four decades, millions of Catholics around the United States will place a colorful cardboard box and calendar in their homes to begin a spiritual journey that changes lives around the world.

They will be participating in the 41st year of CRS Rice Bowl, a program with an effect that goes far beyond the funds it raises for those who need support and services in communities throughout the United States and overseas.

For Catholic families, the “CRS Rice Bowl Effect” begins conversations about Lent and their faith, about the role of charity, and about the many different people who make up our world family. For Catholic parishes and schools, it unites communities for Lenten faith reflection around the spirit of serving those in need and the good work of the Church around the globe. And for those who benefit from its charity, the “Rice Bowl Effect” is a key to a better life.

“Rice is something truly wonderful about the impact CRS Rice Bowl has on our Catholic community and on the people we serve,” said Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of U.S. Operations for Catholic Relief Services (CRS). “What we are calling the ‘Rice Bowl Effect’ unites us as a faith community in the service of helping others. It links us to our brothers and sisters around the world through stories, recipes, reflections, and prayer. And best of all, this effect can be an experience that starts with the very young and extends throughout our lifetimes.”

Rosenhauer noted that in this Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, CRS Rice Bowl opens a special door for Catholics to learn more about – and participate in – the works of mercy done in their name by CRS, the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

“For CRS, the preferential love for those oppressed by poverty is at the heart of our work,” said Rosenhauer. “This year, we have helped improve the lives of millions of people in over 100 countries, work that began when we helped refugees during World War II. CRS Rice Bowl plays a significant role in making sure we are ready and able to do such work, the good news, the merciful story of our Church.”

Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs such as community gardens, food pantries, soup kitchens, support groups, and job centers. The remaining 75 percent goes to support CRS’ humanitarian programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

But the “Rice Bowl Effect” goes far beyond the money raised. CRS Rice Bowl provides an expansive collection of resources for families, teachers, catechists, and ministers for the entire Easter season.

For each of the six weeks of Lent, there is a recipe and a story from a different country, focusing on a family or individual – lives that are being changed for the better by a CRS program. Each story illustrates a principle of Catholic Social Teaching, and makes the connection between the gift of service and our faith – the “what” with the “why” of charity.

Many of those stories and recipes will be featured here in The Catholic Witness.

Since its start in a parish in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a response to the famine in the African Sahel region in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has evolved into a national response to hunger around the world, used by over 13,000 Catholic schools and parishes during the season of Lent.

In its 41 years, CRS Rice Bowl has lifted generations of people out of poverty through the programs it supports. An orphaned child in a small village in the West African country of Ghana, Thomas Awiapo was lured to school by the smell of food. By satisfying his hunger, he found a love for learning and went on to college and graduate school in the United States.

The feeding program in the school Thomas Awiapo attended was supported by CRS Rice Bowl. In an amazing twist of fate, Awiapo, with a master’s degree in public administration, became an employee for CRS. Today, he and many of his former classmates who ate the CRS Rice Bowl food have successful careers in civil service, teaching, medicine, and humanitarian service.

Each Lent, Thomas Awiapo comes to visit Catholic schools and parishes across the U.S. and share his story of how the “Rice Bowl Effect” turned into the face of God for him.

“You can call me the poster child for CRS Rice Bowl, but we’d be closer to the truth if you called my children your poster children,” he says. “They have never experienced hunger in their lifetime, and today they are all in school. My eldest daughter is on track to be a medical doctor. They are a perfect example of how the ‘Rice Bowl Effect’ continues on and on.”

CRS Rice Bowl is rooted in tradition but designed to be used in the context of our modern lives. In addition to a full collection of print and online resources for educators, parish leaders and parents, there is a CRS Rice Bowl app for iOS and Android mobile devices.

“The app is a great way to keep Lent close at hand,” said Rosenhauer. “It has the full collection of our videos, stories and reflections plus some built-in social media functions and an easy way to set a goal for your Lenten sacrifice and track it. Close to 33,000 people have loaded the CRS Rice Bowl app by the end of Lent last year.”

CRS Rice Bowl materials are available in print, on the web at www.crsricebowl.org, and through the mobile app and in English and Spanish. Follow CRS Rice Bowl on Twitter — @CRSRiceBowl and #4Lent4Life — and like CRS Rice Bowl on Facebook.

Feeding the Faith: CRS Story of Hope ~ Option for the Poor

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides us as we live and work in the world. In this principle, Option for the Poor, Jesus calls us to care for those who are most in need. He reminds us of our Christian duty to give a voice to those who are unheard and to help those who are most vulnerable.

The program, run by the local university and CRS’ Borderlands project staff, trains young people to become leaders in the coffee industry. During her first semester, she learned from staff as they traveled to farms, teaching growers new ways to plant and harvest.

Coffee, which Maria knew nothing about before starting the program, is now her favorite subject. She’s even traveled to Seattle, Washington, to attend a conference on specialty coffee.

“It is in my blood,” she says. “Coffee is so much a part of everyday life – not just for me and my family, but globally. It’s not just a plant or something you drink, it brings people together.”

Now she has a new career goal: to help neighboring coffee farmers make a living growing the best coffee possible.

Try our featured recipe from Colombia: Cheese Empanadas with Beans.

### Empanadas de queso con frijoles

**Cheese Empanadas With Beans**

Recipe from Colombia: Makes 6-8 empanadas

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 1/2 cups corn flour
- 2 T vegetable shortening
- 1 T baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup queso fresco
- 1 T butter
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 T olive oil

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Crisp the empanadas and serve with beans.

1. In a large bowl, mix the corn flour, vegetable shortening, baking powder, salt, milk, queso fresco, butter, cilantro, onion, and olive oil.
2. Heat oil in a pan. Cook each side of empanada until browned. Remove from pan and place on a paper towel to absorb the extra oil. Repeat with the remaining pieces of dough.

**Beans**

- In a separate pan, sauté the onion and bell pepper in oil. Add the beans and currants; heat until warm. Garnish with cilantro.
Do Not Be Indifferent to Abortion

By A.B. Hill

Special to The Witness

The Pennsylvania abortion report was released last month with little note. The number of abortions in Pennsylvania in 2014 is about the same as the year before: 18 more for a total of 32,126. Statistically speaking, people may shrug their shoulders and think that’s neither good nor bad. Things stayed the same, so what.

Pope Francis warns us about falling into indifference to those in the outmost fringes of society during this Jubilee of Mercy: “Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us walk off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!” (Misericordiae Vul- nau, No. 15)

Instead of shrugging our shoulders, we should step back to consider what those abortion numbers mean. It is not a count of “services provided.” It is 32,126 children whose lives were extinguished this year. They are different boys and girls than the 32,108 unique individuals who were aborted the year before. That is a lot of human beings who were denied their dignity.

In this Year of Mercy, resolve to do more to bring about the Culture of Life in the world around you.

• Donate time, money, or resources to a local crisis pregnancy center.
• Pray at an abortion clinic for all those who are facing unexpected pregnancies, or look into sidewalk counseling.
• If you have a friend who is facing an unexpected pregnancy, take her to a movie, or get her nails done, or even just out for ice cream. Let her know that you are there for her.
• If you know a man who is facing an unexpected pregnancy, encourage him to accept responsibility and support his child and the baby’s mother.
• Pray the Rosary for families who receive a pre-natal diagnosis and may be pressured to choose abortion.
• Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper in defense of life or weigh in with comments on an article online.
• Have the courage to share your views on social media.
• Contact your elected officials and urge them to vote pro-life. You can use the Catholic Advocacy Network at www.pacatholic.org to easily send an e-mail.
• If we work together, we will break down the barriers of indifference and build a Culture of Life! (The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catho- lic bishops and the Catholic dio- ceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up- to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www. facebook.com/pacatholic, and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.)

March Marks 43rd Anniversary of Decision Legalizing Abortion

By Kurt Jensen

Catholic News Service

Catholic admonitions about inclusion mixed with strong political language before the March of Life got underway Jan. 22 in Washington.

At a Jesuit-sponsored Mass for life at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church that morning, Father Paddy Gilger’s homily reminded a small group of students that because Jesus made an effort to be inclusive when he chose his disciples, they, too, should be respectful of others’ opinions.

“As we join in the fight against the scourge of abortion, our differences remain, and that’s OK,” he said.

Father Gilger also told the students to combine prayer and penance to create a culture of life.

“Our efforts are to be able to create the same amount of space for people to change their hearts,” he said.

Later, at the March for Life rally at the Washington Monument, attended by nearly 50,000, Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard who is running for the Republican presidential nomination, stuck to her standard political stump speech.

She drew loud cheers with her claim, “You can bet that I will win this fight against Hillary Clinton.”

Fiorina reminded the audience that the next president “will have the awesome responsibility to pick up four Supreme Court justices who will decide issues of life and religious liberty. Make no mistake here: gentlemen and ladies, this election is a fight for the character of our nation.”

