Conference Will Re-Imagime Church’s Ministry to Families for the New Evangelization

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

An ecumenical conference aimed at invigorating Christian churches in rethinking their ministry to families will be hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg this March.

Known as the “Fresh Expressions” conference, the event is being hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg, and will feature ten plenary speakers, including Bishop Ronald Gainer, Msgr. Renzo Bonetti, Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Rev. Dr. Tory Baucum and Christopher West, among others.

Now in its fourth year as a national gathering, the conference will be co-hosted by “Fresh Expressions,” an international ecumenical movement that cultivates new kinds of church experiences alongside existing congregations to more effectively engage Christians.

The two-day conference, to be held March 16 and 17 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, promises to offer attendees a unique opportunity to refresh their own faith while gaining wisdom in service for those to whom they minister.

It is particularly aimed for clergy, directors/ coordinators of religious education, youth ministers, educators and those who minister to married couples and families.

“The Fresh Expressions Conference is a wonderful ecumenical experience focusing our attention on the family as the center and a source for evangelization,” said Bishop Gainer. “Too often, we look at the family as a problem to be fixed. Fresh Expressions sees the family as it is and its potential as a powerful center for evangelization.

“I have participated in a Fresh Expressions conference and found it to be enlightening and energizing,” the bishop continued. “This will be the first time that a Catholic diocese has served as the host for a conference. It will be a rich blessing to be together with other Christians to pray and learn together.”

Plenary speakers at the conference include Catholic and Protestant leaders and thinkers: Bishop Ronald Gainer, Msgr. Renzo Bonetti, Founder of the Mistero Grande Project in Verona Italy; Rev. Dr. Tory Baucum, Rector of Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax, Va.; Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Assistant Professor of Theological Anthropology, Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family; Christopher West and Bill Donohgy of the Theology of the Body Institute in Philadelphia; author Frederica Mathewes-Green; Dr. Ben Witherington, Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary; Rev. Don Coleman, Co-Pastor of East End Fellowship in Richmond, Va.; and Rev. Bruxy Cavey, Pastor of The Meeting House in Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

The Fresh Expressions group that is co-hosting the event works closely with the “Amore Project,” a Catholic venture based in Italy and...
“New Year Calls for Courage, Hope; No More Hatred, Selfishness, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Whether the new year will be good or not depends on us choosing to do good each day, Pope Francis said.

“That is how one builds peace, saying ‘no’ to hatred and violence – with action – and ‘yes’ to dialogue and reconciliation,” he said Jan. 1, which the Church observes as the feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Speaking to the some 50,000 pilgrims gathered at St. Peter’s Square for the first noon Angelus of 2017, the pope referred to his peace day message in which he asked people to adopt the “style” of non-violence for building a politics for peace.

Earlier in the day, the pope spoke of how maternal tenderness, hope and self-sacrifice were the “strongest antidote” to the selfishness, indifference and “lack of openness” in the world today.

Celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, which was decorated with bright red anthuriums, evergreen boughs, white flowers and pinecones brushed with gold paint, the pope said that a community without mothers would be cold and heartless with “room only for calculation and speculation.”

The pope said he learned so much about unconditional love, hope and belonging from mothers who stop embracing, supporting and fighting for what is best for their children incarc¬erated persons, or with persons with mental illness.

“Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as chil¬dren,” he said.

Just like all mothers of the world, Mary, Mother of God, “protects us from the corrosive disease of being ‘spiritual orphans,’” that is when the soul feels “motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim.”

“This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debases the soul,” which soon “forgets that life is a gift we have received – and owes to others – a gift we are called to share in this common home,” he said.

A “fragmented and divided culture” makes things worse, he said, leading to feelings of emptiness and loneliness.

“The lack of physical and not virtual contact is cauterizing our hearts and making us lose the capacity for tender¬ness and wonder, for pity and compas¬sion,” he said, as well as making us “for¬get the importance of playing, of singing, of a smile, of rest, of gratitude.”

Remembering that Jesus handed his mother over to us “makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong” and can grow, that we are not mere objects to “consume and be consumed,” that we are not “merchand¬ise” to be exchanged or inert receptacles of information,” he said. “We are children, we are family, we are God’s people.”

Mary shows that humility and tender¬ness aren’t virtues of the weak, but of the strong, and that we don’t have to mis¬treat others in order to feel important, he said.
Steelton K of C Makes History

Knights of Columbus Council #3625, Bishop Joseph T. Daley, of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton has earned the distinction of Star Council, one of the organization’s top awards, for the 2015-2016 fraternal year. The organization’s headquarters, located in New Haven, Conn., made the announcement. The award recognizes overall excellence in the area of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

Andrew C. Bacha, Grand Knight, former District Deputy and current Diocesan Marshall, is pictured with Bishop Ronald Gainer and Father David Danlueker, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish and Diocesan Vicar General, in recognition of the council’s distinction. Bacha is honored to be the Grand Knight of the council and will continue to lead the Knights to support the parish priest, seminarians, parishioners and community of Steelton.

Since its inception date of April 1953, deactivation in 1980 and reactivation by Bacha in 2005, this is the first time this council has received the Star Council award in Steelton’s history.
The Perfect Prayer
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

I need to make a public confession to you all. As you are well aware, the Jubilee Year of Mercy came to an end in November. During this year, I had reflected on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. As the jubilee year steadily approached its completion, I reached out to individuals for ideas for the next topic about which I would write. I even asked the Holy Spirit several times for guidance, but did not receive an answer, at least one which I could discern. After weeks went by of several conversations with not only individual witnesses but also with the managing editor of The Witness, we both concluded that my next series would concentrate on the Beatitudes found in the Gospel of Matthew.

After we made this decision, I went on my annual retreat during mid-October. As I was enjoying the glory of creation decorated in reds, oranges, yellows and greens, the hint of colder weather in the breeze and my fingers on the Rosary, the Holy Spirit tapped me on the shoulder and began a conversation with me about my next topic.

“Can you tell me to whom does the message of The Witness truly belong?” To which I responded, “The People of God.”

“But, who really is in charge of the message?” I declared, “The bishop!”

Thinking about the question, I prayed, “Ah, oops, that would be You!”

“Yes, indeed! When you asked me about the topic before, did you wait for the answer?” I answered, “Not really.”

