Pope Urges Help for Refugees, Respect for Life

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis began the New Year praying the world would demonstrate a marked increase in solidarity and welcome for migrants and refugees.

“Let’s not extinguish the hope in their hearts; let’s not suffocate their hopes for peace,” the pope said Jan. 1 before reciting the Angelus with a crowd gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

For the New Year’s celebration of World Peace Day and the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis had chosen to focus on migrants and refugees and their yearning for peace.

“For this peace, which is the right of all, many of them are willing to risk their lives in a journey that, in most cases, is long and dangerous and to face trials and suffering,” the pope told an estimated 40,000 people gathered in the square.

Pope Francis said it is important that everyone, including individuals, governments, schools, churches and church agencies, make a commitment to “ensuring refugees, migrants – everyone – a future of peace.”

Entrusting the needs of migrants and refugees to the maternal concern of Mary, the pope led the crowd in reciting a traditional Marian prayer: “Under thy protection we seek refuge, holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our needs, but from all dangers deliver us always, Virgin, Glorious and Blessed.”

Pope Francis had begun the day celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica for the Marian feast, which he said was a celebration of “a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves: From the moment that our Lord became incarnate in Mary, and for all time, he took on our humanity.”

“To call Mary the mother of God reminds us,” he said, that “God is close to humanity, even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb.”

God becoming human in the baby Jesus, the pope said, is an affirmation that human life “is precious and sacred to the Lord,” so “to serve human life is to serve God.”

“All life, from life in the mother’s womb to that of the elderly, the suffering and the sick, and to that of the troublesome and even repellent, is to be welcomed, loved and helped,” he said.

Pope Francis also drew people’s attention to the fact that in the Gospel stories of Jesus’ birth, Mary is silent. And the newborn Jesus, obviously, cannot speak.

“We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib,” he said. “Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved, we savor the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart.

“May his lowness lay low our pride; his poverty challenge our pomp; his tender love touch our hardened hearts,” the pope prayed.

Life and Dignity

JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Life and Dignity

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The annual diocesan Respect Life Mass offered a reflection on what it means to be pro-life: belief in the sanctity of human life, as well as the dignity of persons.

Father Paul C.B. Schenck, former Director of the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Ministries and current Director of Continuing Formation of Deacons, served as the celebrant and homilist for the Mass, held Jan. 14 at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill.

“To be pro-life means to be for life, to advance life, to defend life…. What belongs to God and is devoted to God is sanctus, holy. Human life is no one’s possession to be used, abused or disposed of,” Father Schenck said in his homily.

The dignity of the person refers to the inherent, unassailable status of a human being. Denying personhood to any living being – whether because of color, social status, health, age or gender – “undermines and denies the intrinsic dignity of the human person,” Father Schenck remarked.

“We must never deny personhood to anyone,” he stressed.

“We must uphold the universal, time-honored and only moral definition of human personhood that any and every human being – born or unborn, old, young, weak or strong, near or far, no matter their identity or attraction – is holy to God and possesses divine dignity. For we believe with perfect faith in the sanctity of life and the dignity of the person.”

For information about the activities and offerings of the Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries, visit www.hbgdiocese.org and click on the “Marriage and Family” link, or contact Tom O’Neill, Director, at 717-657-4804 or toneill@hbgdiocese.org.

Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta
Annual Sanctity of Life Mass
Monday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Church, 440 St. Joseph Street, Lancaster
Archbishop William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Principal celebrant and homilist
Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, in attendance

Convenient parking is available near the church, with shuttle service beginning at 6 p.m.

The annual Mass celebrating African & African-American Catholic Faith and Culture was held on Jan. 14 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lancaster. The Black Catholic Apostolate of the Diocese of Harrisburg coordinates this Mass to bring the entire diocesan community together to commemorate the life and contributions of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his fight for civil rights in the United States. Father Deogratias Rwegasira, A.J., was the celebrant and homilist, and noted that this gathering serves as a reminder of how far we have come as a nation and that “All beings are created equal; with freedom and equality… and each one gives what he has. Times may bring us to our knees, asking God to hear us. Let us not forget to pause and listen to what God has to say to us.”

Above: Father Paul C.B. Schenck, celebrant and homilist for the annual Respect Life Mass, greets Mass attendees.

Left: Bundled against the winter chill, a girl sits in a pew at Good Shepherd Church.


Right: Paula Headen serves as cantor for the Mass.
Trinity High School Receives Half-Million-Dollar Donation from Family Foundation

By Katie Phelan

Special to The Witness

It’s not often that two high school students help to run a foundation in charge of millions of dollars and then decide to make a half-million-dollar gift to their school. But at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, it has happened.

Senior Tommy Kirchhoff and sophomore Sam Kirchhoff, along with their younger siblings, Brynley (grade 8) and Ty (grade 5), and their mother, Staci, run the Kirchhoff Fam-
ily Foundation, which recently made a gift of $500,000 to Trinity.

The Kirchhoff Family Foundation was created by Staci and her husband, Tom, after Tom was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. Staci and Tom, a co-owner of Cleveland Brothers, wanted to establish something to help their children learn about managing money and their philanthropic responsibility to the community. When Tom passed away from ALS in 2015, honoring his legacy became part of the family and foundation’s mission.

Initially, each sibling was given control over a specific sum of money with discretion to put that money toward a charitable cause. However, the family soon decided to put their money together to further one cause that they all agreed upon. For many years, that cause has been ALS, but recently the family decided to add a local interest to their efforts, Trinity High School.

Staci says of her children, “They want their school to be better, and for needed things to happen.”

Tommy, a senior at Trinity, is a school leader. As the football team’s quarterback and male lead in the school’s musical, including exterior and interior renovations and growth, improve building infrastructure, and add technology.

On the horizon for the next phase of Trinity’s Capital Campaign are a number of improvements to the physical plant, including exterior and interior renovations and growing the endowment for the future. “With gifts like the one the Kirchhoffs have given, this school that has formed me and so many others over the past half-century will continue to thrive for future generations,” says Shook.

“The gift of the Kirchhoff family is transformational,” notes John Cominsky, principal of Trinity and a member of the Class of 1983. “The Kirchhoffs’ belief in the mission of Trinity High School and the future of its students is inspiring to others, myself included. Our faculty and staff will continue to serve our students with purpose and dedication so that this immensely generous gift bears great fruit. We are so grateful to the Kirchhoff family.”