Silent symbols of religious liberty got a roar. A group of Little Sisters of the Poor who work for the order’s nursing home in Washington, DC, were introduced.

“The order’s nursing home in Washington drew a sustained ovation when they were introduced,” it said.

“Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us walk off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity!”}

Catholic News Service
Bishop Zubik Calls Pro-Lifers to ‘Connect the Dots’ on Life Issues

By Mark Patterson
Catholic News Service

David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh urged Massgoers preparing to rally in Washington for the annual March for Life to “connect the dots” linking all manner of life issues.

At a prayer vigil at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Zubik invoked his fifth-grade teacher, Sister Mary Richard, who “taught me how to be a pro-lifer.”

The nun “did it in an interesting and an unexpected way,” he said. “If you have any hopes of getting to the sixth grade,” he remembered her saying, “you’d better know more than just the Hail Mary. You’d better know the prepositions” — at which point Bishop Zubik reeled off a string of prepositions in alphabetical order, from “above” to “with.” “Needless to say,” he added, “I made it to the sixth grade.”

But prepositions, he said in his homily during the Mass, “give sentences their meaning.” He encouraged Marchers “to ask ourselves if we is called by God to be prepositions in life.”

Bishop Zubik said that while people engage in fasting, often interpreted as giving up something valuable to them, God has no interest in that. Instead, the bishop added, one has to go to the root of the word “sacrifice” — in Latin, sacrum facere — make holy.

The way to do that, Bishop Zubik said, is to “connect the dots of life concerns as prepositions connect the key words and phrases in a sentence.”

“Go and take part in the sacrifice in 2016 takes on its own flavor,” he said, “to make holy all of life, by connecting the dots to every single person,” from the unborn to the born to the elderly, to those “suffering from human trafficking” and those “exploited by pornography,” and “to the unemployed and the underemployed, looking not so exploited by pornography," and "to the unemployed," he said, "to make holy all of life, by connecting the dots to every single person," from the unborn to the born to the elderly, to those "suffering from human trafficking" and those "exploited by pornography," and "to the unemployed and the underemployed, looking not so exploited by pornography," and "to the unemployed," he said, "to make holy all of life, by connecting the dots to every single person," from the unborn to the born to the elderly, to those "suffering from human trafficking" and those "exploited by pornography," and "to the unemployed and the underemployed, looking not so..."
**Moments of Mercy**

By Chris Heisey  
_The Catholic Witness_

Seldom did merciful acts occur in the American Civil War. “Some of you young men think that war is all glamour and glory,” wrote one soldier to his wife, “but let me tell you, boys, it is all hell,” Union General William Tecumseh Sherman said to his men who fought under him in Georgia and South Carolina late in the war. “War is cruelty;” he went on, “and there is no use trying to refine it. The crueler it is, the sooner it will be over.”

Every battle in the Civil War was cruel and bloody. Many battles featured moments when the killing was fearfully done as lines of battle were only yards apart. Seeing the whites of your foe’s eyes happened in this war where nearly 700,000 died.

There were bloodier battles than the clash at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December 1862. Yet arguably none was more gruesome. While the battle occurred along a five-mile front, the main carnage occurred just outside of the town along a large rounded hilltop dubbed Marye’s Heights that featured a distinct mansion named Bromptown. Below that stately mansion, where a prominent Virginian political family named Marye resided, was a stone wall destined for historical fame.

Dug in behind that wall were General Robert E. Lee’s Confederates from Georgia and South Carolina. The 24th Georgia was an Irish regiment whose ranks were filled with Catholics who mercurially shot down Irish Catholics in the Union Army’s Irish Brigade who were ordered to attack the impregnable position. In a war filled with suicidal charges across sloping open ground, the assault on Marye’s Heights ranks as the most suicidal charges across sloping open ground, the assault on Marye’s Heights ranks as the most suicidal.

As the sun set on December 13th, the Union dead and wounded so littered the ground that Confederates wrote in the diaries that they could have walked on bodies for a half mile into town without having their feet touch the ground. And for insult to the injured, the warm December day turned sharply colder as night fell and a frigid polar front blew through the Central Virginia town located halfway between Washington, D.C., and Richmond.

Just a day earlier, many of those Union soldiers pillaged and ransacked the town’s homes when they crossed the Rappahannock River on ponies and drove the meager resistance Lee had just a day earlier, many of those Union soldiers pillaged and ransacked the town’s homes when they crossed the Rappahannock River on ponies and drove the meager resistance Lee had had in their wake.

Confederates waited for the Union army to attack again. But no attack would come. Stuck between the two lines were thousands of freezing and dying Union soldiers. Sticking your head up meant certain death as snipers on both sides picked off any sign of life.

Soldiers on both sides amidst the sniping heard the incessant pleas from the Yankee wounded.

“Water, water, God’s sake, water!” rang out, as the temperatures continued to plunge. Any attempt to provide aid was met with a fusillade of bullets.

Twenty-year-old Sergeant Richard Rowland Kirkland of the 24th South Carolina could not stand the pathos of this killing field any longer. Positions besieged Confederate soldiers to provide water to the dying Union Irish boys.

“General, I can’t stand this,” Kirkland said. “Kirkland!” the general replied, “Don’t you think we should grow too fond of it?”

“If you will let me, I am willing to try it,” the young sergeant said.

As he lay dying, one of his comrades gave him a shawl, to ask if he could take water to the dying Union Irish boys.

“General, I can’t stand this,” Kirkland said. “Kirkland!” the general replied, “Don’t you think we should grow too fond of it?”

“If you will let me, I am willing to try it,” the young sergeant said.

“I will not refuse your request, trusting God may protect you,” General Kershaw told him.

“You are a watching man, sir,” Kirkland said, as he bounded over the wall with full cantines in tow.

The Union soldiers below opened fire immediately as the daring Kirkland dashed to and fro amongst the dying wounded. One Georgian watching remarked that the bullets were so thick that not even a bird could survive the fire.

Soon the Northerners ceased firing as they realized what the brave young man was doing. He raised a hapsless head and poured water into the grasping mouth until he had to retrieve more water from a nearby well. Many could not believe the moment of mercy Kirkland was freely giving to an enemy that just hours before was ransacking innocent civilian property. “Such deeds as this,” one watching Yankee wrote, “are the redeeming features of war.”

Troops on both sides began cheering and Kirkland was dubbed the Angel of Marye’s Heights for his profoundly admirable act of mercy. As darkness fell, the Northern Lights or Aurora borealis danced across the star-studded skies with streaks of green and red waves of lights. It was an awesome sight, for this phenomenon is rarely witnessed so far south. Was this a sign of God’s mercy, as southern soldiers saw it, or a show of Divine sadness at the sad folly that marked this tragic winter battle?

Ten months later, Sergeant Kirkland was leading an assault in another terrible battle along the banks of Chickamauga Creek in northern Georgia when he was struck by a Yankee bullet. As he lay dying, one of his comrades gave him a drink of water as he said, “I am done for, so save yourselves! Tell my Pa that I died right.”

Author’s Biographical Note: The best account of the Fredericksburg Campaign is by Francis Augustin O’Reilly entitled: The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock. Another more classic book is Rappahannock: The Fredericksburg Campaign written by Edward Stackpole - a self professed Civil War aficionado who lived in Harrisburg in the mid 20th Century. The civic minded historian wrote prolifically about the Civil War in the 1950s and 60s. George Rable’s 2012 published Fredericksburg: Fredericksburg is a terrifically crafted though hefty narrative which touches on all aspects of the momentous campaign in the fall and winter of 1862-63.

_CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS_  

_The Moment of Mercy Monument sculpted by Philadelphia artist Terry Jones in 2001. The Monument pays tribute to Kirkland in front of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg._
Consecrated Men and Women Provide ‘Sterling Example’ of What it Means to Follow Christ, Bishop Says at Mass to Close Special Year

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

During a diocesan Mass to mark the close of the Year of Consecrated Life celebrated throughout the universal Church, Bishop Ronald Gainer expressed his gratitude for the “Yes” that consecrated men and women answered to God’s call in their lives and for the example of love that they show. “You give to all of us a sterling example of the sequella Christi, the following of Christ,” the bishop said his homily during the Mass, celebrated Jan. 31 at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill.

The Mass recognized religious order priests, brothers and sisters, lay associates of religious orders, and members of secular institutes.

Pope Francis announced the Year of Consecrated Life – celebrated from Nov. 29, 2014, until Feb. 2, 2016 – “to make a grateful remembrance of the recent past” while living “the present with passion” and embracing “the future with hope.”