“I would like you to thoughtfully and prayerfully discuss the ‘Our Father.’”

So, I got my answer as to what to write next, and here we begin! In my mind’s eye, I often picture Jesus wrapped in prayer, completely oblivious to his surroundings, with a gentle smile on his face. After being watched by his disciples, one of them goes up to him and asks, “Teach us how to pray.” (Luke 11:1-4, Matthew 6:9-13). The prayer that Jesus shares with his disciples is the most commented passage of Scripture found in the Bible! It is rich in theology and, along with the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Sacraments, forms the basis of Christian catechesis back from the apostolic times! In fact, in the early Church, the entire life of prayer was taught to the catechumens through the study of the Our Father.

Back in 2010, I had a chance to go on a pilgrimage to Rome. While I was in the city, I visited the Lateran Baptistery. This is a baptistery that goes back from the apostolic times! In fact, in the early Church, the entire life of prayer with his disciples is the most commented passage of Scripture found in the Bible! It is rich in theology and, along with the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Sacraments, forms the basis of Christian catechesis back from the apostolic times! In fact, in the early Church, the entire life of prayer was taught to the catechumens through the study of the Our Father.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg this year, we have begun to implement an apostolate called SportsLeader in all the high schools of the diocese, as a way of helping to evangelize and build virtue through sports. You can find an article on the diocese’s implementation of SportsLeader at the following link: https://www.sportsleader.org/2016/09/diocese-of-harrisburg-partners-with-sportsleader/ as well as pictures of some of our high school teams on their Twitter feed.

In my next column, I will explore more of the particular ways of evangelizing and promoting virtue through sports. In the meantime, if you have a chance, I encourage you to arrive at any interested in sports, especially all reaches at whatever level, to read the book, The Catholic Ideal: Exercise and Sports by Robert Fenney, published by Aquinas Press. There is good and practical food for thought in this book. As I prepare to enter my 51st year and realize that I certainly have more years of this life in the rearview mirror than in front of me, Our Lord’s admonition comes to me stronger now than ever: “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?” Win...
Defend All Life, from Conception to Natural Death

By Father Paul CB Schenck

Special to The Witness

The March for Life is the longest sustained public demonstration in the nation’s history. Begun after the release in 1973 of the infamous Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton U.S. Supreme Court decisions decriminalizing abortions, the March has drawn millions of participants over its 44-year existence and continues to be the largest annual pro-life demonstration in the world.

The March has been supported by the U.S. Catholic hierarchy throughout its existence, and Catholic leaders and communities across the country have consistently supported it. Catholic schools, colleges, and universities are ubiquitous in the colonnade of demonstrators stretching from the Capitol mall to the Supreme Court. The number of Catholic participants has grown steadily, and Mass and adoration have been added to accommodate the crowds. Offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation and commemorating the Mass with more than 10,000 young people and their sponsors is truly inspirational. Harrington marchers will again this year attend the rally and Mass in the D.C. Armory building, and meet for a final blessing at the conclusion of the March in front of the Library of Congress Jefferson building.

This year, in light of the election, prospects for pro-life advancement are higher than in the past decade. The President-Elect and Vice President-Elect ran on a platform opposing abortion. Supreme Court appointments opposing Roe v. Wade and the ACA with its birth-control mandate. Many pro-life organizations anticipate that the new administration will follow through with its pro-life legislative and policy agenda. If these positions are maintained, and policies opposing abortion and favorable life are implemented, the future will be brighter for the millions of victims of the previous abortion regimes. Still, citizens and pro-life groups must be vigilant in seeing to it that there is no slack or compromise. While Congress and the Trump administration are anti-abortion, the question remains whether they are pro-life.

Pro-Life involves far more than opposing abortion. The defense and advocacy of the sanctity and inviolability of human life includes the whole span of life, from natural conception to natural death. Life at every stage and condition must be carefully and vigilantly protected and defended. This involves not only opposition to abortion, but lethal and injurious research, euthanasia, public violence, unjust war, and capital punishment. These present practices destroy human life, which is created in the image and likeness of God unique; unrepeatable and irreplaceable.

Pro-Life must include the protection and advocacy of the dignity of each and every human person. The rhetoric and actions used in the campaigns leading up to the elections were very troubling to conscientious, pro-life citizens, and especially to Catholics. Things that were recklessly said and done by the candidates were sometimes belittling, insulting, and degrading of persons because of their religion, gender, race, economic class, disability, and ethnic heritage. Speech and behaviors toward the part of national leaders that are contrary to the dignity of the human person are not only uncalled for and unacceptable, they are destructive. Disparaging persons for any reason underruns the necessary foundations of civilized — protecting human and civil rights, mutual respect, courtesy, the presumption of innocence, and due process. Harsh words about religions, races, or classes of people lead to unjust prejudice and discrimination. It is these very conditions that often lead to the dissolution of marriage and family bonds, public violence, abortions, suicide and euthanasia.

When I was young I was an avid numismatist (a coin collector). I recall that a coin that was stamped on only one side, and was missing the other, was called an “error,” and while it may have had collector value, it lacked the intrinsic monetary value. To be Pro-Life means to hold equally to the dignity of the human person and the life of the human person. If only one or the other is adhered to, than it is an “error,” and while it may have political value, it will lack the intrinsic moral value.

(Father Paul CB Schenck is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities.)

A Millennial Perspective on Roe v. Wade

By Maria Gallagher

Special to The Witness

Jessica Resuta is a young woman with a clear talent for holding and engaging the interest of an audience with her captivating speaking style. She is a promising member of the Class of ’17—students who have never known a time when abortion was not legal.

Yet, Jessica opposes the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade. Why? “One-third of my generation is gone,” she says wistfully. “One-third of my peers will never experience life in the outside world as I have.”

Emily Derouin is a gifted young writer who has grown up in the post-Roe era. Poised and articulate, she describes herself as having a “passion for defending the helpless and the voiceless.” That is why Derouin is speaking out on behalf of the estimated 59 million unborn Americans who have lost their lives to legal abortion in the past 44 years.

Jessica and Emily are just two members of the chorus of voices who are calling for an end to Roe. These young women see Roe as a fundamentally flawed ruling which has decimated their generation—and left countless women grieving the deaths of their unborn children.

