**Pope Says Respect for Religion Should Limit Freedom of Expression**

By Francis X. Rocca  
*Catholic News Service*

Commenting on recent killings by Islamist terrorists at a Paris newspaper, Pope Francis condemned killing in the name of God, but said freedom of expression should be limited by respect for religion and that mockery of faith can be expected to provoke violence.

The pope made his remarks Jan. 15 to reporters accompanying him on a flight from Sri Lanka to the Philippines. During the 50-minute news conference, the pope also said his encyclical on the environment likely will be published early this summer, and that he will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra, an 18th-century Franciscan missionary to North America, in the U.S. this September.

Asked by a French reporter to compare freedom of religion and freedom of expression as human rights, Pope Francis linked his answer to the Jan. 7 attacks at the offices of Charlie Hebdo, apparently in retaliation for the newspaper's publication of cartoons mocking Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

**Pope: Tears Often Are Only Response to Suffering**

By Cindy Wooden  
*Catholic News Service*

The realities of life described by young people, especially the tearful question of a 12-year-old girl about why God allows suffering, led Pope Francis to set aside the first text he had prepared for a meeting Jan. 18 with the young people of the Philippines.

"Certain realities in life can only be seen through eyes cleansed by tears," the pope said Jan. 19 after listening to Glyzelle Palomar, who used to live on the streets but now has a home thanks to the foundation for street children Pope Francis visited in Manila Jan. 16.

Palomar spoke after Jun Chura – a 14-year-old rescued from the streets by the same foundation – described life on the streets by the same foundation – described life on the streets as a struggle to find enough to eat, to fight the temptation of drug use and glue sniffing, and to avoid adults looking for the young to exploit and abuse.

Covering her face with her hand as she wept in front of the microphone, Palomar asked the pope, "Why did God let this happen to us?"

As some 30,000 young people looked on at the University of Santo Tomas, the pope kissed the top of Palomar's head and pulled her close for a big hug, then embraced her and Chura together.

He also listened to the testimony of two other young men and their questions: How do young people discover God's will for them? What is love? How can young people become agents of mercy and compassion?

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*Destiny Gule of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg carries a candle as she prepares to join the Entrance Procession for the Diocesan Mass in Celebration of African American Faith and Culture. Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Jan. 18 in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day the following day. See page 20 for coverage.*
On the days leading to Christmas, Bishop Ronald Gainer made pastoral visits to celebrate Holy Mass and visit with the incarcerated at the State Correctional Institution in Camp Hill and the York County Prison in east York.

At the state prison on Dec. 20, more than 150 inmates gathered on a cold morning at 8 a.m. to attend Mass that was concelebrated by Father Philip Burger, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life. Deacon Jorge Vera, who serves as the prison chaplain, served as master of ceremonies for the Mass that featured beautifully rendered music for the liturgy performed by a number of inmates.

In his homily at Camp Hill, Bishop Gainer told those faithful gathered that “they are not forgotten” and that “the beauty of Christmas is that it gives all hope.”

Bishop Gainer Celebrates Holy Mass at Prisons

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

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Catholic Schools Tout Faith, Knowledge and Service

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A variety of activities centered on faith, knowledge and service will be the focus of events at diocesan schools celebrating Catholic Schools Week Jan. 25-31. The annual celebration touts the values that Catholic school education provides young people, as well as its contributions to the Church, local communities and the nation.

This year’s theme — “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service” — highlights several attributes at the heart of Catholic education. As such, school activities will encompass special Masses and prayer services, volunteer efforts and appreciation, and displays of classroom projects and scholastic successes — all elements that spotlight the faith-building, societal and academic contributions of Catholic education.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Catholic schools are “Child Focused, Spirit Driven.”

“We believe that your child is a gift from our loving God,” Bishop Ronald Gainer said of the core belief of Catholic education. “From that flow our core education philosophies, such as the parents are the primary educators of their children, and that our certified teachers are a partner with the family in the educational process. Our Christ centered mission is to educate the whole child: mind, body and spirit.

“I feel that these truths that are fundamental to our educational process are what motivate parents to choose Catholic schools for their sons and daughters,” he said.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Catholic school highlights include:

• Values Based Learning — Diocesan schools are Christ-centered with a goal to provide the best spiritual formation for each child’s body, mind, and soul, and to educate each student intellectually, spiritually, and morally.

• High Graduation Rates — More than 98% of students graduate from high school.

• Excellent Test Scores — 93% of elementary students score above the national average in language skills. 85% of elementary students score above the national average in reading. 81% of elementary students score above the national average in math.

• Millions in Scholarships — More than $40 million in scholarship funds are offered annually to graduates of Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

• Technology — Students in almost all diocesan schools have access to a world class wide area network that brings untold educational resources and opportunities to them in well equipped classrooms.

• Tuition Assistance and Scholarships — Tuition assistance and scholarships are available to attend diocesan schools. The schools are accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and are members of the National Catholic Education Association.

Each individual Catholic school in the diocese is planning special events to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Find information on specific schools and on Catholic education at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/.

Catholic Perspective

February 7, 2015
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
Bishop Ronald Gainer, Celebrant

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered beginning at 9 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m., followed by a gathering.

All are welcome to attend, regardless of intentions to travel to Poland in 2016. In keeping with the international World Youth Day experience, chairs and seating arrangements will not be provided at this Mass. Instead, participants will stand, kneel or sit, just as pilgrims do at the World Youth Day Mass.

For additional information on the opening Mass, or World Youth Day in Poland, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults or contact Virginia Pereira at 717-657-4804, ext. 327, or vpereira@hbgdiocese.org.

Tune into Catholic Perspective. This weekly program features news and information about current events and topics in a magazine format. Listeners will hear from the following contributors who present timely and topical information. These include, Bishop Ronald Gainer; Father William Weary; James Gentis, Director of Religious Education; Micaiah Bilger of the Pennsylvania Pro Life Federation and correspondents Rose Atkinson and Eleanor Rossman.

Information on the this week’s edition can be found on line at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholicperspective.

Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese and AM 720 WHFY. This special Christmas edition can be heard Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 a.m. on WHF AM 580, Harrisburg. It will also be broadcast Monday December 22 at noon and Sunday, December 21 at 3 p.m. on AM 720 WHFY and on Sunday mornings on WHYR-AM, Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WKOK-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WWEC-FM 88.3, Elizabeth- town, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available on line at www.OldiesRadio1020.com at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WWLS1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. It can also be heard on line at www.hbgdiocese.org.

It’s Your Catholic Connection – During the day Holy Family Radio AM 720, WHFY announces parish and community events as part of their service to the local Catholic community. Tune in to Catholic Radio for the Diocese of Harrisburg and hear what is going on. The Parish Bulletin Board is sponsored by the Catholic Communication Campaign of the Diocese of Harrisburg. You can also listen on line at www.720whfy.com.
Dignity Defined
By A.B. Hill
Special to The Witness

As we ring in the New Year, there is a reason for hope in Pennsylvania — the number of abortions in the state decreased seven percent. The year-end report shows nearly 2,500 fewer abortions occurred in 2013 than in 2012. The total of 32,108 is the lowest number on record to date. There were also fewer live births in Pennsylvania in 2013, but the decrease was less than two percent. I wish statistics could prove that respect is growing for the dignity of human life in the womb; but numbers alone cannot explain the downward trend in abortions. We can see that more mothers are choosing life for their babies, but the statisticians did not ask them why. Even if they did, would the average person understand what human dignity means?

The dictionary defines dignity as a quality of being worthy of honor or respect. Being worthy means something is good and deserving respect, praise, or attention; having enough good qualities to be considered important or useful.