“I invite every Christian community to experience this Year above all as a moment of thanksgiving to the Lord and grateful remembrance for all the gifts we continue to receive, thanks to the sanctity of founders and foundresses, and from the fidelity to their charism shown by so many consecrated men and women,” the pope wrote in his message to introduce the year. “I ask all of you to draw close to these men and women, to rejoice with them, to share their difficulties and to assist them, to whatever degree possible, in their ministries and works, for the latter are, in the end, those of the entire Church. Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them.”

Addressing consecrated men and women, he said he was “counting on you ‘to wake up the world’, since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy.”

As men and women religious, their lay associates, and members of secular institutes gathered for the diocesan Mass, they expressed joy in coming together from various congregations and communities but still as part of the one Body of Christ to witness to the Good News.

There are ten communities of religious men and 15 communities of religious women serving in parishes, schools and various apostolates in the diocese, as well as those living eremitical life, those in consecrated virginity, members of secular institutes and lay associates of religious orders.

“It has been good to be recognized this year, to highlight our orders so that people understand the work that we do and hopefully become more open to religious life in its various forms,” Brother Michael Rubus, OFM, Cap., told The Catholic Witness. “I think we’ve all been so humbled by the gratitude that people have shown us as consecrated men and women.”

Brother Michael, who ministers in pastoral care at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, served as one of the readers for the Mass, along with Sister Carol Marie Walsh, SSCM, who serves in campus ministry at Trinity High School in Camp Hill Religious order priests consecrated the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer recognized “how the gift of consecrated life in the Body of Christ – the Church – is a clear sign and embodiment of agape, the love which Christ has shown us.”

“In this self-forgetting, selfless, disciplined modeling of Christ, you give the example of what all of us, all of the baptized, should aspire to in order to meet a fuller following of Jesus Christ,” he said.

“We give thanks today for all of you,” Bishop Gainer remarked. “May this year not be the end of that gratitude, but may we in the Church continue to be grateful to God and continue to pray for you, your works and your communities.”

Prayer Shawl Retreat
Hosted by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
February 20 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Please mark your calendar now and plan to join other women from our Harrisburg Diocese for a few special hours including Mass, prayer, knitting / crocheting, fellowship and lunch! We warmly invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to come together and share your handwork, touching stories and the thank you notes you received from recipients of prayer shawls created for comfort and caring in this beautiful ministry. You are most welcome to attend even if you are a beginner and would like to be part of this time of fellowship and sharing.

Please bring any prayer shawls and patterns you wish to display. We will add the patterns to our Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women website at http://hdbcw.webs.com/prayer-shawl-ministry.

While the program is free, advance registration is required. Please call Kathy at 448-8899 or Deb at 514-8815 to reserve your space or e-mail your reservation to them at kakoko120@comcast.net or mvdb01@verizon.net. Deadline is Saturday, February 13.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In his homily, Bishop Gainer recognized “how the gift of consecrated life in the Body of Christ – the Church – is a clear sign and embodiment of agape, the love which Christ has shown us.”

“In this self-forgetting, selfless, disciplined modeling of Christ, you give the example of what all of us, all of the baptized, should aspire to in order to meet a fuller following of Jesus Christ,” he said.

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STEM

Continued from 1

pared to follow his or her dreams and share in the incredible opportunities that a STEM career can provide them.”

The school first introduced STEM curriculum about two years ago, and it is utilized at every grade level, including kindergarten. A STEM Fair has replaced the traditional science fair, opening projects to all different subjects. Students are encouraged to reach out to professionals in the community and collaborate with them on their projects. These projects can vary from speaking to a veterinarian to working with an anesthesiologist, designing tools that can assist them in their profession.

The students are also involved in STEM Fridays, and the after-school club, TechGiriz. This after-school program is conducted by local STEM business professionals and offered to girls [soon to boys too] in grades 5-8 to learn about electronic circuits, programming constructs and the basics of Raspberry Pi. Students in grades K-4 have an after-school program, Bricks for Kids. And students in grades 4-8 can participate in Lego League after school. Bricks for Kids encourages students to bring their own bins of Legos or other building tools to create together, while Lego League is a little more complex, using problem-solving skills and a computer to help build a solution.

Also integrated in the school’s science curriculum for grades 4-8 is Advanced Science. This program from Gettysburg College is offered completely free of charge and offers students resources such as microscopes and geological lab tools, as well as a professor from the college to visit the school and introduce the topic of study to Annunciation students and teachers.

School-wide STEM projects are used throughout the year to bring students of all grades together. The older grades are placed with the younger grades to not only help the younger students but also learn skills on giving instructions.

“The older students learn how do you help them but not do it for them. It helps the older ones to learn how to show or guide without saying, ‘I’m going to do it for you,’” Mrs. Foltz pointed out. Teachers are encouraged to collaborate together on their curriculums so the students can see how STEM works in each field of study. But most importantly, every student is involved.

“This is a program that is not just for the gifted or a few individuals; it’s for everybody so we can take them from where they are and have them increase and expand from where their current skills are,” Mrs. Foltz said.

“I’m researching other schools who are doing similar things, and I want to visit some of the places and find out if they are doing something different that we are not doing that will work for us because we can always learn from each other,” she said. “Which is a part of the STEM idea, not only critical thinking and problem solving, but what resources can you come up with to use.”

Now that Annunciation has received the accreditation from the Middle States Programs of Distinction, the school will have more opportunities to take STEM studies to the next level. They will continue to use critical thinking and problem-solving in their classrooms but also encourage their students to use it in their interactions with each other.

Mrs. Foltz pointed out how important STEM study has become through the school. “I think it validates the school, that we are using 21st century skills of critical thinking and problem-solving that will prepare the students to be successful and give them the opportunity to be the best they can be. One of the mottoes I implemented this year is ‘Seeking Excellence.’ How can we do what we are doing better, how can we be the best that we can be. Not only as school and as a staff but the students. Not only in their academic work, but in their Christian values, their behavior, their interactions with others.”

For more information on the STEM program at Annunciation, visit www.abvmschool.org.
St. Joseph School in Danville Welcomes Bishop Gainer in Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Kicking off Catholic Schools Week on Feb. 1, the students, faculty and staff of St. Joseph School in Danville had much to celebrate – welcoming Bishop Ronald Gainer to celebrate Mass for the weeklong national commemoration, and marking the 125th anniversary of their school.

Catholic schools across the diocese and the country observed Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 31-Feb. 6. This year’s theme, “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service,” focused on the important faith-building, academic and societal contributions provided by a Catholic education.

In welcoming the bishop to St. Joseph’s, Principal Vincent Fayock told The Catholic Witness, “I really want our students to see how holy yet down-to-earth our bishop is, and how he cares about children and Catholic education. I want them to see how important it is for our local Church to have a leader like him.”

In welcoming the diocesan shepherd to their school, St. Joseph students served the Mass as altar servers and choir members, and then invited him into their classrooms for visits.

“Our Christ centered mission is to educate the whole child; mind, body and spirit. I feel that these truths that are fundamental to our educational process are what motivate parents to choose Catholic schools for their sons and daughters,” Bishop Gainer said.

“One of our core education philosophies is that the parents are the primary educators of their children. Teachers are a partner with the family, cooperating in the educational process.”

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg educate approximately 11,000 students. Links to our schools may be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/.
In the Autism Endorsement Program. Due to the rapid increase of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, the Diocese of Harrisburg partnered with Neumann University to provide a four course (12 credit) Autism Spectrum Disorder Endorsement that focuses on appropriate assessment and research-based strategies with an emphasis on skill development and behavioral modifications for students of all ages who have been diagnosed with the autism spectrum.

Livia Riley, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, said, “I am so grateful for the support of the Instructional Support Advancement Committee. With their dedication and commitment, the diocese can continue to assist our Catholic professional educators with appropriate resources and professional development to enhance learning for our special needs students.”

That new classroom at St. Leo the Great provides a certified special education teacher and a full time aide to meet the needs of the students by making accommodations and modifications to the diocesan curriculum.

Approximately 50 interested persons attended the initial fund-raising event sponsored by the committee in May of 2015, and through their great generosity, raised just over $500,000. Those funds were used to establish an Instructional Support Curriculum at St. Leo the Great School, which began in September 2015 and serves 18 students, some of whom may not have been able to stay in school without this new program. Money raised also helped defray the cost of tuition for 14 teachers within the diocese who enrolled in the Autism Endorsement Program.

The ISA Committee is dedicated to continue each year in its annual fund-raising efforts to ensure that more students are given the opportunity to receive a Catholic education in our Catholic schools. Chairperson Julie Abel explains: “The ISA Committee believes that all children deserve the opportunity to receive a Catholic education, and we as Catholics have a moral obligation to create, promote and oversee a venue for this. We understand that this endeavor will take a ‘leap of faith’ and great courage within our Catholic community, especially among our pastors, principals and teachers. We are committed to leading this effort with the utmost faith, prudence and integrity, assisting our Catholic schools and supporting the words of Pope Benedict XVI: ‘No Child should be denied his or her right to an Education of Pope Benedict XVI: ’No Child should be denied his or her right to an Education in faith, which in turn nurtures the souls of a nation.’”