When considering the Catholic adage of “time, treasure, and talent,” all three are at work here. Staci, Tommy, Sam, Brynley, and Ty are investing themselves in Trinity in more ways than one. By spending their time at Trinity learning, serving, and encouraging, by giving their talents in leadership, athletics, and the arts, and certainly by offering this portion of treasure, the Kirchhoffs are showing the community the face of philanthropy with this gift that will go a long way to helping Trinity live its motto, “To the Highest Good. (To learn more about Trinity High School, visit www.thekirchhoffs.com or call 717-781-1167.)

Correction

The listing of Holy Hours for Life that appeared in the Dec. 22 edition of The Witness with information on parish observances of Roe v. Wade incorrectly identified a Holy Hour to take place in Mercersburg. That information is incorrect. Instead, the Holy Hour will take place at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Greencastle on Jan. 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

- January 14-18 – Mortel High Hope for Haiti Foundation Trip, Haiti.
- January 22 – Sanctity of Life Mass hosted by the Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta, St. Joseph Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- January 24 – PCC Administrative Board Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg.
- January 25-28 – Legatus Summit, Orlando, Fla.
- January 30 – Bless New Expansion, St. Anne’s Retirement Community, Columbia, 11 a.m.
- January 31 – Catholic Schools Week Mass at Sacred Heart School, Lancaster, 9 a.m.
- February 1 – Catholic Schools Week Mass at Holy Name of Jesus School, Harrisburg, 8:30 a.m.
- February 3 – Mass for Closing of Holy Family Convent, Danville, 11 a.m.

Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

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

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Hotline: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

Para reportar la sospecha del abuso de un menor, llame al número de teléfono gratuito Línea de Ayuda Abuso del Niño Pennsylvania 1-800-932-0313

Para reportar la sospecha del abuso de un menor a manos de un oficial, empleado o voluntario de la iglesia, también llame al número de teléfono gratuito de ayuda diocesana: 1-800-626-1608 o envíe correo electrónico: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

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The Idol of Prosperity
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

A little over a half century ago, a four-year-old girl received a magical gift: a doll named Tutti. This doll was Barbie’s little sister. Tutti had long blond hair that the four-year-old girl loved to brush. Shortly after receiving the doll, she found herself in a toy store, where she spied a small brush that she thought would be absolutely perfect as a hair brush for her doll. Knowing that her mom would not give permission to purchase such a non-essential item, she decided to take it home.

It only took an hour or two for the four-year-old’s mom to discover that her daughter had the brush! Knowing that this was a teachable moment, the mother marched the girl back to the toy store to confess her crime to the manager, amid much tears and stammering. The manager proceeded to tell the small child about jail as a consequence of crime. The girl promised that she would never do such a thing again!

I have never forgotten that moment and the shame that it caused my young heart, as well as that of my mother’s.

I could not help thinking of this as I turned to another modern-day idol: The Idol of Prosperity. In Strange gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life, Elizabeth Scalia writes, “Every worldly, earthy thing you ‘need’ is something else that comes between you and God. … Perhaps where material things and notions of ‘wealth’ and ‘the good life’ are concerned, the world needs to be stood on its head a little. … The promise of financial and material reward has long allured impoverished people and invited them to dream large. Our own ambitions, coupled with Calvinistic work ethic that has defined the nation long allured impoverished people and invited them to dream large. Our own ambitions, coupled with Calvinistic work ethic that has defined the nation long allured impoverished people and invited them to dream large. Our own ambitions, coupled with Calvinistic work ethic that has defined the nation long allured impoverished people and invited them to dream large.

What’s the consequence of allowing material possession to replace God in your heart? Emptiness and loneliness that nothing can fulfill. Recently, I tried to explain this idea to a class of seventh graders. I could see their eyes glaze over as I began talking about this. Knowing that I needed to catch their attention, I asked them, “What shape comes to mind when you think of ‘wholeness’?” “A circle!” someone replied. On the blackboard, I drew a circle. I went on, “What shape or figure represents love?” “A heart!” In the midst of the circle, I drew a heart and added the three sections outside of the shapes’ intersections. In each section I wrote, “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” I explained, “Our heart becomes whole when we choose not to allow material possessions to push the members of the Trinity from the circle of our being. Our heart needs God to be complete.” With that, I could see several of the seventh graders nodding in agreement as they understood my illustration. Scalia puts this way, “The whole point is this: when we cleared away the idols we have placed before God…we open up a direct line to the God who nothing can fulfill.

True holiness lies in the fidelity of putting God first and not self, something four-year-old as well as and her “older self” needs to be reminded of from time to time.

Scalia, E. (2013). Strange gods: unmasking the idols in everyday life. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press. p 53. (Sibling of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
Mid-Session Legislative Wrap Up
By A.B. Hill
Special to The Witness

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is taking a mid-session break and will resume sessions in February 2018. Given that this month was a very busy year, and more issues are on the horizon for 2018. Here is the status of the several high priority bills that are on the legislative agenda of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Bills that Made it Through
Several bills made it all the way through the legislative process in 2017. One bright spot in the difficult, prolonged budget debate was a $10 million expansion of Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) which will benefit more students in Catholic schools.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference took a strong pro-life stand to ban barbaric dismemberment abortions and abortions when the unborn baby is able to feel pain (20 weeks). Both the Senate and the House passed Senate Bill 3 with overwhelming majorities. Unfortunately, Governor Tom Wolf vetoed the measure and there was no vote to override.

Governor Wolf did, however, sign House Bill 1139 into law. This law adds fire stations to the list of safe places where a newborn baby may be placed without penalty. Police stations and hospitals are also safe havens. Incubators will be placed in participating locations to hopefully prevent babies from being abandoned in dumpsters or public restrooms.

The legislature reauthorized the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but not without controversy. An amendment to correct regulations that allow coverage for sex reassignment surgeries for children was taken out of the final bill that went to the governor. The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association and PCC will look for ways to address this again without compromising a valuable program that has given thousands of children access to health care.

Legislation to address the statewide opioid crisis was signed into law by Tom Wolf. Senate Bill 446 establishes state-regulated minimum quality standards for the licensure of recovery houses that receive funding or referrals from government agencies. This new law is welcomed by the recovery houses operated by many Catholic Charities agencies within Pennsylvania’s Catholic dioceses.