A survey cited by the Washington Times in June indicated a clear majority of Millennials believe in offering greater protection from abortion for pre-born children and their mothers. The poll found an astounding 53 percent of young Americans state that abortion should not be legal in all or most circumstances.

The trend is also seen at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., where it has been estimated that at least half of the marchers are under the age of 30. High school and college students come by the busload in a peaceful demonstration in defense of the sanctity of innocent human life, at all its ages and stages of development.

These are students whose first official portrait might have been the ultrasound picture posted on the refrigerator door of their family home. They have seen Millennials and videos of baby brothers, sisters, and cousins and have witnessed the humanity of the preborn child with their own eyes.

Outside the Supreme Court, they hear the eye-opening testimonies of the courageous women of the Silent No More Awareness campaign. These women had abortions, but now deeply regret them and want to spare other women the anguish of losing the child to the trauma of abortion.

The young people who will be attending the March are a world and generations apart from the men of the Supreme Court, legitimizing abortion so extreme that it led to the brutality of partial-birth abortion—a practice in which a baby was partly delivered, then killed. It took an act of Congress—and a subsequent High Court ruling—to outlaw this outrageous procedure.

Nearly four and a half decades after Roe, momentum is growing to help the nation move forward. Technology has opened a window to the womb through 3D and 4D ultrasounds. Modern medicine is saving premature babies at earlier and earlier stages of development. Comprehensive support and assistance are available for women facing challenging pregnancies.

It’s time for the Supreme Court to follow the lead of Millennials and catch up with the times. (Maria Gallagher is the Legislative Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation.)

Holy Hours for Life in Observance of the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

A number of parishes in the diocese will hold Holy Hours for Life during the Jan. 18-25 timeframe. The following is a listing of Holy Hours for Life, provided by the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities. A list of buses traveling to the March for Life on Jan. 27 was printed in the Dec. 23 edition of The Witness and can be found online at http://www.holyhoursforlife.org/.

Berkerv, St. Joseph Church, Jan. 22 at 9:15 a.m.
Bloomsburg, St. Columbia Church, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.
Bonneville, St. Joseph the Worker Church, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.
Buchanan Valley, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Jan. 22 at 11:45 a.m.
Carlisle, St. Patrick Church, Jan. 21 at 11 p.m.
Chambersburg, Corpus Christi Church, Jan. 25 at 11 a.m.
Coal Township, Our Lady of Hope Church, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.
Ephrata, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.
Greencastle, St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.
Hannover, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Jan. 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Diocesan Pro-Life Mass

Sunday, January 22
St. Patrick Cathedral

The annual Diocesan Pro-Life Mass will take place on Sunday January 22, 2017, at St. Patrick Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg. Mass begins at 12:15 p.m., and Bishop Keleher will be the celebrant and homilist. The Mass will mark the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, legalizing abortion in America and leading to the death of more than 57 million unborn children. All are welcome to attend.
Miraculously this white oak tree survived the Battle of Gettysburg, witnessing some of the Civil War’s most violent fighting at Devil’s Den in 1863. The nearly 200-year-old tree was used by Harvey Munsell of the 99th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, who was the flag bearer for the regiment, which was recruited from Philadelphia and Lancaster County at the war’s onset. Munsell won the Medal of Honor Award after the war, bestowed by the U.S. Congress for his valorous service on the battlefield. He remarkably survived the war, carrying the flag in 13 different battles for the 99th.

He was one of 63 soldiers to win the prestigious medal, though after the battle, he admitted that he feigned his death by this tree as Confederates from Texas and Arkansas attacked and pushed the Pennsylvanians off the igneous rocks that make up Devil’s Den.

Ironically, Devil’s Den was also witness to a sharp Native American battle dubbed “Battle of the Crows,” that was fought there a century before the Civil War and before this magnificent tree was born.

This image was taken during the recent Advent season featuring 150 30-second exposures – merged into one file to create the star trail effect around the North Star – Polaris – which actually is a three star complex that remains stationary in the heavens as the celestial north pole. The yellow supergiant star is the 50th brightest star in the heavens, and is nearly 433 light years away from Earth. It still is used as a navigational guide to sojourners worldwide.

---

**Diocesan Celebration of World Youth Day**

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.” (Luke 1:49)

April 9, 2017

New Venue and Format

Good Shepherd Church
3435 Trindle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

**Schedule:**

2:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
2:45 p.m. – Praise and worship music with Teresa Peterson
3:30 p.m. – Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer
5:00 p.m. – Enjoy different types of food from food trucks
6:30-7:30 p.m. – Holy Hour with Father Anthony Dill

---

**MATTHEW 25 grant applications accepted through March 31**

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

**Criteria:**

- Parish and pastor supported organization
- 501c(3) status
- Located within the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg
- In accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church

**For an application:**

[www.hbgdiocese.org/m25](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/m25)

‘Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)
Nestled along the roadside of Route 22 in Lebanon County is Our Lady of Fatima Mission – a quaint church on a several acres of land that includes an outdoor shrine to the title of the Blessed Mother for which it is named.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 8, Bishop Ronald Gainer made a pastoral visit to Our Lady of Fatima – a mission of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon.

“What gives me my most pleasure as a bishop, a thrill really, is to be out with the people in their parishes in the diocese,” he said.

Our Lady of Fatima Mission was established in Jonestown in 1953 in a building that formerly served as a combination restaurant and gas station. Catholicism in the area, however, can be traced back into the 1700s. Prior to the founding of Assumption BVM Church eight miles away in Lebanon, Catholics in Jonestown and its surrounding area either waited for missionary priests to visit, or trekked 25 miles to Harrisburg for Mass.

Still, with three parishes forming in the city of Lebanon in the 1800 and 1900s, it wasn’t until 1953 that Our Lady of Fatima Mission was built, coming on the heels of a census that Msgr. Paul Weaver, pastor of St. Mary’s, directed be taken in the Jonestown area. As the results revealed more than 50 Catholic families, the search for property for a mission ensued, resulting in the purchase of the former two-story eatery and gas station.

According to the mission’s history, the congregation was named Our Lady of Fatima due to Msgr. Weaver’s great devotion to her. The building was remodeled in preparation for the chapel’s dedication on Oct. 13, 1953, by Bishop George Leech, and would undergo several additional phases of refurbishments.