For more information about the Instructional Support Advancement Committee, or if you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Julie Abel at jaa-bel@comcast.net.

If you would like to support this ambitious effort, financial donations can be made to the St. Leo the Great Instructional Support Classroom or to the Autism Endorsement Program. Contact Julie Abel at jaa-bel@comcast.net to learn how you can help.

Instructional Support Advancement Committee members, from left: Julie Abel, Christine McLean, Livia Riley, Karen Roehm, Tammy Mitchell, Father Peter Hahn, Kendel Hincheny, Alan Schwartz, Pamela Cingle, Sister Dorothy Wilkinson, and Candace Abel.

Lenten Retreat Day for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Saturday, March 5
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

9:30 a.m. ...Registration and Refreshments
10 a.m. ....Workshop/Activity
12 p.m. ......Lunch
1 p.m. .........Small Group Activity
2 p.m. ..........Prayer Service

Deacon Bill Fleming will be the retreat presenter. He is the Director of the Office of Disabilities Ministry in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He holds a Masters Degree in Special Education from Johns Hopkins University, is a board member of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, and coordinator of the Special Religious Education Program at St. John the Evangelist Church.

The retreat is free of charge, and lunch is included. RSVP by February 26. To register, contact Kate Neri at 717-657-4804, ext. 317, or kneri@hbgdiocese.org.

Save the Date!

Partners in Faith Formation of Children with Autism and Other Disabilities

Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Presenter: Deacon Larry Sutton, Director, Pre-Theology Formation, St. Vincent Seminary

Author, How to Welcome, Include and Catechize Children with Autism and Other Special Needs
Catholic Agency on Front Lines
Helping Flint Residents with Water Crisis

By Cari Ann DeLamieuure-Scott

Catholic News Service

Following the discovery of lead in the city of Flint’s drinking water, relief organizations have been working day and night to provide safe water to those living and working in the Michigan community.

Standing at the front of the battle is Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties in the Lansing Diocese. The agency that provides assistance to people in need, including counseling, substance abuse treatment, foster care and adoption services.

Vicky Shultz, CEO of Catholic Charities, said the health and safety issues continue to be a “major crisis,” and the organization is distributing bottled water and gallons of water, as supplies allow, to families and individuals in need. Community members across the diocese are urged to provide aid in the form of donating cases or gallons of water, water filter kits and replacement filters, or monetary donations.

“We are already dealing with poverty [and] huge unemployment in the city of Flint, and now we have water that’s not suitable to drink.

“The first population [affected] we know is babies. So when people come to our Community Closet asking for diapers … we’re making sure that everyone who leaves who has a child has the gallon jugs of water,” she said.

Lansing Bishop Earl A. Boyea said the city of Flint “has undergone many trials in recent years.”

“Often, its people have faced the temptation to lose hope, to surrender to despair. The water crisis again presents that temptation, but again the answer must be to find strength in the love of God and the support of men and women of good will,” he said in a statement.

“In this Year of Mercy,” he continued, “I also urge Catholics, and all people of goodwill, to continue praying for the people of Flint. With prayer and fasting, let us call down the power of God on this city.”

In April 2014, when the city was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager, a decision was made to switch the city’s water supply from Detroit’s supply to the Flint River to save money.

According to the Detroit Free Press and other news accounts, the water from the river contains eight times more chloride than Detroit’s water and that the chemical, which is corrosive to metals, ate away at old lead-lined service pipes that connect to residents’ homes. It allowed lead to enter people’s water supply because officials put no controls in place to prevent that from happening.

Last fall, Schultz said, Catholic Charities, which is in the heart of Flint, knew the city was facing problems because the water not only changed colors, but smelled foul.

“We were being told … everything was safe,” she said, adding that because of what residents were told, they continued to use the contaminated water to make drinks and food, increasing their exposure to lead.

Residents also were exposed to chemical byproducts, E. coli and Legionnaires’ disease in the water. In mid-October, Flint reconnected to the Detroit water supply. About 95 percent of Flint’s residents live in poverty; the average household income is $25,000.

The three soup kitchens run by Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties served more than 185,000 meals last year alone, according to Chrissy Cooper, the agency’s development specialist.

“It’s something I don’t think anybody expected it to be as big as it is now,” Cooper said, referring to the water crisis. “Now, we’re trying to understand all the conse- quences, and I don’t think we have yet quite grasped everything that’s going to come out of this problem.

“We want to make sure people who want to donate know how thankful we are and the people who need the water know how to get it,” she said.

People’s March for the Feast of St. Joseph

Holy Name of Jesus Church

The agency that provides assistance to people in need, including counseling, substance abuse treatment, foster care and adoption services.

FBI chief Andrew Arena also will join the effort. They have been working with the city and the Salvation Army to help pay citizens’ expensive water bills. Prior to learning about the lead, the agency also was assuring hundreds of clients and employees that the water was safe.

“I think we’re just very disappointed that somebody really didn’t figure this out. It took a doctor having to do a blood test,” she added.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency for Genesee County Jan. 5, and on Jan. 12, Snyder activated the National Guard to assist with distributing supplies at established water resource sites in the city.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has launched a probe of Flint’s water crisis. On Jan. 25, he announced he has named a former prosecutor, Todd Flood, as special counsel for the investigation and that retired FBI chief Andrew Arena also will join the effort. They believe that any Michigan laws were violate- d in the process that created a major public health crisis for Flint residents.

According to Shultz, the number of phone calls from people wanting to help has increased, but so have the number of calls from concerned clients.

“We’re all children of God, and we’re supposed to look out for one another,” she said.

Symposium on Catholic Social Teaching
Saturday, March 19 • Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Sister Donna Markham, OP, Ph.D., Former Priorress 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.

Workshop topics and presenters include:

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
  - John Leedock, M.B.A., Director of Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Services
  - Father Daniel Mitzel, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in York
  - Antonio Cube, National Manager, Justice for Immigrants
  - Campaign, USCOC office of Migration Policy and Public Affairs

- Affordable Health Care and Religious Freedom
  - Hillary Byrnes, Esq., Assistant General Counsel for the USCOC
  - Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC, President and CEO of Holy Spirit Health System
  - Joseph Trecchia, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Holy Spirit Hospital

Ecology and Peace Father Francis’ Encyclical
- Father David Dannenker, Ph.D., pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster

Faithful Citizenship
- Joelle Shea, Director of Outreach and Assistant Director of Communications for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

End of Life Issues
- Rich Connell, Esq., Attorney with Ball, Murren & Connell
  - Sister Clare Christi Schiefer, OSF, President of the Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association

Parish Social Action
- Ellie Hanna, Ph.D., Member of the Diocesan Commission on Catholic Social Doctrine

The Dignity of the Human Person
- Father Paul Schenck, Director of the Diocesan Respect Life Office

Youth Involvement in Social Justice Programs
- Mary Beth Ireland, Mid-Atlantic Relationship Manager at Catholic Relief Services
Heavenly Mysteries: Science, Faith, Intersect at Astronomy Workshop

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

Every time Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno looks through a telescope, he finds himself viewing a piece of a 4-billion-year-old meteorite that found its way to Earth, he says he’s exploring a mystery that spans both science and faith.

Not only does the Detroit-born director of the Vatican Observatory work with a team that explores the immensity of the universe, but he finds that his discoveries lead him to continue asking questions that cannot be answered.

“The idea of entering into the mystery and dwelling with it is what Christianity is, presents a hard thing to sell to people who are looking for a simple yes or no answer. So, how is no hard and simple answer,” he told a group of 25 people gathered for the Vatican Observatory’s second Faith and Astronomy Workshop Jan. 13 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Ariz.

The mystery that is God and the related questions about creation, like why and how life exists, and the origins of the universe, all add up. During the workshop at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in the Arizona desert.

The participants themselves were not necessarily seeking full answers but were looking for ways to help the children and adults with whom they minister ask questions that allow them to enter into the mysteries and uncertainty that both faith and science entail.

“We claim our science in our faith traditions,” said Dr. Paul DMattia, a youth minister from Laval, Quebec. “This [youngest] generation isn’t realizing there is a science connection with our faith.”

The idea for a such workshop surfaced in the mind of Father James Kurozynski, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Menomonie, Wis., and a contributor to the Vatican Observatory’s Catholic Astronomer blog (www.vofoundation.org/blog). He first suggested a gathering of church ministers to expand the intersection of faith and science to Brother Consolmagno, who had been exploring ways to bring the two seemingly diverse fields together.