The governor also signed the “Right to Try” act into law, which will provide terminally ill patients the opportunity to try experimental treatments, such as investigational drugs, biological products and medical devices. It will allow access to treatments that have not been fully approved by U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Issues Left to Do
There is much more work left to be done in 2018. Legislation to create Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) is being considered. Senate Bill 2 would give families that live in the boundaries of a chronically underperforming school a grant in the amount of the average state funding per pupil if they withdraw their students from public school. The money could only be used for tuition and expenses in a participating private school, for tutors, or other educational expenses. The money would come out of the local school’s state subsidy; any unused dollars would return to the local school.

Senate Resolution 174 and House Resolution 609 each commend the practice of selectively aborting babies with Down syndrome. Although resolutions do not have the force of law, they are useful gestures for raising awareness. Another resolution, HR 519, condemns the free availability of pornography because of the public health hazard it causes to children and families across the Commonwealth. It passed the House Health Committee in November and should be taken up on the House floor soon.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association is reviewing legislation that would govern the use of POLST, Physician’s Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment. Senate Bill 623 and House Bill 1196 similarly outline how and when someone would use a POLST in an end-of-life situation. The concern lies in whether or not a qualifying condition must be present for a POLST order to be signed.

Beyond these moral issues, the PCC is tracking legislation that tackles social justice concerns as well. House Bill 1076 would create a land bank of blighted properties and transform them into safe housing for the homeless. With opioid addiction continuing its terrible toll on every community, more legislation will be considered, including House Bill 825. This bill provides for a central registry of existing emergency drug and alcohol detoxification beds so that care facilities can work better together to address a substance abuse crisis.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of public policy issues that the Catholic Conference will review and advocate. Sexual orientation non-discrimination, access to health care, threats to religious liberty, and other proposals are all potential issues on the radar. For a list of the PCC’s positions on specific legislative proposals, log on and check out: www.pacatholic.org/ legislative-review.

The Diocese of Harrisburg recently offered a check for $1,000 for a student in need at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. The funds were proceeds from the annual Diocesan Women's Conference. Bishop Ronald Gainer presented the check to Cheri Comasco, Director of Advancement at Bishop McDevitt.

**Full-Time Position**

Cemetery Maintenance & Service  
Resurrection Cemetery, Oak Grove Rd, Harrisburg 17112

Applicants must have skills in grounds maintenance. The ability to operate a backhoe is desirable, but training will be given. Other equipment that will be used: tractor, pickup, mowers and a variety of small equipment related to cemetery maintenance and operation. Must be a good team player who is able to take direction and demonstrate tact, courtesy and diplomacy. Applicant must have valid clean PA driver’s license. Work is performed both indoors and outdoors. This is a manual position requiring physical fitness with the ability to lift (up to 50 lbs regularly and 100 lbs occasionally), bend, stoop, climb and be mobile (on your feet) for most of the day. Applicants must be able to work in all weather conditions to tight deadlines. Applicants must pass diocesan background checks.

Resumes & cover letter should be sent to TShanabrook@hbgdiocese.org.

**World Youth Day**

Panama City ~ January 21-28, 2019

A pilgrimage for post high school young adults ages 18-35 from the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Archdiocese of Baltimore

Young adults ages 18-35 from around the world with gather with the Holy Father for a week of engaging prayer, vibrant liturgy, powerful catechesis with bishops from around the world, concerts from Catholic artists, and an unforgettable vigil and Mass with the pope.

A non-refundable deposit of $500 is required to reserve your spot. Total cost for the pilgrimage is $3,200.

For more information, contact:  
Robert Williams  
Director, Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
Diocese of Harrisburg  
717-657-4804, ext. 328  
rwilliams@hbgdiocese.org  
Or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch  
#Panama2019

**USCCB President: ‘Active Love’ Needed to Further Rev. King’s Legacy**

_Catholic News Service_

The federal holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is “an important time to recommit ourselves to the Gospel message he preached,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Rev. King’s message, Cardinal DiNardo said in a Jan. 10 statement, is that “the sin of racism can be defeated by active love and the light of faith.”

“We pray in confidence that Jesus Christ will remind us all that he is the most powerful means to break the chains of hate that still bind too many hearts, a truth which lies at the center of Dr. King’s legacy,” he added.

The cardinal noted, “In recent years – including last summer in Charlottesville [Virginia] – we have glimpsed an appalling truth that lurks beneath the surface of our culture. Even with all the progress our country has made on the issue, racism remains a living reality.”

Rev. King, in 1958, said: “Along the way of life, someone must have the sense enough and the morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can only be done by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives.”

“Breaking the chain of hate,” Cardinal DiNardo said, “requires both courage and commitment.” He cited the example of Sister Mary Antona Ebo, a Franciscan Sister of Mary and the first African-American sister to march with Rev. King in Selma, Alabama. “She remained a bold and dedicated champion of civil rights throughout her lifetime, and her witness should inspire our own,” he added.

Sister Ebo told others who gathered for the march on Selma: “I’m here because I’m a Negro, a nun, a Catholic, and because I want to bear witness.” She died Nov. 11 at age 93.

The act making Rev. King’s birthday a national holiday was signed into law in 1983 and took effect in 1986. All 50 states observed the holiday for the first time in 2000. The holiday is observed on the third Monday in January; this year’s Jan. 15 observance would have been Rev. King’s 89th birthday.

The holiday also has become a national day of service for citizens to volunteer in honor of the civil rights leader who was slain nearly 50 years ago.

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The holiday also has become a national day of service for citizens to volunteer in honor of the civil rights leader who was slain nearly 50 years ago.
Dear Friends of the Missions:

I am offering you the invitation of a lifetime!

I invite you today to become part of a special group of “ambassadors.” You will be united with mission priests, sisters, brothers and lay catechists in carrying out the directive of the Gospels: “Proclaim to all nations the marvelous deeds of the Lord.”

When you enroll as a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you join with other men and women who make mission a part of their daily lives by becoming ambassadors for Christ.

• Your prayers are needed, your daily prayers that are the bedrock support of the Church’s worldwide mission. Pray for the mission priest in a village parish in Uganda, the Sisters caring for Liberian refugees, the lay catechist teaching children in India.