If you have ever watched proud grandparents meet their first grandchild, you have seen the kind of praise and attention, and indeed the dignity and respect that all human life deserves.

Respecting human dignity is an important precept of our Catholic faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says our dignity as human beings is rooted in our creation in the image and likeness of God. (CCC No. 1700)

“The Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel,” wrote Saint John Paul II in Evangelium Vitae: “In the life of man, God’s image shines forth anew and is again revealed in its fullness at the coming of the Son of God in human flesh. ‘Christ is the image of the invisible God’ (Col 1:15), he ‘reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature’ (Heb 1:3). He is the perfect image of the Father.”

The presence of human life makes visible the invisible reality of God’s Holy presence. Every child conceived reflects God’s infinite love, his perfect justice, and his boundless mercy. This is the foundation of our zeal for protecting human life from conception to natural death.

Catholic teaching affirms that every human being has inherent worth simply because they are human, regardless of their characteristics. The Church also affirms that human life begins at conception. The embryo is a new and unique life that must be recognized as a human being who possesses the rights and inherent dignity of a person. Most importantly, this developing human possesses the right to life. If God is worthy of our honor and respect and every human person is made in His image and likeness, then we all have His dignity, no exceptions.

Downward trends in abortion are a good sign. Maybe our culture is beginning to understand human dignity a bit more. Despite this encouraging decrease, the fact that the lives of over 32,000 babies were destroyed through abortion in 2013 reminds us that much pro-life advocacy needs to be done. By the mercy of God and determination, perhaps one day we will ring in a New Year with a 100 percent decrease in abortions.


The Eucharist: Real Presence
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

A number of years ago, I was teaching middle school in the South Bronx. My students were very quick to learn that a large part of my classroom management included gestures or looks that would remind them about the behavior that I expected from them. One gesture that my students very quickly learned is what I called “the ugly finder.” In this gesture, my hand would take the shape of radar antennae and pulsate when it found students under my charge doing ugly things. This gesture could be done across the room and in silence, telling my students to correct their actions. It was totally nonverbal, and yet they understood what I was calling them to remember.

One day, the pastoral associate of the parish came to my classroom door and began talking to me. Of course, being a good teacher, I positioned my body halfway into the classroom and halfway into the hallway. Since I was occupied with the problem at hand, the student began to whisper. When I was there, the gesture returned, the hand raised. I reached into the classroom and gave my students the “ugly finder” gesture. This instantly decreased the volume of their chatter. As my conversation with Father continued, the noise level once again increased. Once more, I gave the students the “ugly finder.” Once again the volume decreased. After the third time doing this, Father said, “Wait! What are you doing?” With that, we both walked into the classroom, and the priest repeated the gesture to the students. Andre, the class leader, said, “Father, it doesn’t work for you! You don’t have the power!” He retorted, “What? These hands were consecrated to say Mass!” Andre replied, “Even so, Father, you just don’t have it!”

I was reminded of this story as I began to write about the reality known as The Real Presence of the Eucharist. According to CatholicCulture.org, “real presence” is defined as “The manner of Christ’s presence in the Holy Eucharist… that ‘the sacrament of the most Holy Eucharist is contained truly, really, and substantially the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ’” (Denzinger 1636, 1640). Hence Christ is truly present or actually [present] and not [just] symbolically [present]. He is objectively [present] in the Eucharist and not only subjectively in the mind of the believer. … He is present substantially, that is with all that makes Christ Christ and not only spiritually in imparting blessings on those who receive the sacrament. The one who is present is the whole Christ (tota Christus), with all the attributes of his divinity and all the physical parts and properties of his humanity.” http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/index.cfm?id=35978

I often wonder if we really understand what this explains. Because of this gift, we can echo what John the Evangelist wrote in John 1:1, “We have heard, seen with our eyes, looked upon and touched with our hands the Word of Life!” During each and every Eucharist, we hear, see, touch and finally eat Christ! God’s presence becomes personal and interior in us. He actually enters us! God becomes totally adapted to our human condition. The Eucharist is the final step of God “coming down” to us. This “condescension” began with creation, continued through His revelation, increased at the moment of the incarnation and climaxed within the Eucharist. When we behold the “tabernacle, we can truthfully repeat this words for Revelation: “Behold, the dwelling of God is with us!” (Rev. 21:3) The Eucharist is related to the Esas- ter mystery but it is equally related to the incarnation. It is the memorial of a happening – passion and resurrection – but it also the presence of a person: The incarnate Word. In the passage for the first to the sixth century, St. John highlights this affinity: The Word becomes flesh (incarnation) and the flesh became ‘true bread’ (Eucharist). The eternal life that was made manifest to us in the incarnation (cf 1 John 1:2), is not given to us, it has become the “bread of eternal life.” The Eucharist draws its infinite divine power from the fact that it puts us into contact with the flesh of the God-Man.” (Taken from: The Eucharist: Our Sanctification, by Raniero Cantalamessa, (The Liturgical Press, 1993)

There are implications to this that form the foundations of our faith. Our human dignity, the meaning of marriage, the right of life for the terminally and chronically ill, aged, and handicapped, as well as the entire Theology of the Body is rooted in the Eucharist. This is truly amazing! Praise Him that He gave it to us!

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of the IT Department. An educator for 28 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.)
Members of the 2014 PIAA Class A champion girls’ soccer team from Trinity High School in Camp Hill were treated to a luncheon hosted by Bishop Ronald Gainer on Jan. 8 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Sports teams from diocesan high schools that win a state championship typically attend a luncheon with the bishop as a way to honor their achievement.

The 2014 state championship was the first for the Lady Shamrocks, runners-up in 2010 and 2013, and four-time District 3 champions in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014. They have won 10 consecutive Mid Penn Division championships.

In individual honors, Emily D’Amico, a junior who plays defense, was named the Mid Penn Capital Division Player of the Year for 2014. Capital Division All Star in addition to Emily D’Amico were, First Team, Savannah Schultz and Ashley Rogliano; and Second Team Ashley Mahaffey and Brenna Finnegan.

In keeping with Catholic School philosophy of educating the whole person – mind, body and spirit – community service is an important part of the Trinity girls’ soccer program. The team initiated and/or participated in the following efforts this year: raised awareness for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, participated in the Interfaith Shelter Shuffle, conducted a diaper drive for Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, recognized military veterans and collected supplies for active military, as well as for the Caitlin’s Smiles charity.

Bishop Gainer said he was pleased to meet “this dedicated team that so well represented our diocese and area to the entire state. Their victory is truly a highlight moment for us all.”

TRINITY SOCCER TREATED TO LUNCHEON WITH BISHOP

Feed Your Faith as You Fast this Lent

During Lent, Christians seeking to foster ongoing personal conversion to Christ Jesus traditionally embrace the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This year, Ash Wednesday is February 18. Why not add to your Lenten spiritual regimen a commitment to deepen your faith through participation in any of the various adult faith formation offerings available at the Cardinal Keeler Center? Listed below are several upcoming opportunities, and most can be accessed via webinar. For a complete schedule of Winter/Spring adult faith formation offerings, visit www.hbgdiocese.org and click on the “Diocesan Institute Courses and Registration” icon on the homepage. Questions? Contact Ryan Bolster at 717-657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

Christology
Mr. Ryan Bolster
Mondays, February 2, 9, 23
March 2, 9, 16 and 23
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
(Also available via webinar)

The Gospel of Mark: The Jewish Story in a Gentile Tongue
Rev. Paul CB Schenck
Wednesday, February 4, 11, 25
March 4, 18 and 25
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
(Also available via webinar)

The Dignity and Vocation of Women
Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Thursday, February 12
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
(Also available via webinar)