At the first two sessions on faith and science, participants, of whom some expressed concern that they have had to overcome “Catholic fundamentalisms” and its deep suspicion of science.

Such views may be fueled, Brother Consolmagno said, by cable television shows that, in the pursuit of their own meanings, give a misleading understanding of the modern world. He said such shows have treated religion so derailedly that the Vatican observatory staff routinely declines requests to appear on them.

Workshop participants are encouraged to expand their views about science, he said.

Laura Bordelon, 26, a religion teacher at Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans, has used the material in the blog to help her students “receive” the universe as a gift from God. She told Catholic News Service Jan. 13 at the workshop in Tucson, that she has seen an increase in science and faith in the past few years and hopes to see a wider incorporation in subjects such as anthropology, history and physics across the school.

The idea is to help students “come to the answers on their own” rather than have it presented to them without discussion, she said.

It’s that type of integration that Brother Consolmagno hoped would come out of the workshop.

Priests Find Comfort That in Studying the Universe, They Come Closer to God

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

For a long time, Father Timothy Martinez felt alone.

Not so much in his priesthood and his responsibilities as pastor of Risen Savior Parish in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but because of his passionate interest in space. Some had telescopes growing up and have graduated to a Cassini mission or something similar. It’s that type of thinking that encourages Brother Consolmagno and his Vatican Observatory colleagues who joined the workshop at times.

“An awful lot of what we do is simply to reassure the other scientific religious types out there that they’re not alone,” he said, “that there’s lots of us, that independently we’ve all come to the same conclusions and therefore, we’re either all in the same way or maybe God is leading us to this truth.”

For 125 years we have been doing the science [at the Vatican Observatory], but I don’t think we have been doing well in that well in showing the world,” Brother Consolmagno told CNS.

“We need to be doing something that’s more systematic, especially in the Catholic world, which probably has the best chance of being evangelical. There are people who don’t know what our own theology is. They don’t know what our own traditions are. They can’t reach them, but I can reach people that can reach people or reach people can reach the people who can reach them,” he said.

For Father Reif, studying the heavens allows him to “tap into God’s purpose for his life while exploring creation and better understand that the theories about the origins of the universe do not conflict with traditional teachings of the Catholic faith, but a really spiritual appreciation,” said Father James Kurozynski, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Menomonie, Wis., and a contributor to the Vatican Observatory’s Catholic Astronomer blog.

“It’s about seeing the universe as a bit of a big picture and that preferential heart of iconography of spirituality, that if I can look at an icon of Jesus Christ and reverence not as Jesus himself, but as a bridge that brings me closer to Jesus in prayer or if I see the very nature of creation as well,” he said.

Father Tim Nondorf, pastor of St. Clare Parish in Roseville, Calif., suggested knowing that God can better happen simply by studying creation.

“Let’s answer two questions in our world. What am I and why am I here. Science answers two questions in our world: What happened and how did it happen,” Father Nondorf said.

“When we can answer or use the tools to answer those four questions, we develop a more complete view of our world, of our spiritual relationship. When we limit ourselves to just religion or just science, we limit our understanding,” he said.

The priests are all too aware of the apparent conflicts between faith and science. They say they have experienced the feeling among parishioners that science poses a threat to religion because it discounts faith, and that if people readily accept theories on the birth and evolution of the universe, they are abandoning God.

Father Ben Menzel, a retired priest of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., a workshop participant, said Bible studies that incorporate the heavens, presentations to parishes and programs such as Theology on Tap, telescope nights on parish grounds and thoughtful homilies that inspire parishioners to expand their views beyond a limited understanding of the world around them and science.

“Our Catholic tradition faith and reason have been partners, cooperators from the very beginning,” he said.

The priests exchanged ideas on taking what they experienced at the workshop to their parishes, schools, fellow priests and bishops and even into their local communities. Ideas include sharing their experiences with students at programs such as Theology on Tap, telescope nights on parish grounds and thoughtful homilies that inspire parishioners to expand their views beyond a limited understanding of the world around them.

Father Bryan Reif, pastor, and Deacon Robert Schroeder, of St. Anthony Parish in Cincinnati, have integrated astronomy into parish life, largely through monthly observing nights for parents and students at the parish school.

Father Reif, studying the heavens allows him to “tap into the gifts of the Holy Spirit” and hopefully inspire parishioners to do the same.

“It’s that God has created all of this and you can use a telescope to see the things we cannot see. In the universe, he said. “It’s so immense [and] in the midst of all that immensity of all of which is willed and kept in being by God’s willingness, he wants to have a personal relationship with me.”

CNS/NANCY WIECHEC

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Millersville Students Spend a Week with the Homeless in NYC

By Alicia Spelfogel

“T was struck the most by the feeling of family and community,” reflects Derrick DeCamp, a junior at Millersville University following his experience among the Capuchin Franciscans of the Renewal (CFR). The CFRs are “a community that is trying their best to live as faithful disciples of Jesus. Seeing everyone come together as brothers and sisters in Christ to continue His ministry through service and friendship was the highlight of my time with the Franciscans.”

You might presume that following stressful final exams, the average college student would understandably want to go home, rest and take a break. However, for six Millersville University students, along with Father Brian Wayne, campus minister, and myself, as assistant campus minister, their first week of winter break was devoted to a mission trip to St. Anthony Shelter for the homeless in the Bronx.

This group from Millersville was blessed with so many wonderful and unexpected opportunities to humble ourselves and give of ourselves to others. For myself, it was my first time taking a group of Millersville students on a mission trip to the Bronx. As we were bound for the Bronx, I was definitely anxious. I had never been immersed in an area of such poverty, staying in the same living space with the homeless. These were understandable fears, so it amazed me to feel how Christ stirs your heart around the poor, opens you up to unimaginable graces, and allows you to see His face in each soul on the street.

During their mission trip, the Millersville students were blessed to experience a diverse schedule. Their first day was put aside for the group to go to Manhattan and relax before the busy week of service began. There were expectations that this was a day to be tourists, but instead the trip to the city set to define their week’s mission: a mission of mercy. While attending Holy Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, they witnessed the opening of the Holy Doors by Cardinal Timothy Dolan inaugurating the Jubilee Year of Mercy. They sat in the front of the cathedral as Father Wayne and his brother priests concelebrated Mass with Cardinal Dolan, and they reflected on the meaning of mercy, charity and true giving to the poor.

For Josephine Vincent, a graduate student studying abroad from India, “Attending Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral changed my life. I felt like I was in heaven! It was amazing to see the interior designs and witness the archbishop start the Year of Mercy!” That sense of wonder inspired them for their mission of mercy.

During the days, the Millersville Catholic group spent their time cleaning and tidying: scrubbing the floors of the kitchen, dining rooms, hallways, stairs, and bathrooms. Along with the friars, we scrubbed the kitchen and dining room tiles that had been walked over by the homeless shelter guests day in and day out. This task brought bruised knees and sore hands, along with discussions of discernment, laughter, and spurts of praise and worship music. From such a simple task great love was able to grow.

Experiencing joy and love in these simple tasks prepared the students for what the friars call a “Jesus Run”: a drive into Manhattan at night to give food, drink, and most importantly love to the homeless. The group from Millersville prepared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cocoa, and other items for those living on the streets, and were encouraged by the friars to make this trip not just one to nourish their bodies, but to nourish their souls.

Father Lewis, the friar assisting us, reminded us to “Love them” time and time again, and that is what happened. Conversations arose about the Catholic faith. While sitting next to men and women in boxes, individuals reminisced about their families and loved ones. There was joking and laughter, small talk, and deep dialogue.

This was a pivotal experience for the group, for Joseph Gonzalez, “This was my first mission trip as well as my first time in the Bronx. Having a new experience in a place I’m unfamililiar with means there was a decent possibility I could’ve felt uncomfortable and confused, but that was not the case. I enjoyed the many conversations with various homeless people. They were humorous and wise to say the least. Being able to serve those in need as Christ did, and wants us to do, was an awesome experience. I could call the experience a holy one. This is one trip I won’t forget and would recommend to anyone.”

The following evening, the group from Millersville welcomed a speaker named Valentina, a woman who had overcome violence, addiction and abuse in the Bronx through finding Christ. The group found her story both heartbreaking and inspiring. She found Christ though the CFRs, who always had shown her intense and unconditional love and mercy. It was a testament to what it means to be like Christ, to love and have mercy.

The week continued with the students decorating the friars’ church for the Christmas season and being fortunate to attend an ecumenical service in Manhattan with Catholic singer/songwriter Matt Maher. But for many of the students, the culmination of their week happened on the final night. The evening began with a dinner we prepared for the friars. Dinner, filled with overwhelming joy and reflection, was followed by a healing service. As Katelyn Newcamp recalls, “For me, the best part of our trip to the Bronx occurred our final night at the shelter. I sat in a pew at a healing service led by the friars and watched men from all different ethnicities and backgrounds move to tears and walking to the front of the church to ask for prayers. I realized that these men are not so different from me. Although a lot of them looked rugged and scary, they are all people in need of love, in need of forgiveness, in need of healing. I finally understood why Jesus spent so much time with them. They are our brothers and sisters, and we are called to love them just as Jesus does, unconditionally.”