• Your personal sacrifice is needed, the unique gift of your suffering that only you can give. Offer your burdens, anxieties and pain, in union with the suffering of Christ, for the redemption of men, women and children who have never heard of Jesus, who live without the gift of faith that promises eternal life.

• Your financial help is needed, assistance for the priests, religious, and lay catechists who count on the love of all of us to help them in their daily service.

Through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we can, in fact, reach out to the peoples of the world. In more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious sisters and brothers and lay catechists rely on the prayers and financial assistance of the members of this Pontifical Mission Society. They count on this support as they assist young people who are searching for meaning in life, comfort refugees in their spiritual and material needs, minister to the sick, teach small children, prepare adults for Baptism, or bring help and hope to the suffering in times of natural disaster and war.

As all in our diocese become more and more mission-minded, we will undoubtedly be blessed with deeper faith ourselves. God bless you for your generosity and love for our Lord and His mission ad gentes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Reverend Robert F. Sharman
Diocesan Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF PONTIFICAL MISSIONS, Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg PA 17111
(717) 657-4804, ext. 240 \ www.hbgdiocese.org/missions
Reverend Robert F. Sharman, Diocesan Director
CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Office of the Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis called for the Year of Mercy—a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church throughout the world to take approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way. Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church “to be a witness of mercy” by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Holy Father asked us to study and reflect on mercy, receiving mercy, and being merciful towards others.

As we enter into our 78th year of service, may God continue to bless all of the people who are somehow involved in any way with Catholic Charities. May he give them the strength and fortitude to carry forth and continue the work that Jesus has entrusted to his Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

Office of the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg has just completed our 78th consecutive year of providing essential human services to those in need in South Central Pennsylvania.

The year 2016/2017 was a challenging year for us. There were significant changes that had to be made both programmatically and from a human resources perspective. We are always at the mercy of forces that affect our Agency that we have no control over and that we have to be in a reactive vs. a proactive mode. Some of these factors are funding sources, government, economy, the competitive landscape and our donors.

From a financial perspective, we had a very good year finishing in the black for the fourth consecutive year. This was achieved through hard work, meeting our metrics and monitoring our income and expenses. We have a dedicated and tenured staff that insures that we serve our clients to the best of our ability and achieve our stated goals and objectives.

The year was not without challenges as we implemented a new accounting system. The system was planned for several years and on July 1, it was implemented. To say this was a challenge is an understatement. We are still working through some issues and problems. However, it will be good in the long run as we have vastly more capabilities then we have ever had.

On a positive note, our donations from individuals and organizations increased. Additionally, we increased our participation and revenue at all of our fundraising events. This is significant as these dollars help us to subsidize some of our programs who normally end the year in the red. We also were pleased that we secured several grants that we applied for.

As a testimonial to our staff and volunteers, we provided various services to our clients. As you view the pages of this report, you will see the clients served and the services provided. We have a proud tradition of “Providing Help and Creating Hope.”

As can be evidenced when you read the Annual Report, the various services and the number of those services that are provided to our clients is humbling. It is our duty and mission to try to fill the voids in social services and in our community to insure that the most vulnerable in our society have the basic services afforded to them.

I am extremely grateful to the management, staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities who year after year step up and meet the challenges placed before them. They continue to accomplish great things in light of financial situations, government regulations, the economy and human resources issues.

The work that Catholic Charities does is never easy and sometimes our staff is placed in some difficult situations. Our main focus is the client and we work hard to insure their safety and security. Many times, we are their only advocate.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our benefactors who support the good work of Catholic Charities. Without their support, we would not be able to fulfill our mission to “Provide Help and Create Hope.”

May God continue to bless all of the people who are somehow involved in any way with Catholic Charities. May he give them the strength and fortitude to carry forth and continue the work that Jesus has entrusted to his Church.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Totaro, Ph.D.
Executive Director/CEO
The Catholic Witness • JANUARY 19, 2018

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

Board of Directors
Row 1, left to right: Walter J. Legenstein, Jim Weber, Maria DiSanto, Reverend Daniel C. Mitzel, Lou Santangelo, Camille Kostelac Cherry, Zenoria McMorris Owens (Secretary), Ron Turo
Row 2, left to right: Brian P. Downey, (Board President), Richard Berrones (Vice President), Valerie Pritchett, John P. Pagana, MD, Joseph F. Scholl, Jeffrey Tearock (Treasurer), David S. Gash, Luis Villegas
Missing: Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer (Corporate Officer), Very Reverend David L. Danneker (Corporate Officer), Barbara Yohe Groce, Cathryn Irvis, Matthew Schlosser

Program Managers
Row 1, left to right: Karrie Ballantine, Kate Downes, Lydia Thomas, Kelly Botton, Sara Beck
Row 2, left to right: Amin Habeeb, Dustin Langeheine, Annette Martin, John Leedock
Missing: Rebecca Diamondstone, Rebecca Jacoby, Chris Vandenberg

Administrative Staff
Row 1, left to right: Christopher Meehan, Jeanne Rittle, Annette Martin, Linda Weber, Pete Biasucci
Row 2, left to right: Kate Downes, Mark Totaro, Carole Klinger
Missing: Kelly Siabonik, Chris Vandenberg

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - English As A Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Employment Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - GAIN Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Resettlement Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Match Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRS - Legal Advising Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Intensive Family Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York/Adams Family Based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crescent Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdeshouse - Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdeshouse - Babies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Counseling</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Paradise Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3,615</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A copy of the latest audit report is available upon request by contacting Catholic Charities
4800 Union Deposit Road / Harrisburg, PA 17111 / (717) 657-4804 / Fax (717) 657-8683
FAMILY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Family-Based Mental Health Services is a comprehensive program that delivers services to children and their families in both home and community settings. Families entering the program are at risk of having their children placed into foster care. The goal of the program is to strengthen family relationships and stabilize the family through therapeutic interventions. Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, this program provides a team-centered approach to making an immediate impact upon families facing numerous issues.

Behavioral Health Services

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

Immigration and Refugee Services (IRS)

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

Employment Services

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

English as a Second Language (ESL)

offers classes for adults in several locations throughout the greater Harrisburg area. Classes are free and are open to all adult, non-native English speakers. Morning and evening class options are available to accommodate a wide range of work and family schedules. We provide pre-literacy, literacy, ESL, and life skills classes for adults. Morning and evening class options are available to accommodate a wide range of work and family schedules.