The Christian Meaning of Human Suffering
Mr. Ryan Bolster
Thursday, February 19
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
(Also available via webinar)

Introduction to Christian Spirituality
Mrs. Ann Koshute
Tuesday and Thursdays, February 24, 26, March 3, 5, 10 and 12
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
(Also available via webinar)

The DCCS event is open to Scouts of all faiths. Details and the registration process, are now available on the DCCS website, available under the Youth tab of the diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org. Or, contact Patrick McCormack at patrick.a.mccormack@gmail.com for more information.
The Cardinal Electors

French Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, 62.
Portuguese Patriarch Manuel Jose Macario do Nascimento Clemente of Lisbon, 66.
Ethiopian Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa, 66.
New Zealand Archbishop John Dew of Wellington, 66.
Italian Archbishop Edoardo Menichelli of Ancona-Osimo, 75.
Vietnamese Archbishop Pierre Nguyen Van Nhan of Hanoi, 76.
Mexican Archbishop Alberto Suarez Inda of Morelia, who turns 76 Jan. 30.
Myanmar Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon, 66.
Thai Archbishop Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij of Bangkok, 65.
Italian Archbishop Francesco Montenegro of Agrigento, 68.
Uruguayan Archbishop Daniel Fernando Sturla Berhouet of Montevideo, 55.
Spanish Archbishop Ricardo Blazquez Perez of Valladolid, 72.
Spanish-born Panamanian Bishop Jose Luis Lacunza Maestroujan of David, 70.
Cape Verdean Bishop Arlindo Gomes Furtado of Santiago de Cabo Verde, 65.
Tongan Bishop Soane Mafileo, 53.
Colombian Archbishop Jose de Jesus Pimiento Rodriguez, retired, of Manizales, who turns 96 Feb. 18.
Italian Archbishop Luigi De Magistris, 88, retired pro-major penitentiary at the Vatican.
German Archbishop Karl-Joseph Rauber, 80, a former nuncio.
Argentine Archbishop Luis Hector Villaba, retired, of Tucuman, 80.
Mozambican Bishop Julio Duarte Langa, retired, of Xai-Xai, 87.

Cardinal Counts: Nominees Nudge Numbers toward Greater Representation

By Cindy Wooden

A pope’s pick on the College of Cardinals is naturally discussed after his death when his nominees and those of his predecessors enter the Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope.

The voting in a conclave is the heaviest and most visible responsibility that comes with a red hat, but those under the age of 80 – the cardinal’s retirement age – also influence the work of the offices of the Roman Curia and serve as special papal advisers.

Along with a red biretta and the assignment of a “titular” church in Rome, new cardinals are appointed members of Vatican congregations, councils, commissions and secretariats; they are not simply advisers to those offices, but full members whose vote is needed for the most important decisions and documents issued by each office.

The statistical impact of “Pope Francis’” choices for new members of the College of Cardinals will be small, but significant.

The expanded group of cardinals eligible to elect a pope – all those under the age of 80 – will include a lower percentage of Europeans, a slightly lower percentage of Italians, a lower percentage from the United States and a higher percentage of cardinals who head dioceses rather than offices of the Roman Curia.

After the new cardinals are created Feb. 14, the college will have 125 members under the age of 80 and, therefore, eligible to vote in a future conclave. The total number of cardinals will rise to 228 – a record-breaking number. If a papal election were held the next day, more than 45 percent of the world’s cardinals – all those over the age of 80 – would be locked out of the Sistine Chapel where the conches are held.

Much of the reaction to Pope Francis’ announcement Jan. 4 of the identities of the new cardinals focused on how they gave representation in the college to Catholics in some of the most remote parts of the world – the “peripheries” the pope is always talking about. With the addition of electors from Ethiopia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Thailand, Uruguay, Panama, Cape Verde and Tonga, the number of countries with electors will rise from 48 to 57.

Among the electors, the percentage of Europeans will drop to 46.4 percent from its current 48 percent. While not a huge change, it is a sign of continuing progress in making the college more representative of the Church as a whole; in 1960, there were 79 members of the college and they came from only 27 countries. About 70 percent of the college at the time was made up of Europeans.

Borrowing a category from the world of politics and economics – the Group of Eight countries with the most advanced economies – even after the consensus the world’s most powerful nations still will have a majority among cardinal electors. But instead of representing 61 percent of the electors, the G-8 countries’ share will drop to 57.5 percent.

With the Argentine-born pope’s latest picks, the percentage of Latin Americans will rise to 16 percent from its current 15.4 percent. Pope Francis named no new members from the United States or Canada, so that part of the world’s percentage will fall to 12 percent from its current 13.6 percent.

After the new cardinals receive their red hats, the percentage of Americans will rise to 12 percent from 11.8 percent. The percentage from Asia will rise to 11.2 percent from its current 10 percent.

As far as the age of the new cardinals goes, Pope Francis is well within the norm for the past several decades when the average age of cardinal electors has decreased only slightly with each new intake. Two of Pope Francis’ picks – Cardinals-designate Soane Mafileo of Tonga and Daniel Sturla Berhouet of Montevideo, Uruguay – are still in their 50s. However, after the consistory, the average age of the college will be 71 years, one month.

As the age of the new cardinals goes, Pope Francis is well within the norm for the past several decades when the average age of cardinal electors has decreased only slightly with each new intake. Two of Pope Francis’ picks – Cardinals-desi...
Marching and Meaning

By Father Paul CB Schenck
Special to The Witness

“Each child who is unborn, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who, even before he was born, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world. And also each old person – I spoke of the child, let us also speak of the elderly, another point! – each old person, even if infirm or at the end of his days, bears the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded, as the ‘culture of waste’ proposes! They cannot be discarded!” – Pope Francis

In the aftermath of the horrendous attacks in Paris, a march of more than a million people, including forty heads of state, took place in Paris. The shootings at Charlie Hebdo magazine, of police on Paris streets and of hostages at the kosher market in Porte de Vincennes were not the worst terrorist incidents in recent times. But they were the most symbolic because of the layers of victimization. The targets were not only innocent non-combatants; they were representatives and protectors of personal liberty and freedoms; of speech, religion and commerce. They marched under the banner Je suis Charlie! (I am Charlie!). It was that symbolism that brought out the marchers.

On January 22, tens of thousands, including hundreds from the Diocese of Harrisburg, marched in another world class city – Washington, D.C. It was the 41st such March for Life memorializing the notorious Roe v Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortions up through the baby’s delivery. Sadly, there will be far less media notice of this march than the Paris march. This is not to cast a shadow on Paris, which was an evocative and inspiring demonstration. The March for Life is the largest and longest sustained public demonstration in American history.

True, the March for Life is a demonstration against U.S. abortion policy, but it is also a demonstration for the sanctity of every human life and the dignity of every person. It is a march of freedom, beginning with the freedom to live, which is the fountainhead of all other freedoms. It is a demonstration of the in-calculable value of every person regardless of their condition or circumstances. It is a demonstration of religious liberty and freedom of conscience which is enshrined in our Constitution and national tradition. For all these reasons, the March for Life is a universal response to the gravest moral issue of our time: the national policy permitting the killing of innocents before or at the time of birth. No other threat to life and human dignity compares.

The symbolism of the March for Life is no less significant than the Paris march, as it demonstrates citizen support for the idea that all people are persons and that everyone counts. The concert of tens of thousands of marchers peacefully, hopefully, even joyously witnesses to the intrinsic and immeasurable value of all human life, born and unborn. The march symbolizes the principle that there are no accidental babies and no throw-away people.

Just as the marchers in Paris declared their solidarity with the victims of the terror attacks and with each other, the March for Life declares solidarity with the unborn and their mothers and fathers and with every vulnerable human being.