As the week came to a close, we reflected on the transformation happening within each of us. Through all of the experiences, some filled with sorrow and other jubilation, each came out with a new sense of purpose. Millersville University senior Ashley Orehek best described this, stating, “My pastor once said we must die a little to be resurrected into something better. Before the trip, my soul died out with a new sense of purpose. I hoped to find peace while serving God. On our last night, we participated in a healing service. Resting my head in my hands, I laid everything down to God and the Blessed Mother. As I cried, I felt someone rubbing my back, comforting me. It wasn’t until Joe rested his hand on my shoulder when I realized the hand belonged to another. I cried more, because I knew who the hands belonged to and that my resurrection was beginning.”

The students of Millersville Catholic agreed that their return home was in no way the end of their mission, but rather the start of a larger mission of giving, mercy, and love.

We invite you to sign up for the Millersville Catholic newsletter and continue to receive updates on our ministry here. Please visit www.MillersvilleCatholic.com to sign up or to support this ministry.

(Alicia Spelfogel is the assistant campus minister at Millersville Univer-

COURTESY OF ALICIA SPELFOGEL

COURTESY OF ASHLEY OREHEK
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.

AABBOTTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Joan Caparola, James Drummer.

BONNAEUVE – St. Joseph the Worker: John Keiser, Sin Napik, George Symons.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: George R. Fruhlich, Mary Ann Kennedy, Anna McKetta, Frank P. Parise, Elizabeth “Eliza” Flower.

COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Florian Gutkowski, Jr., Francis Lubnow.

DANVILLE – St. Joseph: Gregory Dennem, Dorothy Hoffman.

ELYSBURG – Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: Joseph Czeczot, Ruth H. Klock, Theresa Leavens, Gloria Miller.

ENOLA – Our Lady of Lourdes: Kathryn King.

GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Mary Dutrow, Rose Redding, Ann Yannetti.


KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Leo J. Lauraitis.

LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Richard Demme, Ann DePaul; St. Anne: Ray E. Garner, Sr.

LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Michael Horney.

MCSHERYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: Charlotte V. Martin McGarity.

MECHANICSBURG – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Lucille Arnold, Joseph V. Cappelli, Joseph V. Cappelli, Joseph V. Cappelli, Joseph V. Cappelli.

MCSHERRYSTOWN – Assumption BVM: Mary Louise Kolar.

MILLSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Agnes Gehris, Alana Spanenberg.

MOUNT CARMEL – St. Catherine of Siena: Theresa Good, Amelia Stoner.


MOUNT VICTORY – St. Joseph: Gregory O’Connor.

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MYERSTOWN – St. Valentine: Jerome Bradigan.

NEW BERLIN – St. Mary, Mother of the Church: Frederick Ehren.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Jerome Bradigan.

QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Siena: Theresa Good, Amelia Stoner.

ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Shirley Burkhardt.


WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Martin McGarity.

LOCAL KNIGHTS COUNCIL Receives Top International Award

Shippensburg Knights of Columbus Council #12551 has earned the distinction of Star Council, one of the organization’s top awards, for the 2014-2015 fraternal year. The organization’s headquarters, located in New Haven, Conn., made the announcement. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities. The award was presented to the membership by Rick Carriveau, PA Knights of Columbus State Treasurer, at a recently held special ceremony.

In announcing the local winner of the Star Council Award, Carl A. Anderson, chief executive officer of the organization, said, “Please accept my sincere congratulations upon attaining this prestigious award. Your dedication to the Order is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges of our Knights for the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your community, and the Order.”

In receiving this award, both Grand Knight Joseph E. Kutlik and Past Grand Knight Rich Bonitz proclaimed that this is quite an honor for our local council, and we’re extremely proud of this accomplishment.

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Church, their communities, families and young people. With more than 1.8 million members in over 15,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donates more than $170 million and 70 million hours of service to charitable causes. Please visit the www.kofc.org for more information.

York Catholic HS Students Wins Full Tuition Scholarship

Paul Weisser, a senior at York Catholic High School, won a four-year tuition scholarship to Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. Paul participated in Saint Vincent’s Wimmer Scholarship Competition and was named as a finalist. The Wimmer Scholarship Competition is a written exam where top performers receive scholarships valued at more than $126,000. At York Catholic, Paul is an Honor Roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. He is active in the school’s American flag honor guard, marching band color guard, theatrics including the fall play and spring musical, and is a member of the track team. He is active in the community through Boy Scouts of America and through St. Joseph Parish as an altar server and as a member of the Ignite youth group.

Paul will major in history at Saint Vincent’s. He is the son of Paul and Katherine Weisser of Red Lion.

National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Selected as Site for Door of Mercy

The Basilica of The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton has been chosen by the Archdiocese of Baltimore as a site for a Door of Mercy, as part of Pope Francis’s Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Year of Mercy, which began December 8, encourages people to encounter the mercy and love of God, as well as to be merciful with one another. “We’re so pleased that Archbishop Lori has designated our Basilica as one of the few sites of a Door of Mercy in the Baltimore Archdiocese,” said Rob Judge, Executive Director of The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. “It’s such an extraordinary gesture by Pope Francis to ask every bishop around the world to designate Doors of Mercy. With numerous ones throughout the world, the Pope is demonstrating that God’s mercy is available and accessible to all. It’s a wonderful opportunity for people to experience the love of God, who consoles and instills hope.”

The Seton Shrine’s Door of Mercy was opened at Mass on December 13, and will remain open until the Year of Mercy ends in November 2016. “Designating Doors of Mercy throughout the world has never been done before,” said Judge. “We welcome visitors of all faiths to the Shrine and Basilica, and invite them to experience this rare occurrence and walk through our Door of Mercy.”

If you go: The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Guided tours of the Shrine, including the Basilica, historic homes, and the gardens, are available on the hour from 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The Basilica at the Shrine is open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To plan a visit, please call 301-447-6606 or visit www.setonshrine.org.

Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first native-born U.S. saint. The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton promotes her life and legacy as a source of inspiration and encouragement for all people. More than 200 years ago, she came to Emmitsburg as a bankrupt widow with five children, and went on to found the first free Catholic school for girls staffed by sisters in the U.S., and the first community of religious women established in the U.S. Today, her legacy includes several religious communities with thousands of sisters, who serve others through schools, social service centers and hospitals throughout the world. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized in 1975. Her remains are entombed at the National Shrine that bears her name.
Trip County Young Adults/Theology On Tap (Adams, Franklin, lower Cumberland Counties) will host a young adult Lenten Retreat, “The Mercy of the Cross” at St. Fran- cis Xavier School in Catawissa, beginning at 5-6:30 p.m. At 5-5:30 p.m. Scott Anthony will direct the retreat, which will end with candlelight Stations of the Cross at 8 p.m. Participants may pack their own dinner or order in. Prior to the final Mass at 8 p.m. we will have fish fry served at 5:30 p.m. Deadline to RSVP is 5 February by email to tricountyiol@gmail.com or by phone, 717-817- 4368. More information and a reservation request. 

Our Lady of Lourdes High School’s Class of 1965 - 50 Year Reunion. The Class of 1965 will be celebrating its 50th Year reunion the weekend of June 24-25, 2016 at the Hershey Golf Club. The reunion will be held at the Hershey Pa- lomar. Invitations/Questionnaires have been sent to all known addresses. If you were a member of the class and did not receive a letter please email 1965@hersheypalmar.org or on Facebook and let us know that you are interested in attending. You can also contact Greg Sunuk at gsj423525@msn.com for information. A renewal of prices and hotel availability will be sent out in late March or early April.

The 9th Annual St. Margaret Mary 5k race to be held March 19 at 8:30 a.m. at 2606 S. 26th Street, Harrisburg. The race is to benefit St. Margaret Mary School in Penbrook. Vis- it the following website for additional details: stmmfkwks.com.

Parish, School

Organization News

Volunteers are needed for parish communication services and catechesis at Diocesan School, particu- larly on Saturdays and on Thursday afternoons, but also on other days. Please contact Deacon Jim Doyle at 717-343- 1105 or OLBSDEACON@gmail.com to volunteer and available for this rewarding ministry. It is a true work of Mercy and the Benedictine Oblates.