Refugee Resettlement Program

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

Match Grant Program

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

Immigration Legal Services

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

GREATER ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE FOR NEWCOMERS

Thhal Nepal, a Bhutanese Refugee arrived in United States of America as a refugee on 29 February, 2016 along with his son Atihrik Nepal. Thhal along with his family was forced to flee out of their homeland country, Bhutan in 1991 and they were living in Bhutanese Refugee camp in Damak, Nepal. Thhal completed his high school from schools in refugee camp and earn his education up to Masters' Degree in English from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

He speaks fluent English. He was a high school teacher in Kathmandu, Nepal and he was also an ILETS instructor and student counselor for abroad studies in Kathmandu, Nepal for many years.

Thhal became a very successful and self-sufficient client in a very short period of time since resettlement. He speaks English well, has computer and inter-personal skills. He is always positive and willing to help people with difficulties. His son was admitted into high school and he is doing well. Thhal got his driver license and he started working within a month of his arrival to United States. Now he is a trainee in a warehouse within a short period of his employment. He got his own car by six months of being here in America. Along with his employment, Thhal is volunteering with Catholic Charities, Immigration and Refugee Services, Harrisburg aiming to help refugees like him during their time of resettling here in Harrisburg area. In this way, along with his struggle in self-sufficiency, Thhal is dedicated to helping refugee community during his free time for their development, progress and integration into the new land of America.

INTERFAITH SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

Located at the Saint Samuel Center in Harrisburg, the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families is the only homeless shelter in the Harrisburg region specifically serving families. During their brief stay of four to six weeks, families work with the shelter staff on issues that may have caused their homelessness: employment, education, childcare, healthcare, transportation, and other related issues. Upon completion of the program, as many as 98% of the families achieve a stable level of housing and a better quality of life.

EVERGREEN HOUSE

Located at the Saint Samuel Center in Harrisburg, Evergreen House provides a nurturing and therapeutic environment for women recovering from the disease of addiction. The length of the program for each client is based upon the person’s individual needs and treatment plans. Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, all care is confidential and provided in both one-on-one and group settings by the caring, qualified staff. Residents are also encouraged to develop the tools they need to maintain long-term recovery by securing safe and stable housing, participating in job training programs, and pursuing employment and/or education.

PARADISE SCHOOL

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

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

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

WILLOW WAY AND CRESCENT WAY

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

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

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

INTENSIVE DAY TREATMENT

Based in Lancaster, the Intensive Day Treatment Program serves at-risk youth from age nine to fifteen who possess significant emotional and behavioral health needs. An alternative to residential treatment services, the program runs Monday through Friday and aims to increase anger management skills, to improve social skills, and to enhance educational achievement. The program utilizes a therapeutic environment, one in which personal growth and change takes place through positive relations between the youth and the program staff as a result of individual, group, and family therapy programming.

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

On Dec. 12, Catholics from all over the world gathered to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as one of the most recognized Marian Devotions: Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pope Pius X proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe “Patroness of all Latin America”; Pius XI, of “all the Americas”; Pius XII called her “Empress of the Americas”; and John XXIII, “The celestial missionary of the New World” and “the Mother of the Americas.”

In our diocese, several parishes offered special ways to honor Our Lady. For example, St. Joseph Parish in Hanover offered a novena to the Virgin of Guadalupe and visited 18 homes during those nine days. During these visits, people prayed the Rosary, sang and shared delicious dishes typical of the Christmas season.

People from all ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds celebrate these miraculous Marian apparitions that took place on the Hill of Tepeyac over 500 years ago and were responsible for the biggest conversion in the Catholic Church. In the course of seven years after the apparitions first took place, 6,000,000 people converted to the Catholic faith. Mary’s apparitions also put an end to ritual human sacrifice. Therefore, in Our Lady of Guadalupe we have more than a powerful intercessor for the new evangelization – we have an advocate for life.

During the Mass celebrated at Corpus Christi Church in Chambersburg, Father Brian Olkowski noted in his homily: “She was the first and most important disciple of Jesus. We gather here today as an act of thanksgiving for all the prayers said for us in front of our Heavenly Father. Five hundred years ago, San Juan Diego saw with his own eyes God’s love for all of us. The Virgin Mary appeared to him to proclaim that Jesus is the King of the Universe and the one and only God of all.”

(Submitted by Aida Pichardo and Jaclyn Curran)
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.

ABERTON — Immaculate Heart of Mary: Richard Carlson, Theron Menges, Deborah Weitkamp.
ANVILLE — St. Paul the Apostle: Pasco Marranca.
BERWICK — Immaculate Conception BVM: Theodore Dapazia.
BLOOMSBURG — St. Columbus: Kathleen S. Hinkel, Teresa Yatko.
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT — St. Rita: Jose Bock, Linda Miller.
BUCHANAN VALLEY — St. Ignatius Loyola: Virginia “Ginny” York.
COAL TOWNSHIP — Our Lady of Hope: Joseph Jurgill, Lena Korzenaski, Marian Korzenaski, Joan Mucineck, Pauline Rosini, Sylvester Schiscichano.
COLUMIA — Holy Trinity: Leo Derster, John Martin, Jr., Kathleen Moore.
CONEWAGO — Sacred Heart of Jesus: Patricius Legi, Nadine E. Neiderer.
ELIZABETHTOWN — St. Peter: George S. Bauer, Donald M. Durr.
GETTYSBURG — St. Francis Xavier: Robert Biessccker, James Patrick Flymm, Patricia Groff, Aurelio Moreno, Constance J. Picard II.
GREENCASTLE — St. Mark: Mary Jane Kessler, William F. McNulty, Sue Young.
HAVERBOURNE — St. Vincent de Paul: Denise L. Eline.
HARRISBURG — Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Mary Morris; St. Catherine Laboure: Leona Bircher, Dennis Coleman, Elizabeth Gonzales, Michael Fladovich, Richard Hubert, Matthew Marsicano; St. Francis of Assisi: Juan Burgos.
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KULMPTON — Holy Angels: Lorraine Fallet, Anna M. Goodichual, Mary E. Pernavage.
LANCASTER — St. John Neumann: Margaret Bernhardi, Anthony Marko, Helen “Pat” McQuay, Stephen Quinn, Alexander Rentz.
LEBANON — Assumption BVM: Richard P Bondanti, Jr.
LEWISTOWN — Sacred Heart of Jesus: David J. Gallatin.
MCSHERRYTOWN — Annunciation BVM: Jean Conrad, Gloria Small.
MECHANICSBURG — St. Joseph: Caroline Cardella, Lester Ginanni, Jr., Jean Marie Ginanni, Frank Spraghr.
MIDDLETOWN — Seven Sorrowes BVM: Margaret Demko, Richard Myers, Carol Tringali, Stephen Vajda.
MILLERSVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle: Gloria Kemetry, Emil Suman, Carol Specht, Eileen Tierney, Marie Vitale.
MOUNT CARMEL — Divine Redeemer: Edward J. Wydial, Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Margaret Mary Larkin, Anna Osmond.
NEW CUMBERLAND — St. Theresa: Margaret Dimoff, Byron Mays, Charles F. SULLO “Pete” Marranca.
NEW FREEDOM — St. John the Baptist: Joe Bevans, Mariann Book, Elaine Pfeltz.
ROHRERSTOWN — St. Leo the Great: John Marquette, John McGeen, Doris Misselbrook.
SUNBURY — St. Monica: Eleanor Trometer.
WANNEBROSE — St. Andrew: Carl “Dutch” Amann.