A mission of St. Mary’s in Lebanon, Our Lady of Fatima is under its pastoral care, including that of Father Michael Rothan, pastor. In his homily during the Mass on Jan. 8, Bishop Gainer spoke on the meaning of “Epiphany,” which, in Greek, means to draw back the veil, or to reveal.

“The Wise Men, of course, brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts to the Christ child. Gold recognizes Christ’s kingship – he was a newborn king. Frankincense was given as a recognition of his true divinity, and myrrh, an embalming oil, foretold of Christ’s troubled life and sacrificing death…. The Magi came to pay homage to the newborn king,” the bishop relayed.

“Homage was established in the Epiphany story. It is why we come to Holy Mass – to give homage to God,” he said. “The first object of worship is not to receive, but to give homage – respect, reverence, and honor. Of course, we receive the Body and Precious Blood of Christ, but we come here just as the Magi did to give homage to God – it is right, it is just, our duty and our salvation to do so.”

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, which first began on May 13, 1917, when three shepherd children reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

In celebration of this anniversary, Our Lady of Fatima Mission will hold several events this year to coincide with the dates of the Marian apparitions. These will include an outdoor Rosary at 9 a.m., followed by a social, on May 13; the Rosary at 6:45 a.m. followed by a breakfast on June 13 and July 13; Mass at 9 a.m. followed by brunch on Aug. 19; an outdoor Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a social on Sept. 13; and a candlelight Rosary procession at dusk, followed by a Mass and dinner on Oct. 13.
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

On the eve of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, faithful gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg for the diocese’s biennial Mass to celebrate African-American faith and culture. Once again, the liturgy featured the powerful and inspirational music and vocals from the choir of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Baltimore, Md.

Celebrating the Mass and serving as its homilist, Bishop Ronald Gainer remarked, “We are here today to celebrate the amazing legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King…. He made great sacrifice for human justice, suffered and gave his life for human progress. He was called by God to this enduring service.”

“Jesus described himself as the Light of the World, not just to the Church, but to the whole world. It is our call to be the light the world so needs. We are to carry the message to the world,” the bishop said.

Bishop Gainer expressed his gratitude for the diocese’s Black Catholic Apostolate – under the auspices of the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization – and the apostolate’s coordinator, Gwen Summers.

Reflecting on the day’s Gospel Reading (John 1:29-34) in which John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and says, in part, that he did not know him, the bishop remarked, “John the Baptist claimed he did not know Jesus. He was humble enough to admit that truth. Faith can be a mystery…and something we do not fully comprehend. That’s okay, just like it was for John the Baptist. He was the first sent to carry the message to the world, and he is the one that calls us to follow Christ and bring his message to the world.”
Father Tolton’s Remains Exhumed, Verified; His Cause Takes Step Forward
By Joyce Duriga
Catholic News Service

On the morning of Dec. 10 in a cemetery in Quincy, Ill., Father Augustus Tolton, the first African American priest, took one step further as his remains were exhumed and verified.

Father Tolton, a former slave, is the first recognized American diocesan priest of African descent. In 2011, the Archdiocese of Chicago officially opened his cause for sainthood.

While digging up Father Tolton’s grave, it may seem like a macabre undertaking, and the antithesis of the prayer “may they rest in peace,” it is actually a reverent and well thought out part of Church law regarding the remains of holy people.

“This goes back to a very ancient tradition in the Church for a number of reasons. One was to document that the person was a genuine representation of someone’s imagination or some group’s imagination. Finding their grave to see the actual earthly sign of the person lived, breathed and walked this earth,” said Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, who is postulating on behalf of the cause of the nation’s African-American Catholic.

“It is an authentic out of our theology, our tradition that our bodies are made holy in both the act of the resurrection and the reception of the Eucharist and eventually the act of burial. So while we’re treating everyone with dignity in death, in the case of holy remains are to be given a kind of a reverential handling,” said Bishop Perry.

While Father Tolton did not die in Chicago in 1897, he requested to be buried in Quincy, which is in the Diocese of Springfield. Father Augustine Tolton, also known as Augustus, is pictured in a photo from an undated portrait card.

Funeral director P.J. Staab and Father Christopher House, chancellor of the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., placed Father Augustus Tolton Dec. 10 as they are exhumed and verified at St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Ill.

From 1897, he requested to be buried in Quincy, which is in the Diocese of Springfield. Father and his family had fled there after escaping slavery in Missouri and it’s where he returned to minister after being ordained in Rome. He is buried in St. Peter’s cemetery and on a plot with another Quincy priest.

Today that cemetery is sandwiched in between KFC and Wendy’s restaurant in between KFC and Wendy’s restaurant in between KFC and Wendy’s restaurant in between KFC and Wendy’s restaurant.

In addition to the skeletal remains, the crews found other personal items such as metal handles and wood from the coffin, the corpus from a crucifix buried with him, the corpus from his Rosary and a portion of his Roman cotta.

This wasn’t the first time archaeologist Deacon David Keene removed skeletal remains from the ground but it was the first time he did it for the Church.

“The difference between us and regular grave diggers is we just have an image of what we’re looking for, of what it looks like under the ground,” said Deacon Keene, who serves at Chicago’s Holy Family Parish.

“Once all of the remains and artifacts process must go. The forensic pathologist verified by the skull that the remains were of a black person. By the shape and thickness of bones in the pelvic area he was able to determine that the remains were from a male in his early 40s.

Over time the earth crushed the wooden coffin in which the priest was buried. It’s a glass top because it was the first time he did it for the Church. It was in turn placed in a sealed casket and then sealed into a sealed vault. Sza- belski told the Catholic New World, Chicago’s archdiocesan newspaper.

Father Tolton’s exhumation was slow going with a lot of digging with trowels and using soft brushes to take and the antithesis of the prayer “may they rest in peace,” it is actually a reverent and well thought out part of Church law regarding the remains of holy people.

The forensic pathologist verified by the skull that the remains were of a black person. By the shape and thickness of bones in the pelvic area he was able to determine that the remains were from a male in his early 40s. hadde been working to spread awareness of Greeley since 2011.

As the remains were unearthed, the forensic pathologist laid them out on a table in a mortuary bag under which was a new priest’s alb. He placed the bones together anatomically.

Rosary while that was happening. In addition to the skull, they found Father Tolton’s exhumation was slow going with a lot of digging with trowels and using soft brushes to take and the antithesis of the prayer “may they rest in peace,” it is actually a reverent and well thought out part of Church law regarding the remains of holy people.

The forensic pathologist verified by the skull that the remains were of a black person. By the shape and thickness of bones in the pelvic area he was able to determine that the remains were from a male in his early 40s. hadde been working to spread awareness of Greeley since 2011.

As the remains were unearthed, the forensic pathologist laid them out on a table in a mortuary bag under which was a new priest’s alb. He placed the bones together anatomically.

Rosary while that was happening. In addition to the skull, they found Father Tolton’s exhumation was slow going with a lot of digging with trowels and using soft brushes to take and the antithesis of the prayer “may they rest in peace,” it is actually a reverent and well thought out part of Church law regarding the remains of holy people.

The forensic pathologist verified by the skull that the remains were of a black person. By the shape and thickness of bones in the pelvic area he was able to determine that the remains were from a male in his early 40s.
The annual Membership Sunday for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith serves to remind us that the Church is missionary by its nature; that two-thirds of the world do not know Christ and His saving love; and that by our Baptism, we are all missionaries, whether we actually travel abroad or support the missions at home through prayer and sacrifice.

In this annual collection, the faithful of the Diocese of Harrisburg generously provide support to missionaries worldwide, with contributions averaging more than $135,000 each year. The SPOF, under the direction of the Holy Father, then distributes these contributions to mission dioceses and missionary organizations that endeavor to bring the Good News to everyone.

It is the ultimate goal for young mission dioceses to eventually become self-sufficient, so that they may be removed from missionary status and take up the work of evangelizing the Gospel in new territories.

The dangers that missionaries face in the field are real and ever-present. Agenzia Fides, Vatican news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies, publishes an annual report listing the number of missionaries killed in the previous year. In 2016, 28 Catholic pastoral care workers were killed, including 14 priests, 9 religious women, 1 seminarian, and 4 lay catechists. From 2000 to 2016, the total number of pastoral care workers who were killed worldwide is 424, including 5 bishops.

Missionaries administer sacraments, help the poor, take care of orphans and drug addicts, participate in development projects, or simply open the door of their home to anyone. Fides reports that the majority were killed in attempted robbery. In some cases they were violently attacked, a sign of a climate of moral decline and economic and cultural poverty which generates violence and disregard for human life. Some are murdered by the same people whom they help.

Added to the annual report by Fides is the long list of the many of whom we may never hear about but who, in every corner of the planet, suffer and pay with their lives because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Because of your sacrifice on SPOF Membership Sunday, missionaries around the world tirelessly continue in their efforts of Bringing the Good News to Everyone.

FEBRUARY 5, 2017
MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY
JOIN THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
PRAYER FOR THE SAFETY OF MISSIONARIES
Look kindly, Lord,
On our missionaries, priests, religious and catechists
who left all to witness to Your word and Your love.
Be to each one of them a “...powerful protector and their strong support,
their shade from the midday sun,
their shelter from the desert wind,
a guard against stumbling, an assurance against a fall...”
Eccles. 34:19
Sustain them in difficult moments,
direct their strength, console their hearts,
and crown their works with spiritual victories.
Let them not seek for earthly success or the goods of this world,
but only Your triumph and the good of souls.
Your Cross, which accompanies them through their lives,
sparks to them of heroism, renunciation and of peace.
Be their comfort, their guide, their light, and their strength,
so that Your name may be announced everywhere and that,
surrounded by a larger and larger number of Your children,
they may sing a hymn of thanksgiving, of glory and redemption.
Amen.
St. John XXIII

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

"Yesterday, as today, the darkness of the denial of life appears. But shining still stronger is the light of love that overcomes hatred and inaugurates a new world.”
(Pope Francis, Angelus 12/26/2015)
Cardinal Wuerl Marks 50 Years of Priesthood, Thanks God for His Vocation

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

At a Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington expressed thanks to God for his vocation, and he encouraged Catholics to open their hearts to hearing and responding to God’s call in their lives.

At the Dec. 18 Mass at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington, Cardinal Wuerl said that just as the angel told Joseph in a dream not to be afraid, people today need to take that promise from God to heart.

“When you respond to whatever call God has given you,” remember God’s promise, “I am with you,” said the cardinal.

God’s grace helps people be open to his call, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for people to follow that call, Cardinal Wuerl said.

On Dec. 17, 1966, the future cardinal was ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Fifty years to the day of his ordination, Cardinal Wuerl celebrated Mass for the seminarians and priests at St. John Paul II Seminary, which he founded for the Archdiocese of Washington five years ago.

To publicly commemorate his 50th anniversary as a priest, Cardinal Wuerl celebrated a regular Sunday Mass the next day at St. Matthew’s Cathedral.

In an earlier interview with the Catholic Standard, the archdiocesan newspaper, the cardinal said he thought the best way to mark his anniversary would be to do what priests do – celebrate Mass with their people, and he decided to do that at the cathedral because as the archbishop of the capital church, he said, “I want to be where I can do what I do best.”

In his homily at the Dec. 18 anniversary Mass, Cardinal Wuerl noted that all people are called to a vocation. For some, that might be to married life or religious life. The cardinal said the call might be to a profession of service, such as in the fields of teaching, medicine, government work or the military.

And some are called to the priesthood, to follow Jesus the high priest and share in the redemptive work of Christ in today’s world, the cardinal said. He noted that as he installs new priests at parishes, he emphasizes the work of priests to be the “redemptive work of the priest.”

“Priesthood is a gift from God,” the cardinal said, “not something we earn. As Christ’s Body on earth, the church needs God’s priests to be witnesses in the world.”

“Some of us, that’s the call we have, a priestly vocation,” he said.

Jesus is in our hearts.” Then he added, “Your Eminence, this is the lifelong challenge of every priest. It is the challenge of every believer as well – to try to draw as close to Christ as possible, the cardinal said, adding, “But it all begins with the call.”

In January, he marked his 30th anniversary as a bishop. He was ordained as a bishop by St. John Paul II in 1986, and served as an auxiliary bishop in Seattle before being appointed as bishop of his native Pittsburgh two years later.

This past June, Cardinal Wuerl marked his 10th anniversary as archbishop of Washington. He was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to lead the Archdiocese of Washington in 2006 and was elevated to the College of Cardinals four years later.

Reading for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer.

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

The Faith and Order Commission and the pontifical council alternate identifying communities to choose the Week of Prayer theme, draft a worship service, come up with sub-themes and Bible readings for each day of the octave and defenses the ecumenical situation in their local community.

With input from international representatives and then approval from the World Council of Churches and the Vatican, the material is sent around the world.

“We deliberately produce the booklet in a boring format because we do not expect anyone to pray from it directly,” Father Currer said. “It is not a prescribed text because adaptation signifies engagement – it is creative and spiritual.”

The local reflections are meant to be universally accessible and eminently adaptable, he said. “When you do a Google search for the Week of Prayer you should get material prepared locally,” not just links to the text sent out.

The theme for 2017 is: “Reconciliation – The love of Christ compels us.”

Even before the celebrations began, work was underway to finalize participation for the 2018 Week of Prayer with input from an ecumenical group from the Caribbean, and Churches Together in Indonesia already has been asked to prepare materials for the octave of prayer in 2019.

The long lead time gives Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants around the world time to translate and adapt the materials to their own local situations, cultures and styles of worship.

The German group was chosen to write the theme because 2017 is the year that marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, an event that fracture the Christian community in the West.

But, Father Currer said, “this commemoration of 2017 is also a story of coming back together in communion.”

As Pope Francis showed when he traveled to St. Peter’s Basilica in 2016, ecumenical events are a kind of emulative events and witness to the world that Christians are coming back together in communion.

Even before the celebrations began, work was underway to finalize participation for the 2018 Week of Prayer with input from an ecumenical group from the Caribbean, and Churches Together in Indonesia already has been asked to prepare materials for the octave of prayer in 2019. The long lead time gives Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants around the world time to translate and adapt the materials to their own local situations, cultures and styles of worship.

The pope participated in other major ecumenical events of prayer and witness in 2016: He met in February with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow; traveled to Greece in April to visit refugees with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; and, along with Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, in early October, he met with Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, and later with Anglican bishops to work and pray together in their home region.

“Through these things Catholics see the pope doing what we implore them to do: participate,” Father Currer said.

Catholic News Service

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

When a group of German Christians was asked in 2014 to prepare materials for the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, their choice of a “wall” as a symbol was a logical one because it is explicitly referred to the Berlin Wall.

The German reflections on the power of prayer to bring down walls and the Gospel call to reconciliation were adopted by the World Council of Churches’ Faith and Order Commission and the Vatican, which sent the materials on to its home regions.

The U.S. political Union of extending the wall along the border with Mexico, Pope Francis’ frequent admonitions about building bridges rather than walls, the global refugee crisis – all of that makes the powerful symbol of a wall even more potent, said Father Carole Currer, an official at the Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The image of the wall is very current today – more now than when they wrote the reflection,” said Father Anthony Cur- rer, who coordinates the Vatican contribution to the week of prayer.

“The image of the wall is very current today – more now than when they wrote the reflection,” said Father Anthony Cur- rer, who coordinates the Vatican contribution to the week of prayer.

The U.S. political Union of extending the wall along the border with Mexico, Pope Francis’ frequent admonitions about building bridges rather than walls, the global refugee crisis – all of that makes the powerful symbol of a wall even more potent, said Father Carole Currer, an official at the Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The image of the wall is very current today – more now than when they wrote the reflection,” said Father Anthony Cur- rer, who coordinates the Vatican contribution to the week of prayer.

The U.S. political Union of extending the wall along the border with Mexico, Pope Francis’ frequent admonitions about building bridges rather than walls, the global refugee crisis – all of that makes the powerful symbol of a wall even more potent, said Father Carole Currer, an official at the Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The image of the wall is very current today – more now than when they wrote the reflection,” said Father Anthony Cur- rer, who coordinates the Vatican contribution to the week of prayer.

The U.S. political Union of extending the wall along the border with Mexico, Pope Francis’ frequent admonitions about building bridges rather than walls, the global refugee crisis – all of that makes the powerful symbol of a wall even more potent, said Father Carole Currer, an official at the Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The image of the wall is very current today – more now than when they wrote the reflection,” said Father Anthony Cur- rer, who coordinates the Vatican contribution to the week of prayer.

The U.S. political Union of extending the wall along the border with Mexico, Pope Francis’ frequent admonitions about building bridges rather than walls, the global refugee crisis – all of that makes the powerful symbol of a wall even more potent, said Father Carole Currer, an official at the Council for Promoting Christian Unity.
CRUSADERS EDGE BEAVERS IN CLASSIC BASKETBALL GAME

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

January is not the time of year when you win championships on the hardwood, but that doesn’t mean you can’t play championship-intense basketball. And that’s what Lancaster Catholic and Lebanon Catholic did in entertaining style on Assumption Hill in Lebanon on an icy Jan. 10.

Both girls’ teams are defending District 3 champs and are ranked in the top-10 in PIAA state rankings, so this Lancaster-Lebanon League tilt on paper looked to be a classic midseason match-up. It was an excellent basketball game, won by the Crusaders of Lancaster Catholic, 42-41, who had won an incredible 100-straight league games before falling to Northern Lebanon on Jan. 6 to snap that streak.

The Beavers led by five in the first quarter and at the half before pulling ahead by 11 points midway through the third quarter. Led by Alexis Hill (20 points), the Beavers pushed the frantic pace the entire night offensively, while mixing up zone and man-to-man defenses to keep the Crusaders from getting into any sort of offensive sync.

When you hold the Crusaders to 16 points in the first half defensively, that’s an impressive achievement.

But as the Lancaster Catholic Crusaders have been doing successfully for decades, it was their tried and true full court pressure that created their offense off of turnovers in the second half. There to take advantage of too many inopportune Beaver turnovers was the Crusaders’ Kiki Jefferson (18 points), who scored several key slashing drives to the bucket down the stretch to win it for the Crusaders.

The teams have a rematch on Feb. 3 at Lancaster Catholic, but no matter who wins that battle, it’s a safe assumption that these two excellently coached teams will be playing big playoff games in March somewhere in Pennsylvania in the state playoffs when it matters most.

Alexis Hill, junior, is the Beavers’ able go-to scorer. Crusaders’ forward Lauren Hill is fouled late in the game on a key possession.

Local Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship

All boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship sponsored by Council 6810. The Council 6810 local competition will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017, from 3-6 p.m. at St. Leo the Great School, 2427 Marrietta Avenue, Rohrerstown.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event and receive a Certificate of Participation. Additionally, winners in each age and in each gender category will receive a Council Champion certificate and a trophy or plaque.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age, such as a birth certificate, and written parental consent. A contestant’s age category is determined by his or her age as of Jan. 1.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. All boys and girls 9-14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in respective age divisions. Last year, more than 120,000 sharpshooters took part in over 3,600 local competitions.

The Knights of Columbus is a non-profit international Catholic family fraternal service organization with over 1.8 million members in 15,000 local councils. Last year, Knights donated over 70 million volunteer hours and $170 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, communities, culture of life, families and youth.

York Catholic High School Announces Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions

York Catholic High School’s Athletic Association is inducting seven new members into its Athletic Hall of Fame. The inductees will be introduced Saturday, Jan. 21, prior to the start of the girls’ varsity basketball game versus Dallastown scheduled for a 3:30 p.m. tip-off. The induction and reception immediately follows the game in the cafeteria.

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors former coaches and student athletes, and the dedication of athletic program volunteers. Those being inducted include: Sarah Bright-Philips ’00 (athlete: cross country and track and field), Marc Ryan (volunteer), Jon Showers ’07 (athlete: basketball and football), Kyle Smink (volunteer), Eugene Staab ’39 (athlete: basketball and football), Megan Stewart ’07 (athlete: basketball, soccer and volleyball), Amanda Weaver ’07 (athlete: basketball and volleyball).
Global Papal Prayer Network Continues to Evolve

By Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

Last year, more than 13 million people around the world watched Pope Francis explain one of his specific prayer intentions each month. The 90-second, personal explanations in “The Pope Video,” first launched in January 2016, encouraged people to join an estimated 50 million Catholics who already had a more formal relationship with The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network – better known by its former title, the Apostleship of Prayer. The prayer network, which is more than 170 years old, continues to evolve.

After the debut in 2016 of the monthly video on www.thepopevideo.org, the new year began with Pope Francis adding a second monthly intention – an urgent prayer appeal. For January, the pope appealed for the homeless struggling with cold temperatures and indifference.

“Not just watching the video and receiving the appeal, but taking action and offering help,” noted Justiniano Vila, a manager at La Machi, the Barcelona-based company that produces “The Pope Video,” told CNS.

Of the more than 13 million views in 2016, Vila said, 45 percent were in the official Spanish, 29 percent were in the Portuguese subtitles and 13 percent were English subtitles.

Winter/Spring Diocesan Institute Adult Faith Formation Offerings

The 2017 Winter/Spring Session of the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation affords adult Catholics the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. All courses and workshops 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.

Learn from home option: Numerous faith formation offerings are also available via webinar, allowing you to participate in “real time” from home or to request recordings to view at your convenience. Webinar offerings are clearly marked.

To view the complete Winter/Spring session schedule, which includes course descriptions and fees, as well as a number of available 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 717-657-4800, ext. 225 or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their families. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

**Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program**

The Catholic Witness • January 20, 2017

**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows BVM: René de Boisferon McCurdy, William Novak, Charles Spiroff, Sr., Louise Travitz.

**MILLERSBURG** – Queen of Peace: Lois R. Readinger.

**MILLERVILLE** – St. Philip the Apostle: Mary Brooks, Marilyn Gullagher, Louis Hutchinson, Sr., Dolores McKain, Frances Nadu.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Joseph Pierino Bevivino; Our Lady: Francis P. Callahan, Sr., Mary M. Chapman, Dorothy Fallat.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. Theresa: James F. Curran, Raymond Koscienski, James Moran.

**NEW FREEDOM** – St. John the Baptist: Mildred Brashares, Janice Fundaro, Joseph Hittel, Emily Owens, Ron Sheppard.

**ROHERSTOWN** – St. Leo the Great: Ann Beatrice White.

**SELKIRG** – St. Pius X: Manuel Barajas, Jr.


**SUNBURY** – St. Monica: Waltress Heim.

**TREVORTON** – St. Patrick: Dorothy A. (Dot) Bowers, Albert Tagliert, Jr.


**Resurrection School to Dedicate Hallway, Mural during Catholic Schools Week**

A hallway and mural dedication will take place at Resurrection Catholic School Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. The hallway will be named The Don Nicklaus Memorial Hallway.

On the same day, the school is holding an open house in observance of Catholic Schools Week, which runs from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4.

Nicklaus attended St. Anthony of Padua School, which was located in the Resurrection building until 1991, when these three city parishes consolidated and formed Resurrection Catholic School. He was a graduate of the class of 1961.

The dedication includes a2 skylight mural painted by Lancaster artist Steve Wilson who is part of the Red Raven Art Gallery. The hallway mural is part of the school’s 25th anniversary observance.

Wilson’s mural depicts Resurrection’s logo, a cross backed by sunrays and fronted by a Bible. The three schools that consolidated – St. Anthony, St. Joseph and Historic St. Mary – are represented with the year each school began. The old est school was St. Joseph which opened in 1852.

The public is invited to visit Resurrection School, especially on Feb. 1 for the open house. For information, call 717-392-3081.

**St. John the Baptist School Receives $10,000 Grant**

St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom has been awarded a grant from the York County Community Foundation’s “Fund for York County” in the amount of $10,000. Susan R. Mareck, principal, said the funding from this grant will be used to purchase the Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math computer programs for the school, along with the teacher assessment tool, Star 360.

The York County Community Foundation (YCCF) creates a vibrant York County by engaging donors, providing community leadership, and investing in high impact initiatives while building endowment for future generations.

St. John the Baptist School offers education from pre-school through grade 6, and is accredited by the Middle States Association. For information on the school, visit www.sjnschool.org or call 717-225-3525.