The same week as the Paris attacks, about 2,000 innocent villagers were murdered in Nigeria by terrorists from Chad. And the same week, more than 20,000 preborn babies were killed by abortion in United States alone. It is high time we all march under the symbolic banner Je suis un enfant à naître! (I am the unborn child).

Father Paul CB Schenck is Diocesan Director of the Respect Life Office and Chair of the National Pro-Life Center on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. A certified Bioethicist, he is available to speak on these and related topics. Contact the Respect Life Office at 717-657-4804.

March Coverage

Coverage of the March for Life, shown here from 2013, will be featured in the Feb. 6 edition of The Catholic Witness, as this week’s issue went to press two days before the march.

World Meeting of Families

January Theme: The Meaning of Human Sexuality

“Two different vocations do justice to the summons of being male and female in God’s plan: marriage and celibacy. Both of these disciplines converge on the shared premise that sexual intimacy between a man and a woman belongs and flourishes in the context of a covenant.” (Love is our Mission, 47).

Laura put down her mobile phone with a bit more force than she had intended and it slid across the kitchen table to her husband Pete, who caught it. “Who were you texting?” he asked carefully.

“My brother Jack. He and Valerie want to visit this weekend.” She tapped her fingers on the table and looked annoyed.

“And the problem with that is…?” Pete knew what was coming.

“I want to bring them to the ambassadorial suite.” Laura shook her head. “We go through this every time he comes to visit. And every time we have the same conversation and the same old impasse. I just don’t know how to say it more clearly. ‘No, you will sleep on the sofa, Jack, and Valerie can sleep in the bedroom. What is so difficult about that?’” Pete replied carefully: “Maybe we should sit with them and share why we think that, rather than just saying no. It might help them to understand where we are coming from.” He half laughed. “We were not exactly poster children for chastity before we were married, you know. It might help for them to hear why we changed our minds.”

“But we shouldn’t have to say it that way.”

Our Catholic faith is a deeply physical religion. The Bible stories are full of feasts and gardens. God came to earth as Jesus Christ and became a human person. Bread and wine and water and oil are all intrinsic parts of the Catholic experience.

We believe in the physicality of Marriage as a sacrament. We believe in the goodness of God’s creation. All of this is woven into the Catholic imagination through our art and architecture and the rhythm of the liturgical year, and through our Rosaries and sacramentals.

The entire material world has spiritual meaning, and our human sexuality is no exception. “Our bodies are not simply shells for the soul or sensory machines for the brain. Our bodies and our souls are ‘profoundly integrated.’ As men and women, we are ‘unfitted’ by God’s design for human interdependence, community, and openness to new life.” We cannot debase this design without hurting our spirit. (39)

Marriage exists because “procreation and communion, biology and God’s covenant, nature and super-nature, together undergird what it means to be ‘human.’” We did not invent marriage or the right to marry. The call to human love and human sexuality involves the entire being of a man and a woman. Human sexuality is never just a biological function. (41)

Men and women share a similarity and “otherness” that coincides in their sexual complementarity as male and female. Created together, we are willed for each other. Our sexual difference is a reminder that we are made to give ourselves away to each other “guiding by virtue and God’s love.” (44)

Because it is the center of our identity, sexuality can never be isolated from the meaning of the human person. Sex is not just impulse. Sexual intercourse is never just a casual biological act. Sexual intimacy always creates a human bond, and in that way, it is always conjugal. Our sexuality always has a social dimension, and it is never private. It is always a reflection of God’s covenant with us.

God’s plan for men and women calls for two vocations: marriage and celibacy. They are both based on the idea that sexual intimacy only flourishes within a covenant. Celibacy is the way that unmarried people confirm the truth of marriage. Both marriage and celibacy avoid sexual acts that are conditional or temporary. Celibacy does not disdain sex. It values it by confirming that sexual intimacy belongs in the covenant of marriage. By living in that covenant, both married couples and celibate people say that the creation of a society should not be premised on exploitation.

Our creation by God as men and women in His image is the reason why we all have to address the virtue of chastity, which means we do not use others’ bodies as “objects for consumption.” In chastity, we live our lives with dignity and grace under God’s commandments. Lust is the opposite of chastity and looks at others as if they were objects to be used rather than people to be valued. Chastity does not reject the body, but uses it as part of the whole person. “Chastity is a great ‘yes’ to the truth of humanity created in the image of God and called to live in the covenant.” (49)

Chastity is something that we all call to as a community. It is our responsibility to teach others what sex belongs in the “context of love, care, and fidelity.” Neither way is superior to the other, and both reflect the richness of our faith.

What should Pete and Laura say to Jack and Valerie? Is a simple statement of House Rules sufficient? How can they explain their own faith journey without standing on the soapbox that Laura wants to avoid?

In preparation for the World Meeting of Families to be hosted in Philadelphia on September 22-27, 2015, The Catholic Witness is presenting reflections on ten monthly themes at the center of the conference. Those planning the World Meeting of Families have developed a preparatory catechesis that focuses on the themes, and the reflections presented in The Catholic Witness are written by Victoria Laskowski, Director of the Office of Family Ministries for the Diocese of Harrisburg. Information and registration for the conference is available at www.worldmeeting2015.org. Information about the Festival of Families and a Papal Mass, as well as details on busses running from locations throughout the diocese will be published here as it becomes available.
The Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity was founded in Germany in 1849 by Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt to minister to the blind, the sick and the poor. Young Pauline was one of four children in an aristocratic family, and her love for those in need was evident at an early age. Pauline herself cared for the blind, the sick and the dying before founding with three other women the Sisters of Christian Charity.

The congregation came to the United States in 1873, and the motherhouse of their Eastern Province is located in Mendham, N.J. Today, the Sisters minister in health care, education, and pastoral work, while living the mission entrusted to them by Christ: to go out to all the world and bring the good news of love, justice and peace.

Sister Mary Martha, the congregation’s local superior in Danville, told The Catholic Witness that the pastoral visit from Bishop Gainer was a “blessed opportunity for our sisters to connect with our shepherd. It is providential that his visit also comes during the Church’s celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life.”

The Year of Consecrated Life, proclaimed by Pope Francis, began on Nov. 30 and will be celebrated until Feb. 2, 2016. The observance is dedicated to renewing hope in religious life and instilling it more profoundly with a witness of the Gospel.

“‘Found,’ ‘touched’ and ‘transformed’ are the three verbs at the heart of the Holy Father’s letter on the Year of Consecrated Life,” Bishop Gainer told the Sisters in his homily. “You as Sisters were found by Christ, Christ touched you, and you have been transformed by Christ.”

“What a debt the Church owes you for taking your vows and for your many years of service,” the bishop said. “We are blessed by your service to the Church.”
To the Faithful of the Diocese of Harrisburg,

This year Catholic Charities marks 75 years of consecutive service in central Pennsylvania. As I continue to learn about the work of the offices and programs sponsored by the diocese, I am edified at the level of service and outreach that is being accomplished by Catholic Charities. This is especially challenging during these difficult economic times but, as you will see in this Annual Report, it is filled with good news and hope.

The mission of Catholic Charities is rooted in their commitment to provide hope, help, and support to thousands of families and children in need. They serve a fifteen county region that comprises the Diocese of Harrisburg with programs ranging from maternity homes, adoption services, foster care and counseling services and they operate the only homeless shelter committed to keeping families intact. Most of their services are offered at minimal or no cost to the client, regardless of their faith.