YORK — Immaculate Conception BVM: Naomi Contino, Christine Farrell, Susan Giffeltner, John Ream, Julio Toro; St. Joseph: Richard Henkel, Miriam Schreeder, Betty A. Weaver; St. Patrick: Frank Lazorlick, Mary Massey; St. Rose of Lima: Joseph Borsa.

Sister Ann Lenahan, SNN
Christian Charity Sister Ann Lenahan died Dec. 18 at Geisinger Hospital in Danville. She was 84. Born Ann Marie Lenihan in Brooklyn, N.Y., she entered the congregation’s Ju- niorate Program at Manhattanv convent in Mendham, N.J., after eight years of high school, and then received the habit in 1950. Sister Ann’s primary ministry was in education in the primary grades of the congregation’s schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina. For sev- eral years, she also served as superior and principal. Sister Ann earned a bachelor’s degree from College Misericordia in 1967 and a master’s degree in education from Marywood College in 1978. From 1989-1996, she assisted in general help and as librarian in the community’s convents. In 1996, Sister Ann began serv- ing in the Education Department at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill. She retired to Holy Family Convent in Danville in 2016. The funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 23 in the Holy Family Convent chapel. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Danville.

Sister Mary Teresa Carmichael, OSF
Sister Mary Teresa Carmichael, former- ly Sister Eucharia, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 71 years, died in Assisi House in Aston, Pa., on Dec. 28. She was 93. Born Mary Margaret Carmichael in Philadelphia, Md., she entered the congregation in 1943. She graduated from St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore, Md., earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Villanova University and a master’s in nursing from St. John University in Jamaica, N.Y.
She ministered in healthcare in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 46 years, including as a nurse at Assisi House, as co-ordinator of retirement for the Sisters of St. Francis, and as an instructor at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, Pa. Sister Mary Teresa also worked as nurs- ing instructor in several hospitals and schools of nursing. She served at St. Jo- seph Hospital School of Nursing in Bal- timore, St. Joseph Hospital in Lancaster, and St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Reading, Pa. She retired to Assisi House in 2012.
Sister Mary Teresa was preceded in death by her sister, Sister Rosa Carmi- chael, OSF. The funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 2 at Assisi House. Burial was in Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery, Aston.

Obituaries

The Catholic Weekly • January 19, 2018
Avila, one night in Zaragoza, two nights in Lourdes, three nights with a professional tour manager and local guides, accommodation in First Class. No RSVP required. For more details, contact 717-566-7499, sales@georgesintl.com or visit www.georgesintl.com.

**Fundraisers & Events**

The Catholic Woman's Club of York is seeking applicants for its annual Anna Dill Gamble/Susan Wagman Glatfelter Council Champion certificate and a trophy or plaque. Participants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the free throw contest at the local level, with finalists in each age and gender category receiving a Certificate. The annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw competition is held on Jan. 28 in the parish hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and the afternoon begins at 1 p.m. and will end at 3:45 p.m. There is an opportunity for Confession from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m., both in the Church. The theme is "Filling the Gaps: Healing Our Children." This year, plan to celebrate Mardi Gras—Slavic Style on the Saturday before Lent, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m. There is an opportunity for Confession at 5 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m., both in the Church. The theme is "Filling the Gaps: Healing Our Children." The dinner will be held Feb. 10 at the Annunciation BVM Church Parish Hall in Myerstown. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. and dinner will begin at 12:30 p.m. The acts will feature a garden salad, choice of either hot turkey or baked ham, green beans almandine, roasted red skin potatoes, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. The menu is $15 per person. Reservations are required by Feb. 1. For more information, call 610-969-1101 or visit www.stck8school.org.

**Education & Enrichment**

The St. Joseph Catholic Church Fun Committee is proud to present the first annual Dinner & Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. The dinner will be held at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1530 Hollywood Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601 by Feb. 15. First place local winners will be invited to the state state collector and first place state winners will be entered at the national level. Rectors and local winners will be held in early June. Leave a voice message at 717-300-9305 with questions. Join the St. Columba (Bloomburg) Voyagers as we travel Spangles and Tinsel to the Catholic Church at Bugle Call. 9 meals (6 continental and 3 full), transportation, and tour leaders. Cost is $1545. For more information, contact Deb at 717-564-1321 or dgelbaugh@sclhbg.org.

The St. Croix Regional Meet in Lititz.Will host bingo on Jan. 28 in the parish hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., bingo starts at 2 p.m. Twenty regular cards, paper cards. There will be a $25,000 limit. Schedule a group of six or more. Contact 717-566-1221 or deb/gelbaugh@sclhbg.org.

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The Winter/Spring 2018 Session of the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation affords adult Catholics the opportunity to continue their formation in the Catholic faith. All courses and sessions are open to any interested adult, including those who are pursuing catechetical certification in the diocese and those who simply wish to understand the Catholic faith better.