Court Queen of Peace #1023 Catholic Daughters of the Americas announces the Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2016 National Education Contest for Grades 4 – 12. Entrants will choose two ready-made digital stories from “HOLY HEROES: ANNUAL EDITION OF GOD’S CREATION” or “HOW DO WE CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.” For details on contest rules and awards, please go to www.catholicdaughters.org, scroll down the page to frequent downloads, and under contests, select Education Contest Forms. Court Queen of Peace #1023, Lancaster, PA, the Diocese of Harrisburg, will be sponsoring entries at the local level. First place local winner contestants will compete at the state level. First place Pennsylvania winners will compete at the national level. Local winners must be postmarked or received no later than February 15, 2016.

Father Donald Callaway, M.I.c., author of No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy will be a guest speaker at St. Plus X Church on Sunday, March 6, 7 p.m. 112 Fairview Drive, Selinsgrove. All are invited to hear his remarkable story of conversion. For additional information, email kolia Fifety at ryolines@yahoo.com for more information.

Job Opportunities

York Catholic High School has the following coaching positions available: Junior Varsity Baseball Coach, JV/As- sistant Varsity Softball Coach, Junior Football Assistants. Please contact Father John Roselli, Pastor, St. Mary’s Catholic School, 601 E. Springgarden Ave. York PA, 17403, jrossel- l@yorkcatholic.org or 717-846-8711 x16.

Marian High School, located in Tamaqua, Pa., is seek- ing a part-time athletic trainer for the 2016-17 school year. The school is seeking to strengthen its athletic program and to provide a quality level. First place Pennsylvania winners will compete at the national level. Local winners must be postmarked or received no later than February 15, 2016.

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February 11 is a World Day of the Sick, an observance introduced by St. John Paul II as a way for believers to offer the help of prayer and care for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes and is an important opportunity for everyone to serve in the concrete health ministry to reflect on caring for those who are sick as well as those who provide care.

The following is Pope Francis’ message for the 24th World Day of the Sick. It’s theme is “Do Whatever He Tells You” (Jn. 2:5).

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the twenty-fourth World Day of the Sick offers us an opportunity to draw particularly close to you, dear friends who are ill, and to those who care for you.

This year, since the Day of the Sick will be solemnly celebrated in the Holy Land, I wish to propose a meditation on the Gospel account of the wedding feast of Cana (Jn 2:1-11), where Jesus performed his first miracle through the intervention of his mother. The theme chosen - Entrusting Oneself to the Merciful Jesus - is “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5) quite fitting in light of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The pastoral care of the sick in the Day of the Take will day on 11 February 2016, the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Nazareth itself, where “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (Jn 1:14). In Nazareth, Jesus began his saving mission, applying to himself the words of the Prophet Isaiah, as we are told by the Evangelist Luke: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord” (Lk 4:18-19).

Illness, above all grave illness, always places human existence in crisis and brings with it questions that dig deep. Our first response must be one of trust: Why has this happened? We can feel desperate, thinking that all is lost, that things no longer have meaning.

In these situations, faith in God is on the one hand tested, yet at the same time can reveal all of its positive resources. Not because faith makes illness, pain, or anxiety disappear, but because it offers a key by which we can discern the presence of God and the power of love we are experiencing; a key that helps us to see how illness can be the way to draw nearer to Jesus who walks at our side, weighed down by the Cross. And this is given to us by Mary, Our Mother, who has known this way at first hand.

At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary is the thoughtful woman who sees a serious problem for the spouses: the wine, the concrete problem: “They have no wine” (Jn 2:3). And when Jesus tells her that it is not yet the time for him to reveal himself (cf. Jn 2:11), Mary is clear to the concrete problem: “Do whatever he tells you” (v. 5). Jesus then performs the miracle, turning water into wine, and according to the Gospel, “it became the best of the whole celebration.” What teaching can we draw from this mystery of the wedding feast of Cana for the World Day of the Sick?

At the wedding feast of Cana is an image of the Church: at the centre there is Jesus who in his mercy performs a sign; around him are the disciples, the first fruits of the new community. If the ministry of the first disciples is Mary, the provident and prayerful Mother. Mary partakes of the joy of ordinary people and helps it to increase when she intercedes with her Son on behalf of the spouses and all the invited guests. Nor does Jesus refuse the request of his Mother. How much hope there is in that event for all of us! We have a Mother with benevolent and watchful eyes, like her Son; a heart that is maternal and full of mercy, like him; hands that want to help, like the hands of Jesus who broke bread for those who were hungry, touched the sick and healed them all. This fills us with trust and opens our hearts to the grace and mercy of Christ. Mary’s intercession makes us experience the consolating for which the apostle Paul blesses God: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and all encouragement, who encourages us in our affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ’s sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow” (2 Cor 1:3-5).

May the weaving of the veil be the comforted Mother who comforts children.

At Cana the distinctive features of Jesus, clearly seen here, come to the help of those in difficulty and need. Indeed, in the course of his missional ministry he would heal many people with illness, infirmity and evil spirits, give sight to the blind, make the lame walk, restore health and dignity to lepers, raise the dead, and proclaim the good news to the poor (cf. Lk 7:22-23). Mary’s request at the wedding feast is accompanied by the prayer that Mary herself might receive to her maternal heart, clearly shows not only Jesus’ messianic power but also his mercy: “May it be to Mary’s concern we see reflected the tenderness of God. This same tenderness is present in the lives of all those persons who attend the sick and understand their needs, even the most imperceptible ones, because they look upon them with eyes full of love. How many times has a mother been the bedside of her sick child, or a child caring for an elderly parent, or a grandchild concerned for a grandparent, placed his or her hand in ours in the hands of Our Lady! For our loved ones who suffer because of illness we ask first for their health. Jesus himself showed the presence of the Kingdom of God specifically through his healings: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Mt 11:4-5). But love animated by faith makes us ask for them something greater than physical health: we ask for peace, a serenity in life that comes from the heart and is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, the gift which the Father never denies to those who ask him for it with trust.

In the scene of Cana, in addition to Jesus and his Mother, there are the “servants,” whom she tells: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). Naturally, the miracle takes place as the work of Christ; however, he wants to employ human assistance in performing this miracle. He could have made the wine appear directly in the jars. But he wants to rely upon human cooperation, and so he asks for human assistance. How wonderful and pleasing to God it is to be servants of others! This more than amends to the new covenant, who “did not come to be served but to serve” (Mt 20:28). These unnamed people in the Gospel teach us a great deal. Not only do they provide water, they also fill the jars to the brim (Jn 2:7). They trust the Mother and carry out immediately and well what they are asked to do, without complaining or questioning.

On this Day of the Sick let us ask Jesus in his mercy, through the intercession of Mary, his Mother and ours, to grant to all of us this same readiness to be servants in need, and, in particular, our infirm brothers and sisters. At times this service can bring us an opportunity to encounter certain that the Lord will surely turn our human efforts into something divine. We too can be hands, arms and hearts which help God to perform his miracles, so often hidden. We too, whether healthy or sick, can offer up our suffering and sufferings like the water which filled the jars at the wedding feast of Cana and was turned into the finest wine. By quietly helping those who suffer, as in illness itself, we take our daily cup of water, our shoulder to cry on, to be certain that the Lord will surely turn our human efforts into something divine. We too can be hands, arms and hearts which help God to perform his miracles, so often hidden. We too, whether healthy or sick, can offer up our sufferings and sufferings like the water which filled the jars at the wedding feast of Cana and was turned into the finest wine.

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Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick

February 11 at Noon Holy Spirit Hospital Chapel, Harrisburg Bishop Ronald Gainer, Celebrant

A Mass of Healing is a special opportunity to receive the healing power of Christ. Come and join us! Coffee, cream and coffee will be available following the Mass.

For more information, call Holy Spirit’s Pastoral Care office at 717-763-2118.
Lent Fish Dinners

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

Sacred Heart of Jesus PCCW in Williams-
town is having their Annual Lenten Hałuski sale on Tuesday February 9. Orders can be placed by calling Helen at 717-647-2449 or JoAnn at 717-
647-2287. Deadline to order is Sunday February 7, and pick-up will be Tuesday, February 9 after 2 p.m. in the Church Social Hall, 134 E. Market Street, Williamsport. Price is $7 per quart.

A Lenten Fish Dinner will be held at St. Ber-
adette Catholic Church. Friday February 12, February 26, and March 11 from 4-7 p.m. at 901 N. High St. Duncannon. Dinner includes: Fried Pol-
lock/Baked cod, macaroni & cheese, corn or green beans, stewed tomatoes, bread roll, beverage and dessert. Adults cost $10 and children (4-10) cost $5, children 3 & younger are free. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8151.

Hot and tasty Lenten dinners, Perohi and kiel-
bas will be available Wednesdays in Lent begin-
ing on Ash Wednesday, February 10 from 4-6:30 p.m. at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg. The dinners will feature baked haddock and Perohi with drink and a side for $9. Additional homemade side dishes, soups and desserts will also be available. The last dinner will be on Wednesday, March 16. Perohi and smoked Kielbasa will also be sold. The Perohi will be sold frozen for $6 per dozen each Wednesday and Sat-
urday during Lent in the parish hall. Wednesday times are from 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. and from 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday sales begin on February 13 and are from 9 a.m.-noon. Fillings available will be potato & cheese, cabbage, sauerkraut, prune, farmer cheese and apple. The smoked Kielbasa will be sold in rings for $6. New this year will be smoked Kielbasa sticks. The newly renovated parish gift shop will be open during the Lenten Dinners and the Perohi & Kielbasa sales. For more information, call 717-652-0545, www.stannbyz.org. Proceeds from the dinners support charitable programs. Perohi sales benefit parish educational programs.

Lenten Information from Holy Angels Parish, Kulpmont:
Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Fridays during Lent. On Mon-
day, February 22, Stations of the Cross for Chil-
dren will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. Fish dinners will be held on Fridays during Lent beginning February 12, from 4-6 p.m. in the Activity Center. Donation is $9 for adults, and $5 for children 12 & under. Dinner includes: soup and salad bar, baked fish, potato, vegetable, cole slaw, bread, dessert, beverage-
ate. Eat-in or take-out. Mount Carmel/Kulpmin
Minsterium will have a Lenten “Soup, Sandwich and Prayer Service” Wednesday, February 17 at 6 p.m. at Holy Angels Activity Center. All are invited at no cost.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola is host-
ing 6 fish dinners during Lent in the church social hall from 4-7 p.m. Fridays, February 12, 19, 26 & March 4, 11, 18. Menu includes seasoned baked cod, church-made baked macaroni & cheese, veg-
etable or stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, roll, dessert & coffee or punch. Baked fish adults $10, children $5. & cheese adults $8, Children $4. Eat in or take out. No reservations necessary.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Lykens will sponsor its weekly Friday fish fry during the Lenten season. The first fish fry will be Friday, February 12, and they will be held each Friday through March 18. The menu will include a variety of seafood, both baked and fried. The church social hall will be open for diners each Friday from 4-7 p.m. There will not be a fish fry on Good Friday. You can call ahead to order, 717-453-9931.

Seven Sorrows Parish in Middletown will hold its Annual Fish Fry beginning Friday, February 12 and continuing weekly through March 18 from 5-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The menu features all-you-can-eat butter-dipped fish (eat-in only) plus lemon-pepper fish, crab cakes, jumbo fried shrimp, macaroni and cheese, pierogies, and a variety of delicious desserts (now including key lime pie). The fish fry is located at 360 E. Water St. in Mid-
dletown (17057) and is handicap accessible. Over-
flow parking is available at nearby Feasar Middle School. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.; service begins at 5 p.m. Dine in or place your takeout order by calling 717-944-5488 after 4 p.m. Cash, check, Mas-
terCard, Visa, and Discover cards are accepted. Also available for sale during the Fish Fry – deli-
cious handmade chocolate eggs available in peanut butter, butter cream, coconut, and NEW FOR 2016 - peppermint! Each egg is dipped in white, dark, or luscious milk chocolate. The Fish Fry, held Febru-
ary 12, 19, 26, and March 4, 11, and 18, is spon-
sored by Seven Sorrows Parish. For more informa-
tion, including full menu, visit www.sevensorrows. org. Click on “Lenten Fish Fry.”

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cornwall, will be hold-
ing Lenten Fish Dinners on Wednesdays, Febru-
ary 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 4-7 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 or French Fries, applesauce or coleslaw, homemade dessert, coffee or tea. Salad will also be available. Cost is $9 for adult dinners and $2 for child’s (12 and under) fish dinner.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York will be holding its annual seafood feast during the Lenten season. The event will kick off with a lunch on Ash Wednesday (February 10) from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 pm. Then lunches and dinners will be served every Friday through March 19 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 pm. Dinners will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. For more information visit our website at www.saintroselima.org.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will host its fifth annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, February 12, 19, 26, March 4 and 18, from 5-7 p.m. at Xavier Center, 465 Tuble Rock Road. Dine in or take out. There will be adult, senior, children and reduced portion dinners available. Children under 5 eat free. For more information, call 717-334-
4048. No fish fry March 11.

The Knights of Columbus of St. Jude Thad-
deus Parish in Millfintown will serve its annual Lenten Fish Dinners 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 free. St. Jude is located at 3918 William Penn Hwy (Old Route 22) in Port Royal. Directly across from Tuscarora Junior High School.

St. Peter Parish in Columbia will begin its Lenten Fish Friday Fry on February 12. In its 13th year, this menu features a variety of fish platters including baked haddock, oysters, scallops, 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. Its 37th year, the menu features a variety of fish platters including baked haddock, oysters, scallops, 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.
In 1994, the small African country of Rwanda experienced a horrific event: a genocide. Among the majorities, the Tutsis, was an event that appeared to be a systematic slaughter of the minority Hutus. Over the next four months, more than 800,000 people were brutally killed by machete or gun, or any means available. It was an event in which neighbor killed neighbor; people who had formerly been friends became enemies, and international community and the UN did little to stop the bloodshed.

However, 10 years earlier, the Blessed Mother had appeared to some school girls in the small village of Kibeho predicting “rivers of blood” and the terrible bloodshed that would come—if the people did not turn to prayer and to God. It began when, on November 27, 1981, the girls of the school were praying in their dormitory for the night. According to Anathalie Mukamazimpaka (who later was named a Mother), Alphonsine Mumurere “was talking to someone exactly as if she was talking on the phone.” Soon after, Mary appeared to Anathalie, then to a third girl, Marie Clair Mayanganzi. Over the next four months, more than 800,000 people were brutally killed by machete or gun, or any means available. It was an event in which neighbor killed neighbor; people who had formerly been friends became enemies, and international community and the UN did little to stop the bloodshed.

As news of the apparitions spread throughout the small country, tens of thousands of people began coming to the small Kibeho school to witness the apparitions and listen to the one-sided conversation between the girls and the Blessed Mother (because the crowds could only hear the words of the girls; they would supply the other half of the conversations when they emerged from the trance-like state of ecstasy).

Anathalie recalled that when Mary appeared they were filled with the most intense joy and peace—and as long as the vision lasted nothing around them was clear or obvious—unless Mary pointed it out to them. For example, very often Mary would point out to the girls the many people who gathered around them to witness the apparitions; but when they looked about, they saw not people, but flowers. Some flowers were vibrant and colorful, others were withering; while still others were nearly dead. Mary often asked the girls to go to a nearby stream to fetch water, which Mary would bless and ask the girls to “water my flowers.” Mary would insist that they focus most especially on the “dying flowers” because they were the ones most in need of her blessing. It became obvious that Mary was revealing to the girls the state of people’s souls and sprinkling her blessing upon them to help them become spiritually strong and vibrant once again.

Mary enjoyed very much when the girls would sing to her—and Anathalie sang one of Mary’s favorite songs for us. One of the things Mary shared with the girls that struck me was Mary’s description of why Confession is important: “Good works without Confession is like a loaf mixed with ash.” Reflecting on these words, I realized how many of us claim that “we’re good people” but fail to recognize the importance and great need for the Sacrament of Penance in our lives. This message fits so beautifully with the Jubilee Year of Mercy which Pope Francis has proclaimed. God’s mercy is not to be forgotten or avoided—not rather we should celebrate and experience His tender mercy as often as possible; and the place we experience it in is the Sacrament of Penance.

The prayer associated with the visions of Our Lady of Kibeho is the Seven Sorrows Rosary, and it has become an important experience of prayer for me—and I desire to share it with everyone. As Mary explained the chaplet to the children, she told them that every mystery of the sorrowful Mary contains many blessings and experiences of joy and peace—and as long as the vision lasted nothing around them was clear or obvious; and the place we experience the mercy is not to be forgotten or avoided. From the heart and with meaning—or else they are empty words.

During the pilgrimage, I did discover why I had been called to make this journey to Kibeho: to be renewed in my own prayer life; to recognize the role of suffering in life (including the voluntary penances we take on)—but none of it for me alone, but for the people to whom I minister. How can I minister to God’s people unless I myself am a man of true, authentic prayer, willing and often unites his life and struggles with those of Jesus and Mary?

You can learn much about the Messages of Our Lady of Kibeho and of the experience of Immaculee Ilb.lazy by reading her books: Our Lady of Kibeho, and Left to Tell. Immaculee is coming to Mount Saint Mary’s College on June 24-25, 2016 (sponsored by St. Francis Xavier Parish). Please watch The Witness and the parish website (www.stfxcc.org) for information about the weekend event in celebration of the Year of Mercy. (Father John F. Bateman is pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg.)