The exciting news for this year is the HOPE FOR ALL campaign to upgrade the Saint Samuel Center that homes the Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, Evergreen House and the Shelter for Homeless Families. This facility provides shelter and security to women awaiting the birth of their baby, those overcoming addiction and those families who have lost their homes. The goal is to make it an accessible facility conducive to those with special needs like wheelchairs. This serves as a testament to the ongoing commitment of the agency and their staff to serve those most in need and to continue to reach out to those who still need help and assistance, especially at the most basic level.

I am grateful to the leadership and staff of Catholic Charities who continue to work tirelessly for the good of others. You are the face of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need and I am grateful for your service and dedication.

Please take the time to review this important report and to witness, first hand, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in action. Best wishes on this milestone anniversary of service.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg
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 Welfare, Lancaster County, and other managed care organizations.

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 caring home.

INTENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

Based in York, the Intensive Family Services Program provides services in the homes of families who have open cases with York County Children and Youth Services. Through a partnership contract, Children and Youth Services refers families to the Intensive Family Services Program. These families are in need of parenting skills, connection to community resources, and family therapy.

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

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.

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.

PARADISE SCHOOL

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

Educational services are provided by the Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 and are staffed by certified special educators. Other staff members include an Instructional 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.
Based in Harrisburg, the Immigration and Refugee Services Program assists a diverse population of legal entrants to the United States to achieve economic and social self-sufficiency. The English-as-a-Second-Language Program (ESL) has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for its success in serving the large number of persons with limited English proficiency. In addition, the number of refugees who have found jobs through the Employment Services Program continues to exceed grantor requirements. Services provided by any Immigration and Refugee Services Program are limited to those who have resided in the United States for five years or less.

Greater Access to Independence for Newcomers

Based in Harrisburg, Catholic Charities Greater Access to Independence for Newcomers (GAIN) directly works with the specific and individual needs of clients and employers in creating a plan to overcome barriers.

South Central Pennsylvania has seen a substantial growth in its refugee and other foreign born populations over the last 10 years. To facilitate the integration of newcomers into our communities, the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement awarded a special employment service grant to the state to provide assistance to refugees.

The program draws upon key employment strategies which engage area employers and training facilities to match refugees with available job vacancies. They also focus on helping people understand their own culture, understand others, develop positive inter-group relations, and build strong communities.

Behavioral Health Services

Catholic Charities offers a variety of behavioral health counseling for issues including grief and loss as well as other major life challenges. Counseling offices are located in Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, and Abbottstown (Paradise School Facility). Services are offered to individuals, married couples, and families. For those who are in need of additional assistance with housing, vocational rehabilitation, drug/alcohol addiction, or other serious issues, referrals are made to partner agencies and built into a customized care plan.
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.

HOPE HOUSE

Located in Lancaster, Hope House provides long-term housing and care services to persons residing in the region living with HIV/AIDS. Licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Personal Care Home, the program is designed so that persons are enabled to live independently and avoid long-term hospitalization and/or nursing home placements.

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 Public Welfare, the program provides a team-centered approach proven to be successful in keeping families together or reuniting children with their families. The Family-Based Mental Health Services Offices provide services for families in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Perry, and York Counties.

MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc. exists to respond to the human service needs of people throughout the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania. Catholic Charities fosters the ideals of Christ through a caring, living faith by: promoting and advocating respect for the sanctity of human life, underscoring the central role of marriage and the family in society, and providing a continuum of high quality services to individuals, children, youth, married couples, families, and the elderly.
Continued from 1

The pope’s gathering with the youths was emotional from the beginning. Opening the encounter, the pope spoke about a 27-year-old Kristel Padasas, an employee of the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Relief Services, who died after being struck by a speaker stand knocked down by the wind Jan. 17 after the pope’s Mass in Tacna.

She was “young, like yourselves,” the pope told the youths, asking them to join him in praying for her and for her parents. “She was the only daughter. Her mother is coming from Hong Kong [and] her father has come to Manila to wait,” he told them.

Pope Francis had received the texts of the young people’s testimonies and questions in advance and had begun rewriting his speech the night before to ensure he responded directly to what they planned to say, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. There was not time to have the new text translated, so Pope Francis, who did not read from the text, asked Msgr. Mark Mile’s from the Vatican Secretariat of State to translate from his Spanish. After more than half an hour, he made a passing attempt to return to the original text, but only to emphasize the challenges the youths face: the challenge of personal integrity, of helping the poor and of protecting the environment.

One of the first things he commented on, saying he was not able to see things with a different eye than men. Women are able to pose questions that men are not able to understand.

“Pay attention,” the pope told the young people. Palomar was “the only one who posed a question for which there is no answer. And she wasn’t able to express it in words but tears.”

“Then when the next pope comes to Manila,” he told them, including “more women” on the program.

Speaking directly to Palomar, he told her, “You have been given the courage to ask this.”

While it is impossible to explain why God would allow children to suffer, he said to the young people, “only when we, too, can cry” can one approach a response.

“I invite each of you here to ask yourself, ‘Have I learned to weep and cry when I see a child cast aside, when I see someone with a drug problem, when I see someone who has suffered abuse?’” the pope told them.

Being moved to tears out of compassion and in the face of the mystery of suffering is holy, he said. It is not the same thing as crying to manipulate or get something from someone.

“Jesus in the Gospel cried, he cried for his dead friend,” Lazuris, “he cried in his heart for the family that had lost its child, he cried in his heart when he saw the old widow having to bury her son, he was moved to tears of compassion when he saw the multitude of crowds without a pastor,” Pope Francis said.

“If you don’t learn how to cry you cannot be good Christians,” he told them.

In the face of suffering like Palomar’s and Churu’s, he said, “our response must either be silence or the word that is born of our tears.”

“Be courageous, do not be afraid to cry,” the pope said.

Responding to the questions of Leandro Santos II, a law student, and Ricki Ma-color, a recent graduate who, with his friends, designed a solar-powered night light for typhoon victims, Pope Francis focused on love, compassion and the challenge of not just helping the poor, but allowing oneself to learn from and be evangelized by them.

“What is the most important subject that you have to learn in university, what is the most important subject you learn in life?” he asked the pope.

“Learn to love. This is the challenge that life offers you.”

#Suffering

"True love is to love and allow yourself to be loved," he said. "It is harder to let yourself be loved than to love." Even when it comes to the life of faith, he said, it seems easier to love God than to really allow oneself to be loved by him. But when one succeeds, he continued, God responds with surprises.

"Don’t be like a computer, thinking that we know everything," the pope said. Pope Francis thanked Msgr. Mark Mile and his friends for helping the poor victims of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013; but he asked them, "Do you allow yourselves to receive?" Putting his finger to his lips, the pope said he didn’t want them to respond immediately, but to ponder the other, essential Christian part of being with the poor, which is being willing to learn from them and to accept their gifts.

"The Sadducees and doctors expressed yourself so bravely," the pope said. "Become a beggar," the pope said. "Learn how to beg," to receive with humility, "to be evangelized by the poor. The persons we help, the poor, the sick have so much to give us."

(Contributing to this story was Francis X. Rocca in Manila.)

Expression

Continued from 1

“Let’s go to Paris, let’s speak clearly,” the pope said. “One cannot offend, make war, kill in the name of one’s own religion, that is, in the name of God.”

The pope said freedom of expression was a “fundamental human right,” but one that must be exercised “without giving offense.”

The pope offered a hypothetical example that referred to the Vatican’s planner of papal trips, who was standing beside him as he spoke, the pope said: “If true, one cannot react violently, but if Dr. [Alberto] Gasbarri, a great friend, says a swear word against my mother, then he is going to get a punch. But it’s normal, it’s normal.

One cannot provoke, one cannot insult other people’s faith, one cannot make fun of faith.”

The pope said those who “make fun or toy with other people’s religions, these people provoke, and there can happen what would happen to Dr. Gasbarri if he said something against my mother. That is, there is a limit. Every religion has its dignity.”

Asked about his widely awaited encyclical on the environment, Pope Francis said the document had already been through three drafts by a team under Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State and the theologians of the papal household.

“Now I’ll take a week out in March to look at it. At the end of March, I think it will be completed. Then it will go to be translated. I think that if the translations go well, in June or July, it could come out,” the pope said.

Pope Francis said it was important that the encyclical come out soon enough to influence a global climate change summit scheduled to open Nov. 30 in Paris, where he hoped leaders would show more courage on the subject than in the past.

While not explicitly replying to a question about the influence of human activity on climate change, the pope echoed earlier criticisms of man-made damage to the environment through such practices as deforestation and overexploitation of agricultural lands.

The pope opened the news conference with an unsolicited statement about his household.

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**Pastor Remains Seahawks Fan after Long Ministry to Team’s Catholics**

By Anna Weaver

The priest, who was ordained for the Seattle Archdiocese in 1985, described the group as “a spiritually mature group of men” who “love their faith and deeply appreciate the fact that there’s priests who come” to say Mass for the team. On home game weekends, the team gathers at their hotel for a pep talk, dinner and, for those who choose, the chance to go to Mass or a Protestant service. In a hotel meeting room, the small group of Catholics gather chairs around a table used as an altar for a simple Mass. Team members who attend say it makes a big impact.

“In playing and coaching there’s a lot of routine that goes into the game in terms of getting ready ... to prepare and perform,” Quinn said. “And for us, going and celebrating Mass, that’s a big part of that preparation, where it really gives you a chance to stay connected spiritually.”

“The relaxing factor for us to get in there and spend some time to unwind and think about something else outside of football is a huge thing,” Yandach said.

Father Belleque’s services to the team included helping Seahawks with baptism preparation for their children, godparent preparation and counseling. He took prayer requests, presided at McPherson’s parents’ renewal of marriage vows, and recommended parishes to team members new in town. Father Belleque also often got calls from visiting teams looking to have Mass while they were in Seattle, and he would find a priest.

“It’s not just about celebrating Mass,” he said. “It’s really about forming community and being available for the spiritual needs of that group.”

Although Father Belleque is no longer as close to the team, he left on a high note: getting to see the Seahawks win the Super Bowl last February. On Super Bowl Sunday, Father Belleque said an extra prayer to Our Lady of Victory at all of his Masses and continued the practice on game days this season. When the Seahawks won, he thought about how excited his late father, an original season ticket holder, would have been.

As for himself, Father Belleque was euphoric with the NFL championship. The priest, who grew up playing baseball, basketball and golf and throwing the discus, and had rooted for the Seahawks since their first season in 1976, now got to test a Super Bowl congrats to the Catholic team members he had spiritually supported.

“I just think the world of the guys,” he said. “I really do appreciate them, their deep faith and their desire to celebrate their faith together.”

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**The Catholic Witness**

By Jen Reed

The wrestling programs at the four diocesan high schools that offer the sport continue on an upward as the regular season winds to a close, and a number of individual wrestlers are looking to make bids for district and state titles in the next month or so.

The four teams – Bishop McDevitt, Delone Catholic, Lancaster Catholic and Trinity – have been well represented in postseason competition for more than a decade, with at least one of the schools touting a District 3-AAA championship every year since 2001, and five state champions in the past ten years.

It’s a trend of success that’s primed to continue as district and state medals are awarded come February and March.

Bishop McDevitt sophomore John Pipa is a favorite for gold at 120 lbs. A district champ and state runner-up at 120 last year, Pipa was crowned the 120-pound champ at the prestigious King of the Mountain tournament in December, which attracts many of the state’s top wrestlers. It’s a trend of success that’s primed to continue as district and state medals are awarded come February and March.

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By Jen Reed

By Anna Weaver

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**District 3-AAA Wrestling Programs Gear Up For Postseason Glory**

Brothers David and John Pipa scan the competition prior to their team’s state championship match on 106 lbs. last year, where he placed second. The brothers from Bishop McDevitt seek the medal stand again this year, and John is a heavy favorite for gold at 120.

at the Giant Center in Hershey. The District 3 individual tournament takes place at Hersheypark Arena Feb. 20 and 21, with the state finals on March 7 at the Giant Center.

Delone Catholic sophomore Brian Shermeyer maneuvers a pin over his opponent in a match against Camp Hill in early January. Shermeyer, who wrestles at 152 lbs. for the Squires, was a district qualifier last year, winning 25 bouts.

Arguably the most improved team across District 3-AAA are the Squires of Delone Catholic. They finished with a 12-6 record last year, after winning just three dual meets in the previous two seasons. Now, the Squires stand second in York-Adams Division III competition at 9-2, their only losses thus far to powerhouse Bermudian Springs and Milton Hershey. Delone’s turnaround is impressive, given that the Squires typically forfeit the bouts at 106 and 113 with no one to fill those weight classes, automatically giving 12 points to opponents. The Squires will carry momentum toward the district team championships, after nipping rival Biglerville 28-27 on senior night in McSherrystown. Brian Shermeyer at 152, Lucas Shull at 160 and Josh Snarenger at 170 may have the best chances to top the district podium at the individual tournament.

At Lancaster Catholic, where Stephen Loiseau grabbed state gold at 182 in his senior season last year, Crusader fans have turned their attention to junior Joe Lobeck in the 113-pound class. Lobeck was arguably on track for a district title match at 106 last year when he was forced to default after misplacing his mouthpiece. He rallied through the consolation bracket to place third, and eventually made the podium at states. A determined Lobeck is motivated for gold this year.

Trinity’s wrestling team, now in its fifth season, has found a youthful resurgence this year, thanks in part to freshmen like Caleb Bentley at 106, Trent Snader at 113, and Andrew Wert at 126. The youthful Shamrocks, currently mid-pack in the Mid-Penn Capital Division with Bishop McDevitt, are also led by junior Chase Drawbaugh at 132, who was a District 3 runner-up at 113 last season. It would come as no surprise to see several Shamrocks on the district podium this year.

The District 3 team championships are Jan. 31 at Milton Hershey, with the state finals the following weekend.

The Catholic Witness • JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted to their parishes:

Yockolovich.

Richard Kovach, Cecelia Weiss, Steve Jay E. Wayde.


Rivera; St. Margaret Mary: Jeannette Paukner, Lina Rech; St. Francis of ers; St. Catherine Labouré: Francis Charles Spaid, Dorothy K. Trav-

Blessed Sacrament: J. Robert Hawley, Breighner, Richard Hersl, Mari Cruz Kressley, Weldon Lane, Maria Bender, Helen Kaiser, Nancy Jesus: Andrew Papson, Dolores Nellie M. Seibert.


LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Richard Kovach, Cecelia Weiss, Steve Yockolock.

LEWISTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Louis Jordan.

LYKENS – Our Lady Help of Christians: Mary L. Kervin, Il, Louis, Thomas Sigel, Jr.

MCSHERYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: Jean Dickenschets, Aveiramia Grimes, Robert McCamman, Leo Piccioni.


MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Katherine Bozochovic, Kathryn Flood, Anthony Genoese, Micki Genoese, John Hienzeman, Lawrence Klopfel, Adeline Biggs Schuler

MOUNT CARME – Divine Renovator: Janie (Irene) Menzies, Helen Petrukevich, Henrietta P rzekop.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Mary Irene (Rene) Abele, Leo Royancy, Robert McCamman, Leo Picciono.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: George H. Rothlinghofer, Sr.

NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Linnie Fiorello, Theresa Overbaugh.

QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Sienna: Albina Boden.

ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Paul Burns, Leo Herzog, Agnes Quinby.


STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Dorothy (Pansy) Krovic.


Sister Consuela Bradley

Christian Charity Sister Consuela Bradley died at Holy Family Convent in Danville on Dec. 10. She was 91. Born Dorothy Bradley in Philadelphia, she attended St. Francis de Sales School and West Philadelphia Catholic Girls' High School before entering the religious community at Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham, N.J., in 1941. Sister Consuela's entire religious life was devoted to that of homemaker in the convents of the community, especially St. Ann's Academy in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Divine Providence Hospital in Williamsport, Pa., Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, the motherhouse in Mendham, and Holy Family Convent in Danville, as well as some convents in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She also made craft projects each year for the annual Bloomsburg Fair and received numerous ribbons and awards for her artistic skill.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 17 in the chapel at Holy Fam-
ily Convent. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Danville.

Sister Mary Jerome Kunetz

Christian Charity Sister Mary Jerome Kunetz died at Geisinger Medical Ce-

ter in Danville on Jan. 7. She was 96. Born Marie Kunetz in Beaver Brook, Pa., she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity at Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham, N.J., in 1945, after becoming acquainted with the Sisters of Christian Charity while attending Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Hazleton, Pa.

The majority of Sister Mary Jerome's religious years were dedicated as teach-
er in the elementary and high schools of the community in Maryland, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She moved to Holy Family Convent in Doylestown in 2011.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 10 in the chapel at Holy Family Convent. Burial was in St. Joseph Ceme-
tary, Danville.

The Celebrate Life Banquet will begin at 5 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres and a keynote address by Georgette Forney, president of Anglicans for Life and co-founder of Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Since 1979, the Carlisle Area Family Life Center has offered counseling, education, referrals and baby/birth/maternity clothing, food and supplies to anyone in a crisis situation regardless of background or life circumstances. The center helps over 1,400 people every year. All services are able to be offered free of charge due to the generous support of the community. Silent No More Awareness is a national initiative that raises awareness about the tragic physical, mental and emotional effects of abortion. After every March for Life, the front of the U.S. Supreme Court, participants with Silent No More Awareness provide powerful testimonies about their abortion experiences.

The Celebrate Life Banquet will begin at 5 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. A dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., followed by the banquet program at 7:30. All proceeds will support the center's current programs and launch initiatives to provide ultrasound and maternity housing services.

Tickets are $35 each. Payment may be made via cash or check, with checks payable to Carlisle Area Family Life Center. No actual tickets will be issued. Several sponsorship opportunities are also available. For information on reservations or sponsorships, call Lori Peters, executive director, at 717-243-6544.

The Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal will host a Healing and Em-
powerment Weekend on April 25 and 26, 2015, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the school hall of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Har-
site. Keynote speaker is Maria Vadia, author and founder of The Glory of God Foundation, which works to make Jesus known to the nations through the preaching of the Gospel. A presentation and Prayers for Healing will be open to the public on Friday, February 26 at 6 p.m.

Early registration for the workshop is $15 through January 31; registration at the door is $20. Space is limited to 200 for the Saturday workshop. To register, contact Mary Ann Campion at 717-564-7709 or macandclh@comcast.net.
Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to share with you the audited Diocesan Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. This audited report reflects your continued and generous financial support for the overall mission of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

As stewards of the gifts God has given us, each of us has a role to play in fulfilling the mandate of Christ and the mission of His Church. The vast array of pastoral, educational and charitable ministries, and outreach programs throughout the fifteen counties of Central Pennsylvania could not go forward without the faith-filled gifts of your time, talent, and treasure. Your generous and consistent support of our parishes, the Diocese, the Lenten Appeal, Pentecost, Matthew 25, national and global collections enable us to touch the lives of a countless number of our brothers and sisters, hopefully including you and your loved ones as well. In addition, the prudent use of our resources also enables us to have hope for the future.

As your Bishop, I am grateful for both your prayers as well as your generous and consistent support. Because of your faithful response, we are able to accomplish these many good works.

May God bless you and your loved ones with His gifts of health, grace, and peace.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

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, 2014 and 2013 were prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and were audited by an independent certified public accounting firm McKeonly and 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.

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CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS DURING
2015. For registration and further information, contact Father Steve
McSherrystown at 717-764-2118 for registration and further information.

Free program. Interested persons may call Sister Margaret at 7 p.m. June 6
at 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Chapel, 217 Maple Street, Wrightsville.
This designation, devided by our Saviour, is to make harmony and
This devotion, designated by our Saviour Himself, is to make return to the Church,described by Jesus, to be the first step of the faith is tested. He chooses to continue to pray in the open to
Lord are interspersed with gentle singing and flute accompani-
ment. The program will be held Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the
school, located at 226 S. Main St., McSherrystown.

Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held on Feb. 6
a unique setting!

Spend an hour, or whatever time you can, in adoration in the
St. Paul Parish in Lebanon will be celebrating a Mass
with prayers for healing. Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the St.
Peter Parish in McSherrystown will be the annual "Breakfast
for information.

Holy Spirit Hospital of PinnacleHealth. Contact Father Stephen Shin at
717-755-7503 or StCJ@psj.org. For more information, contact Chris Eckelher at
717-564-7709 or 717-737-7551.

St. Richard Parish in Manheim will host its annual Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner on Feb. 13 from 4-6:30 p.m. The dinner will be at 7 p.m., and there will be a special early-bird game at 6:15 p.m. for the 2015 Doll of the Year, Grace Thomas.
Tickets are $9 for adults, $4 for children 4-10, and free for children under 3. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel will host a Women’s Evening retreat on Wednesday, Feb. 11. This is a free program. Interested persons may call Sister Margaret Washington at 717-972-4257 or the Pastoral Care
center at 717-367-3721.

The St. Francis Xavier Parish Adult Education Program at St. Richard Parish in Manheim is hosting an American Girl Doll Bingo on Feb. 13. Little girls and their loving guardians are invited to enjoy a fun-filled evening of raffles, foods, and prizes. Oodles of American Girl Doll merchandise will be available, as well as a variety of other prizes, including accessories, etc. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and there will be a special early-bird game at 6:15 p.m. for the 2015 Doll of the Year. The dinner will be at 7 p.m. The dinner will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults, and $10 for children when accompanied by a paying adult. The event will be held in the St. Richard Parish gym at 717-842-2079 for advance tickets or for
more information.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School is holding its 5th Annual Auction and Raffle on March 28 in the school gym. For more details, visit www.
abvm.org.

Parish & Organization News
Lancaster Catholic High School seeks a dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced teacher beginning on approximately April 25 and continuing through the beginning weeks of the 2015-2016 school year. Minimum qualifications: PA certification (or equivalent) and appropriate clearances. Preferred qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in English, Italian, or world languages. Interested persons should submit a resume, certifications and list of references to Ms. Cecile Carr, ccarr@lchsyes.org.

Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School is seeking a dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced teacher beginning on approximately April 25 and continuing through the beginning weeks of the 2015-2016 school year. Minimum qualifications: PA certification (or equivalent) and appropriate clearances. Preferred qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in English, Italian, or world languages. Interested persons should submit a resume, certifications and list of references to Ms. Cecile Carr, ccarr@lchsyes.org.
In a 19-page reflection on the “racial divide” in the United States, Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill., who is African-American, said he twice had been the victim of what he considered to be unjust police attitudes.

The episodes “made me very conscious of the fact that simply by being me, I could be the cause of suspicion and concern without doing anything wrong,” wrote Bishop Braxton in “The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015,” issued Jan. 1.

In the first episode, when Bishop Braxton was a priest, “I was simply walking down a street in an apparently all-white neighborhood. A police car drove up beside me and the officer asked, ‘What are you doing in this area? Do you live around here? Where is your car? You should not be walking about neighborhoods where you do not live.’ I never told him I was a Catholic priest, but I wondered what it was I was doing to attract the attention of the officer,” he said. “This was long before I heard the expression, ‘walking while black.’”

In the second episode, Bishop Braxton, by this time a bishop, said he was “driving in my car in an apparently all-white neighborhood with two small chairs in the back seat and a table in the partially open trunk tied with a rope. A police car with flashing lights pulled me over. The officer asked, ‘Where are you going with that table and those chairs?’ Before I could answer, he asked, ‘Where did you get them?’ Then he said, ‘We had a call about a suspicious person driving through the area with possibly stolen furniture in his trunk.’ I wondered what I was doing to make someone suspicious. Many years would pass before I would hear the expression ‘racial profiling.’”

In neither case was Bishop Braxton wearing clerical garb. Even so, “I am not a completely impartial outside observer in the face of these events,” the bishop said in his homily.

In his “call to Christian dialogue,” Bishop Braxton alluded to Pope Francis’ choice of theme for the 2015 World Day of Peace: “No More Slavery, but Brothers and Sisters.” In addition to physical bondage, even so, “I am not a completely impartial outside observer in the face of these events.”

Among them were going to Mass at least once a week, to bridge the racial divide; praying the rosary weekly with one’s family for the intention of ending racial conflict and prejudice; examining one’s conscience monthly to acknowledge actions that reinforce racial division; initiating an effort to get to know police officers, thanking them for their service and helping young people get to know the police and vice versa; “break the ice, start the conversation,” with someone of a different racial background; and watching movies that explore racial issues, mentioning “The Help,” “The Butler,” “Selma” and “Lincoln.”

Among the 14 things Catholics could do on race matters were going to Mass at least one under legal challenge.

The Catholic Church upholds marriage as a union between one man and one woman and teaches that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful. The Church also teaches that homosexual attraction itself is not sinful and that homosexual persons “must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity.”

The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage said that a decision by the Supreme Court on whether a state may define marriage as the union of one man and one woman “may be the most significant court decision since the court’s tragic 1973 Roe v. Wade decision making abortion a constitutional right.”

“It’s hard to imagine how the essential meaning of marriage as between the two sexes, understood in our nation for over 200 years, and consistent with every society throughout all of human history, could be declared illegal,” Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco said in a Jan. 16 statement.

Upholding traditional marriage “is not a judgment on anyone,” he said. “It is a matter of justice and truth. The central issue at stake is: what is marriage? The answer is: a bond which unites a man and a woman to each other and to any children who come from their union.”

After the court announced it would take the marriage cases, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said the Obama administration would file an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the couple in question.

The ACLU is a co-counsel in the Kentucky case.

In 2013 the Supreme Court – in separate 5-4 rulings – struck down parts of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, defining marriage as between one man and one woman, and also refused to rule on the merits of a challenge to California’s Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage.

In the June 26 ruling on DOMA, the court said the federal government could no longer benefit from the federal recognition of same-sex couples that were legally married in states that allow such unions based on the Equal Protection Clause. The justices confirmed the same day sent back to lower courts a challenge to Prop 8, saying the individuals who defended the law in court lacked the legal standing to do so.

On June 28, 2013, a stay on allowing same-sex marriage in California was lifted and such marriages were able to resume.
Dear Friends in Christ,

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was founded in France by Venerable Pauline Jaricot in the year 1822. As a young woman, Pauline understood the great need for spreading the faith and supporting active missionaries. What this visionary conceived by a program of prayers and pennies has grown into a Pontifical Society that presently supports some 1,150 dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America.

Pauline Jaricot understood that “we are all one family in mission” as she endeavored to prayerfully and financially support pastoral and evangelizing programs, for catechists and catechetical work, to build churches and chapels, and for the spiritual work of religious communities in health care and education. In fact, the very first collections taken up in France beginning in 1822 supported the vast Diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada, as well as the Catholic missions in Kentucky and China.

Each February, the Diocese of Harrisburg recognizes the importance of mission work by supporting Membership Sunday for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Membership Sunday is more than a collection for financial support. Membership Sunday is founded on the active interest of the baptized to hear, read, and reflect upon the missionary mandate of Jesus to “go teach all nations.” It is the opportunity to offer prayers and sacrifices that unite us in solidarity with Catholics around the world to continue the mission of Christ in our time.

Your membership in the Society, or enrolling your deceased loved ones, affords you and them a remembrance in 15,000 Masses celebrated each year by missionaries for the intentions of all the Society’s members. It is one way you can exercise your missionary vocation and cooperate with God in bringing the life of Christ to thousands of souls who never knew Him or who have forgotten Him.

May we all keep alive the vision of Pauline Jaricot that “we are all one family in mission” to extend Christ’s Kingdom to the ends of the earth!

Reverend Robert F. Sharman
Diocesan Director

In 1833, the young Church in the United States, a mission territory at that time, started contributing to the Propagation of the Faith with a humble gift of $6. Today, U.S. Catholics contribute about 25 percent of the support collected through the Propagation of the Faith for the 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide.

“Missionaries have served the Church’s mission by breaking the bread of God’s word for the poor and those far off, and by bringing to all the gift of the unfathomable love welling up from the heart of the Savior.”

~ Pope Francis

Join

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith to pass on the “Good News” of Jesus among those who live without the hope that comes from Christ Our Lord!

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY COLLECTION
FEBRUARY 1, 2015

For more information:
Missions Office
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804 ext. 240
missions@hbgdiocese.org
www.hbgdiocese.org/missions

Join

S.P.O.F. Membership Sunday ~ February 1, 2015
We Are All One Family in Mission
Catholic Community Comes Together at Annual African American Mass

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

As the nation prepared to celebrate a federal holiday honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Diocese of Harrisburg came together Jan. 18 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg as a Christian community to honor a culture during the annual African American Mass.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was the celebrant and homilist during the Mass. In his homily, he quoted Dr. King, and spoke about how the late pastor turned to the Gospel and his trust in the Lord while encouraging peaceful demonstrations to make a major change against social injustice.

During a time when the media has focused on current social injustice, it is important for the Catholic community to come together. “We need to send a message and model Catholic truths as displayed in the diversity of cultures in the Church. Christ came to save all people. We have to show that all are welcome. Correcting social injustice begins when we open our hearts to Christ,” commented Mrs. Gwen Summers, Coordinator of the Diocesan Black Catholic Apostolate.

She continued, explaining the importance of celebrating the Mass to honor African American faith and culture. “We need to celebrate Masses representing our culture and faith, showing the richness of our faith by being black and Catholic. The expression is to not be separate but rather to identify those gifts and talents which integrate the faith and the culture of black Americans into the Church.”

In celebrating the talents of the African American Catholic community, Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church Choir from Baltimore, Md., was invited to share Gospel-oriented music. After the Communion Rite, they bellowed Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd. Accompanying the choir to create a beautiful sound of praise were a drummer and keyboardist. The variety of ages, from youth to senior, created a sound of hope and love. By the end of the hymn, the congregation was standing and clapping. People wept as the Holy Spirit could be felt through the entire congregation. Even Bishop Gainer commented, “The Lord is My Shepherd will never be heard the same again.”

Choir member Shondraiya Fitzgerald lends her voice in praise and worship.

Gabriel Nichols joins in prayer during the Mass in celebration of African American faith and culture.

The Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church Choir from Baltimore, Md., leads the congregation in vibrant song.