Among the faith formation offerings available in the new year is Kingdom of Happiness, an 8-part series produced by Saint Benedict Press that uneavils Jesus’ plan for our happiness in the Beatitudes. Kingdom of Happiness offers an in-depth look at these beautiful teachings of Christ that all too often have been taken by our modern society and turned into little more than bumper sticker slogans. Featuring brief teaching videos by Father Jeffrey Kirby of the Diocese of Charleston, and powerful video profiles of normal people living out the Beatitudes in heroic ways, Kingdom of Happiness not only informs participants about the Beatitudes, but also shows them how to live them and achieve genuine and lasting happiness. All Kingdom of Happiness sessions will be live-streamed via webinar, allowing small groups and individuals in parishes and/or homes to access the videos and join in on accompanying discussions with other participants.

Diocesan Institute offerings marked “Also Available Via Live Webinar” allow for remote live participation from parishes and homes. Recordings of most webinar offerings are also available for the convenience of later viewing.

To view the complete Winter/Spring Session schedule, which includes descriptions and registration fees for both current offerings and pre-recorded courses and sessions, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org.

For information about the Diocesan Institute or obtaining catechetical certification in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact Ryan Bolster at (717) 657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

### Kingdom of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life among Offerings

#### Introduction to Morality
- **Location**: Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- **Dates**: Mondays, February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 2018
- **Time**: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

#### Introduction to Prayer
- **Location**: Saint Joseph Parish, York
- **Dates**: Thursdays, March 15, 22, April 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2018
- **Time**: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

#### The Gospel of Mark: The Jewish Story in a Gentile Tongue
- **Location**: Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- **Dates**: Mondays, April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 2018
- **Time**: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

#### The Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
- **Location**: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg
- **Dates**: Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, March 1, 6, and 8, 2018
- **Time**: 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

#### A Tour of St. Peter’s Square and Basilica: Exploring the History and Beauty of the Heart of Rome
- **Location**: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg
- **Dates**: Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2018
- **Time**: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

#### Introduction to Prayer
- **Location**: St. Joseph Parish, York
- **Dates**: Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2018
- **Time**: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

#### The Season of Easter is a Perfect Time to Get Away to Refresh and Renew
- **Location**: Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa.
- **Dates**: May 4–6, 2018
- **Time**: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### The Beginning Experience Team for the Harrisburg Diocese has booked Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa., for a Beginning Experience weekend, May 4–6, 2018.

The ecumenical Beginning Experience weekends are an approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

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

Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. Visit the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org, and go to the marriage and family link, or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team members Julie, at 717-379-0800, or Eva, at 717-495-9586.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to present to you the financial report of the Diocese of Harrisburg for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017 and 2016. As the recipient of your generosity, the Diocese of Harrisburg is responsible for our stewardship of God’s gifts. And please pray especially for the faithful of Central Pennsylvania’s diocese. Please pray for our diocese, for our ministry, social concerns and works of charity that would not be possible without your financial commitment.

I am grateful for the blessings the Lord has given us and for the generosity of Central Pennsylvania’s faithful. Please pray especially for our pastors, who work extremely hard, with very limited resources, because they love the Lord, and because they love you.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Harrisburg

Consistent with its policy of providing financial disclosure, the Diocese of Harrisburg is once again presenting the financial statements of its Central Offices and Ministries. The financial statements presented here for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016 were prepared in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and were audited by the independent certified public accounting firm McKonly & Asbury, LLP. These financial reports do not include the financial status of diocesan parishes and schools or Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA. Each of these entities maintains its own set of fiscal records and reports individually to its own particular constituencies. The complete financial reports for the diocese, together with the independent auditor’s report and notes to the financial statements, are available from Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services, Inc. (HCAS) upon request.

RUMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CHURCH TRUST AND AFFILIATES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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<td>Depository payable</td>
<td>4,090,151</td>
<td>9,920,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>18,143,480</td>
<td>15,538,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>18,143,480</td>
<td>15,538,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>$120,792,333</td>
<td>$118,518,383</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$12,587,879</td>
<td>$13,563,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>102,107,576</td>
<td>97,990,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>$1,216,598</td>
<td>$2,277,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted assets</td>
<td>$136,804,973</td>
<td>$143,224,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets and liabilities</td>
<td>$154,163,900</td>
<td>$154,414,502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RUMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CHURCH TRUST AND AFFILIATES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and gains</td>
<td>$17,095,410</td>
<td>$17,439,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intramural billings, primarily</td>
<td>$17,095,410</td>
<td>$17,439,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-insurance premiums</td>
<td>$1,070,000</td>
<td>$1,070,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenues and gains</td>
<td>3,265,448</td>
<td>4,678,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, bequests, and program service fees</td>
<td>2,273,549</td>
<td>2,537,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>4,584,397</td>
<td>4,280,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery sales</td>
<td>2,355,008</td>
<td>1,975,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>365,421</td>
<td>215,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted revenues and gains</td>
<td>$34,864,675</td>
<td>$37,472,907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses and losses

| Supporting services | $2,075,813 | $104,244 |
| Temporariness | | |
| Administrative support | 1,493,715 | 1,518,426 |
| Plant operation | 504,615 | 272,662 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 784,745 | 831,126 |
| Diocesan support for parishes and schools | 842,786 | 537,472 |
| Cemetery operations | 1,674,758 | 1,552,580 |
| Insurance | 14,715,557 | 15,120,787 |
| Program | | |
| Education | 1,178,411 | 1,339,725 |
| Clergy and religious life | 2,794,372 | 2,837,596 |
| Catholic life and evangelization | 1,564,467 | 1,803,933 |
| Canonical services | 605,074 | 656,282 |
| Communications | 842,324 | 914,257 |
| Interest expense | 1,295,297 | 1,725,619 |
| End debt - notes and loans receivable | 1,146,852 | 212,786 |
| Other | | |
| Total expenses and losses | $34,864,675 | $37,472,907 |

Change in unrestricted net assets, before other changes | 563,584 | 1,241,965 |

Other changes

| Net gains (losses) on investments | 2,612,132 | (2,637,757) |
| Depreciation and amortization | (592,013) | (726,471) |
| Change in obligations for priests’ pension and postretirement benefits | (580,211) | (2,619,590) |
| Change in unrestricted net assets | 648,492 | (4,805,754) |