**St. Anne School Announces Five Day Pre-K with All Day Options**

St. Anne School in Lancaster has announced the details of their new Five Day Pre-K program. The new program will offer parents several different scheduling options allowing them the opportunity to choose the Pre-K plan that would work best for their family. There are three primary options offered, but parents should feel free to contact the school to discuss any modifications that might be needed.

The new Pre-K program consists of:

- **Five Day/Half Day** – Students would attend a half-day class, five days a week with classes beginning at 8 a.m. and dismissing at 11:30 a.m.
- **Five Day/Full Day** – Students would attend a full day program, five days a week. Classes would begin at 8 a.m. and end at 2:55 p.m. The Extended Day afternoon session would focus on Kindergarten readiness skills in reading and math.
- **Three Full Day/Two Half Day** – A combination option, students would attend three full days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and half-days on Tuesday and Thursday.

In addition, all Pre-K students would have the opportunity to participate in St. Anne School’s Extended Care program which provides students with after school care until 5:30 p.m.

The Pre-K program will also be re-locating to the St. Anne School building at 104 S. Liberty Street in Lancaster. The Pre-K is currently located at St. John Neumann Church. The Pre-K program is being phased out and will conclude in May, 2017.

Any parent interested in more information should attend one of the upcoming Pre-K Open Houses on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. or on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 9-9:45 a.m. at the St. John Neumann location. For more information or to RSVP for the Open House, contact the school office at 717-594-6711 or email the principal, Suzanne Wood, at woodsusanne@stanneelancaster.org.

**Oxford Hall Celtic Shop to Hold First Communion Trunk Show**

Oxford Hall Celtic Shop in New Cumberland will hold its annual First Communion Trunk Show Open House Weekend on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 29 from noon-4 p.m. The event will feature a large selection of items for First Communion dress or suit purchase. The grand prize will be a $100 gift certificate.

Sizes available from 4-20, including harder to fit sizes for both girls and boys.

Any parent interested in more information should contact the shop, Oxford Hall Celtic Shop, at 717-394-6711 or email reportabuse@hbgdiocese.org.

**St. Anne School**

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-232-0313.

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline at: 1-800-626-1688 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org.

For more information, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/protect
A Sanctuary of Life Mass will feature Bishop Edward Malesic of the Diocese of Greensburg as the celebrant and homilist. Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. on site parking with shuttle service will be provided. The Mass is sponsored by the Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta.

Interfaith Prayer and Indoor Walk for Life to coincide with the March for Life will be held at St. John Neumann Church in Lancaster, Feb. 1. The day will begin with an indoor walk for life, a prayer service and an essay reading. The event is open to all religious traditions. For more information, contact Daniel Glessner at daniel@danielglessner.com or George@lebanoncatholicschool.org.

St. Theresa School in New Cumberland will hold a “Theme Basket Bingo” Feb. 12 in the gymnasium. Teachers from St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph Protomartyr, St. Michael Archangel, St. Monica, and St. Paul the Apostle in Lancaster, will be available for sale. Advance tickets are $20, tickets at the door $25. For more information, contact Julie Abell at 717-334-1841.

Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg is hosting an Open House on Jan. 29 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. All are welcome to tour our school, meet our teachers, and discover why Catholic education is an option for children in Franklin County. Our school offers learning opportunities beginning with a developmentally appropriate kindergarten and continuing with Catholic education through Middle School. Corpus Christi School is located at 505 N. Second Street Chambersburg, PA 17201. Visit http://cchschambersburg.org to learn more.

Lebanon Catholic School will celebrate Catholic School Week with a variety of activities. “Breakfast with the Bishop” will be held on Lebanon Catholic School from 8:30 a.m.-noon on Jan. 30. A 10:30 a.m., with donations of soup being accepted to benefit Lebanon County Christian Ministries. “Walk Through Wednesday” events will begin Feb. 1. Both student-led tours provided to alumni and friends of LCS, and a “Christmas at the School” event will be held. For more information about Lebanon Catholic School, call 717-323-7331, ext. 327.

York Catholic High School will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week Jan. 23-30. The public is invited to Family Mass with Bishop Ronald Gainer on Jan. 28 at 4 p.m. in the auditorium to kick-off the week, followed by Battles of the Buildings at 6:30 p.m. The school will host a student competition of “minute-to-win-it” type games in the gymnasium. Teachers from St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph Protomartyr, St. Michael Archangel, St. Monica, and St. Paul the Apostle will be present a video on euthanasia. Silent prayer and recitation of the Rosary will be from 1-2 p.m. For more information, contact Laura Mertz at 717-739-5042 or mertzl@yorkbhs.org.
“God is like a looking glass in which souls see each other,” St. Elizabeth Ann Seton once said, adding, “the more we are united to Him by love, the nearer we are to those who belong to Him.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Mechanicsburg added great beauty to its Divine Mercy Chapel during Christmastime with the installation of two divinely striking stained-glass windows that are definitely worth seeing. The Chapel, newly completed this past year during the parish’s extensive building addition project and renovations, is located on the southern side of the campus and the two new stained-glass windows sparkle in the afternoon light that generously splashes the chapel. Located in the rear of the sanctuary united by the tabernacle, worshippers are faced with the likeness of their patron saint on the left and St. Faustina Kowalska on the right.

Both windows, richly colorful when struck by God’s beaming rays, are attractive full length portraits of the women framed with contextual background to add an exquisite element of dimension to the art. The windows were crafted locally from initial concept to finished design by Cumberland Stained Glass Company located in Mechanicsburg. In business for more than 25 years, the company is owned by Brian “Buck” Lerew, who has been doing stained glass production, restoration, and repair for 39 years. “I love the idea of taking a visual concept and then finally crafting the glass to then share with all,” Mr. Lerew said. The company does its excellent work for churches and private businesses all over the world.

“We see ourselves as craftsmen,” Travis Wenger and Ryan Lengel (22 years combined experience) said while they were installing the windows the day after the winter solstice. Even given the weak angled winter sun, the glass still had a handsome glow to them when they were finely fitted into the full length windows. “God is love and His Spirit is Peace,” St. Faustina wrote in her famous diary. “How beautiful is the world of the Spirit.”

The Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church speaks beautifully to that soulful truth.