Changes in permanently restricted net assets

| Contributions | 344,601 | 1,352,953 |
| FOCUS interest distributions | (442,135) | (393,674) |
| Investment and dividends, net of management fees | 518,437 | 421,857 |
| Net gains (losses) on investments | 3,942,073 | (124,625) |
| Withdrawals by beneficiaries | (509,904) | (105,933) |
| Change in permanently restricted net assets | 3,651,002 | 1,464,477 |

Change in net assets | 4,594,493 | (4,461,337) |

Net assets, beginning of year | $136,165,621 | $136,963,122 |

Net assets, end of year | $140,759,114 | $132,491,785 |

RUMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CHURCH TRUST AND AFFILIATES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$ 4,661,494</td>
<td>$ (6,461,637)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash and cash equivalents provided by operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>(954,013)</td>
<td>708,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (gain) loss on investments (1,613,030)</td>
<td>(2,795,381)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in working capital and related accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
<td>6,680</td>
<td>6,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for doubtful loans</td>
<td>1,177,813</td>
<td>(8,845)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for claims and losses</td>
<td>(383,167)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in working capital and related accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>(732,663)</td>
<td>(70,844)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>(627,070)</td>
<td>(1,987,024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other accounts receivable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>(732,663)</td>
<td>(70,844)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash provided by operating activities</td>
<td>$ 3,236,371</td>
<td>$ 17,859,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Purchase and reinvestment of investments | (8,199,443) | 20,345,273 |
| Purchase of property, equipment, and software | 9,897,102 | 2,191,590 |
| Change in net assets | 1,144,417 | | |
| Net cash flows from investing activities | $ 1,144,417 | $ (3,090,322) |

Cash flows from financing activities | | |
| Net cash flows from financing activities | $ 1,144,417 | $ (3,090,322) |

Net cash and cash equivalents, end of year | $136,165,621 | $136,491,785 |

January 19, 2018
Catholic Schools

OPEN HOUSES

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School,
Ephrata, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m.-noon
Visitors will have a chance to tour the school and meet teachers from grades preschool through eight. Registration forms for the 2018-19 school year will also be available. For more information, call 717-738-2414 or visit www.omph.org.

York Catholic High School,
Jan. 21 from noon-2 p.m.
Prospective students and their families are welcome to tour the school, talk with faculty, staff, and students, and enjoy learning more about York Catholic’s exemplary academic programs, faith-based education, and extracurricular activities for students in grades 7-12. To learn more, contact Ms. Heather Hoffman, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management, at 717-846-8871, ext. 220. Snow date is Jan. 28 from 12-2 p.m.

Good Shepherd School,
Camp Hill, Jan. 28 from 1-3 p.m.
Families of prospective students in grades Pre-K through 8th are welcome to attend. Our dedicated faculty members will be available to discuss, in detail, our top-notch curriculum and our commitment to “growing faithful leaders of tomorrow.” Guided campus tours will be provided by our team of student ambassadors. Call 717-737-7261 to register for the Jan. 28 Open House or to set up your own personal tour. You may also contact us via email at jletersky@gsschpa.org.

St. Joan of Arc School,
Hershey, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Give your child the gift of a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence education at St. Joan of Arc School. Catholic School’s Week Open House/Registration will take place Jan. 28. Other registration dates are Jan. 29-31 from 9 a.m.-noon. Please see our Web site, http://school.stjoanhershey.org/, to see all that we have to offer. Call 717-533-2854 or e-mail Deb Rizzotto, Director of Development, drizzotto@stjoanhershey.org to schedule your personal tour.

Lancaster Catholic High School,
Feb. 1 from 6:30-8 p.m.
The Open House is a great way to explore the school and to see what it would like to be a Crusader. To register for the Open House, please visit lchsyes.org and click on Admissions.

St. Anne School, Lancaster, Jan. 28 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m.
The Open Houses will include an information session, a tour of the school and the opportunity to meet with current parents. Interested attendees should RSVP to the school office at 717-394-6711 or to wooduszanne@stannelancaster.org. St. Anne School is a Pre-K to grade 8 Catholic school serving the families of St. Anne Parish, St. John Neumann Parish and the surrounding community.

St. Catherine Laboure School,
Harrsiburg, Jan 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, offering Preschool through 8th grade. Prospective families, current families, and alumni are invited! Tours will be provided, light refreshments will be served in the cafeteria, and classrooms will be open with teachers available to answer questions. For questions, contact Kelly Rogers, Director of Advancement, at 717-564-1760, ext. 129, or krivers@stcl.org.

St. Theresa School, New Cumberland,
Jan. 28 from 9 a.m.-noon
Take a tour of the school with one of our students, meet the faculty and experience the Saints Difference. If you are interested in St. Theresa School in New Cumberland, but can’t make the Open House, call 717-774-7464 to schedule your personal tour. Enrollment begins Jan. 28.

(The Open Houses listed here were directly provided by the schools to The Catholic Witness. For information on Catholic school education in the diocese, contact your local Catholic school or visit www.gocatholicschools.org.)

Young Adult Retreat

Retreat Directors

Rev. Brian J. Wayne
Campus Minister, Millersville University
Sr. Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Director of Formation for Wives of Permanent Diaconate

Dates: Registration: 4-6 pm on Fri. May 11
Retreat Dates: Fri. May 11 - Sat. May 12

Place: Refreshing Mountain,
455 Camp Road
Stevens, PA

All Inclusive Cost

Before 3/9/2018 $75.00
After 3/9/2018 $90.00

Registration:
Fri. May 11 - Sat. May 12

Based on 5 person occupancy
Four full meals

FOR REGISTRATION AND OTHER QUESTIONS
Contact Mr. Rob Williams, Director of Youth & Young Adults
rwilliams@hbgediocese.org or 717.6574804 ext. 328

Professional Development Seminar
Discussing Issues Surrounding Spirituality and Hooking Up

Tuesday, February 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
or Wednesday, February 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Presented by Elizabeth Small,
founder of Small Steps and D.I.S.S.H.

The seminar is for college campus ministry priests and lay ministry professionals, high school spiritual life directors and chaplains, and parish youth ministers.

The hook-up culture is prevalent on high school and college campuses, and students need the opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding it in a safe and open environment. The seminar will offer the most current data and practical strategies on how those in ministry with youth and young adults can accompany them during this challenging time.

For information and to register, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch