“Conform Your Life to the Mystery of the Lord’s Cross”

~ Rite of Ordination

The Diocese of Harrisburg rejoiced in the ordination of Father Anthony Robert Dill on June 30 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

The new priest will serve at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill this summer before returning to Rome to complete studies in Canon Law. See page 8 for coverage of the ordination.
**Bishops Urge Congress to Fix Health Law Flaws after High Court Decision**

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
*Catholic News Service*

The U.S. Supreme Court’s June 28 decision upholding the health reform law makes it even more urgent for Congress to act to fix the law’s “fundamental flaws” on abortion funding, conscience protection and immigrants’ access to health care, the U.S. bishops said.

The court found that although the individual mandate in the 2010 health reform law does not pass constitutional muster under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, it can be upheld as an acceptable exercise of Congress’ taxing powers.

In a 65-page opinion announced by Chief Justice John Roberts, five members of the court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in full but limited the federal government’s right to withhold its share of Medicaid funding from states that do not adopt the health program for the low-income and disabled as mandated by the law.

“The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not joined in efforts to repeal the law in its entirety, and we do not do so today,” said a USCCB news release issued shortly after the decision.

“The decision of the Supreme Court neither diminishes the moral imperative to ensure decent health care for all, nor eliminates the need to correct [the law’s] fundamental flaws.”

Joining Roberts in the majority opinion were Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, although Ginsburg differed from the other four on how the mandate was constitutional under the Commerce Clause.

“The federal government does not have the power to order people to buy health insurance,” she said. “It does have the power to impose a tax on those without health insurance,” the Roberts opinion says. The mandate “is therefore constitutional, because it can reasonably be read as a tax.”

Dissenting were Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, who would have overturned the entire law as an unconstitutional violation of the Commerce Clause.

By forcing those who are young and healthy to purchase health insurance, the law compel[s] those who do not wish to participate in a particular marketplace to do so, the dissenters said.

“If Congress can reach out and command, even those that are farther removed from an interstate market to participate in the market, then the Commerce clause is a font of federal power, or in [Alexander] Hamilton’s own words, ‘the hideous monster whose devouring jaws ... spare neither sex nor age, nor high nor low, nor sacred nor profane,’” said the dissenting opinion, written by Scalia.

The decisions do not affect other lawsuits against the health reform law’s requirement that most religious employers must provide contraceptives, including some abortion-causing drugs, and sterilization to their employees at no cost. Those cases are still in lower courts and have not yet reached the Supreme Court.

But Archbishop Joseph Naumann, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, said the Affordable Care Act “forces an abortion agenda on the American people unlike anything seen since Roe v. Wade.”

The 1973 Supreme Court decision that lifted most state restrictions on abortion.

Naumann added the decision that reversed the other three provisions and ensures that any health care law respects life.

The decision issued by the court June 28 actually involved four separate challenges to the constitutional- ity of the health reform law. The court first had to decide whether the Anti-Injunction Act, which says no tax can be challenged in court before it is due, precluded a challenge to the Affordable Care Act until after the individual mandate takes effect in 2014. The majority decided that it did not.

The next question was whether the individual mandate also called a “shared responsibility payment” exceeded Congress’ authority to “regu- late commerce” or to impose taxes. Roberts played the key role in deciding that, siding with the dissenters on the commerce question but with the majority on the tax question.

If the mandate had been overturned, the court would have had to decide whether the entire health law must fall if one section does – the so-called “severability” issue. But the affirmation of the mandate made that question moot.

Finally, the court faced the ques- tion of whether Congress could pe- nalize states that opt out of the law’s requirement to expand their Medicaid programs. In its early years the expan- sion is mostly funded by the federal government, but states are expected to take over funding the coverage in later years.

The court ruled that the federal gov- ernment cannot threaten states with the loss of their existing Medicaid funding if they do not participate in the expanded Medicaid program.

**Bishop McFadden’s Statement on Supreme Court Ruling**

Shortly after the Supreme Court’s June 28 ruling upholding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden released the following statement:

Today’s decision that the Supreme Court to uphold the Affordable Care Act is a disappointment for me and the Church of Harrisburg. It does not address the three main reasons why the U.S. Catholic bishops ultimately opposed final passage of Affordable Care Act.

Those being:

- It allows use of federal funds to pay for elective abortions and for plans that cover such abortions. This contradicts longstanding federal policy.
- The ACA does not provide essential conscience protection. People of faith will now be forced to either violate deeply held religious beliefs or pay fines for refusing to comply with the mandate that forces religious and other employers to cover sterilization and contraception, including abortifacient drugs.
- The ACA fails to treat immigrant workers and their families fairly, leaving them worse off by not allowing them to purchase health coverage in the market.

The Catholic bishops of the United States, for nearly a century, have been and continue to be consistent advocates for comprehensive health care reform to ensure access to life-affirming health care for all, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable.

I urge all to continue to ask Congress to pass, and the Administration to sign, legislation to correct the three main flaws mentioned.

**Distress Remains over ‘Show Me Your Papers’ Part of Immigration Ruling**

By Mark Pattison  
*Catholic News Service*

In what one observer called the “judicial equivalent of white smoke,” immigration advocates were largely happy with the June 25 Supreme Court ruling that struck down three key provisions of Arizona’s own immigration law.

However, they voiced dismay over the one part of the law the high court kept intact: the “show me your papers” provision.

Based on “certain limitations,” the court said, such checks do not “interfere with the federal immigration scheme.”

However, the decision also said the provision would face further scrutiny and could later be found unconstitutional.

“We are encouraged that the court did not rule it [the provision] constitutional,” said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, in a statement. “Implementation of this provision could lead to the separation of families and undermine the church’s ability to minister to the immigrant community.”

Archbishop Gomez said, “The court’s decision to strike down the other provisions of the Arizona law reinforces the hope that federal government in regulating immigration.”

With regard to the court allowing checks of people’s papers, he added: “We stand in solidarity with our broth-
Campus Minister,
Campus Ministry is seeking a Lay Catholic for young adult faith formation; attending responding credibly, intelligently, and sen-innovative ways to bring people together; Catholic Church in a constantly-changing way for students looking to connect with the images the presence of Christ in a special campus environment. The Campus Minister community serving students in a universityture growth. The CCM is a Christ-centeredMinistry (CCM), and inspire continued fu-

Franklin & Marshall College Catholic Campus Ministry is seeking a Lay Catholic for young adult faith formation; attending responding credibly, intelligently, and sen-innovative ways to bring people together; Catholic Church in a constantly-changing way for students looking to connect with the images the presence of Christ in a special campus environment. The Campus Minister community serving students in a university
ture growth. The CCM is a Christ-centered
Ministry (CCM), and inspire continued fut-

Joshua Po of St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey rallies for school choice during a gathering at the state Capitol in May to celebrate the EITC program. 

School Choice Success!
By AB Hill
Special to The Witness
School choice advocates are celebrating a big victory in Harrisburg this weekend! Governor Tom Corbett signed the tax code bill that ex-
pands the existing Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, eliminates the de-
lay for some companies that wish to contrib-
ute, and creates another category of tax-credit supported scholarships called Educational Im-
provement Scholarship Credits (EISC) targeted at students in neighborhoods with perpetually underperforming public schools.

Both EITC 1.0 and EITC 2.0 programs, as they are being called, are funded by companies that contribute to scholarship organizations in exchange for a tax credit. The longstanding EITC 1.0 program has helped tens of thousands of students attend the school of their choice, including Catholic schools. The EITC 2.0 pro-
gram will help thousands more by creating special scholarships up to $8,500 ($15,000 for spe-
cial education students) particularly for income eligible students in the lowest performing 15% of public schools.

The Bishops of Pennsylvania declared school choice to be a defining social justice issue of this society. This expansion of EITC moves Pennsylvania one step closer to a system of education that truly reinforces that parents – not the state – are the primary educators of their children.

(Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.)

Diocese Thanked for Contributions to Collections
Bishop Joseph P. McFadden recently received letters of thanks for the contributions that the people of the diocese made to the 2011 Col-

lecion for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and to the 2011 Retirement Fund for Religious.

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia and Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, acknowledged the $33,632.38 that the people of the diocese gave to last year’s Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. “As a result of your efforts, the Subcommittee was able to award $6.1 million dollars to 327 different projects in 2011,” Cardinal Rigali wrote. He noted that the contributions “will continue to help rebuild churches, support vocations, and strengthen pastoral and charitable outreach especially in areas formerly under communist control.”

In her letter Sister Janice Bader, CPPS, Executive Director of the National Religious Retirement Office, noted that the diocese con-

tributed $56,275.42 to last year’s collection, bringing the diocesan contribution total to $1,305,975.27. “Religious today, as always, continue to make an impact on our society. Even as they age, their commitment to the ministry of their community, their prayer and spiritual life are vibrant testimony to the faithfulness they promised so many years ago,” Sister Janice wrote. “Your commitment to them is a heartfelt testimony to their faithfulness.”

Joshua Po of St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey rallies for school choice during a gathering at the state Capitol in May to celebrate the EITC program.

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At this critical moment in history, there are two social justice priorities for the Catholic Church in the United States: the defense of life at all stages and in all conditions, and the defense of religious freedom for all. During this Fortnight for Freedom, in which the U.S. bishops are calling all Catholics to pray and work for religious freedom, it’s important to reflect on the linkage between these two great causes.

As the language of the First Amendment to the Constitution indicates, religious freedom in the United States has always been understood as one of a cluster of fundamental freedoms—spheres of free thought and action essential to individual liberty and civil society. That idea of constitutionally limited government—a government that makes no theological judgments (religious freedom), that does not control the media (freedom of the press), that does not control thought and culture (free speech), and that does not occupy all the “space” in society (freedom of assembly)—rests, philosophically, on the premise of fundamental human equality.

Yet the premise is counterintuitive. We know that all men and women are not created equal in intelligence, beauty, wealth, linguistic skills, or ability to hit a curveball. Everything we see, every day, everywhere, speaks of human inequality. How, then, sustain a constitutional order of freedom on the basis of human equality? Is equality a pious fiction, a noble lie we tell ourselves?

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson solved this problem by reference to a fundamental human equality, and to “self-evident” rights reflecting that equality, that were “endowed” in us by “Nature, and Nature’s God.” Today, the idea of divinely constructed “human nature” has disappeared from our high culture (and a lot of our law), that argument is under severe pressure. Jews and Christians can argue that their commitment to the premise of civil equality derives from obedience to the commands of the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus, in various forms of the Golden Rule; but will such an argument convince non-believers?

In his 1993 encyclical, “Veritatis Splendor” (“The Splendor of Truth”), Blessed John Paul II proposed an imaginative solution to this problem, which is fundamental to all democracies and especially acute in democracies soaked in the solvents of aggressive secularism and its companion, radical skepticism. There is a way in which all men and women, unequal in every-other-aspect-of-their-lives, are equal, the Pope suggested: “Before the demands of morality are absolutely equal,” he wrote. Everyone is equal before the demands of the fundamental moral law that we can know by reason.

What are those demands? What are those moral truths? Lying is wrong. Theft of what rightly belongs to another is wrong. Everyone must honor promises, vows, and legal contracts. All must be free to seek truth in the depths of conscience, without social, cultural, or governmental coercion. And the inviolability of every innocent human life must be respected from its beginning to its end.

These fundamental moral truths can be known by anyone wishing to think carefully. Recognizing them does not require any prior theological commitment (although belief in the God of the Bible provides the path toward those truths). These truths are, if you will, built into us. We do not invent them; we discover them.

The fundamental democratic premise of the radical, inalienable, civil equality of all citizens is at the root of the American constitutional order—the American way of being a political community. That premise is no pious fiction, no noble lie. It can be “demonstrated” and defended, by reason. And that defense leads inexorably to the right to life for the primordial human right, and the right of religious freedom as the “first freedom” in the political order.

In defending religious freedom and the right to life from conception until natural death, U.S. Catholics are not just defending what is “ours.” We defend America. We seek to give America new birth of freedom, rightly understood. We act, not as sectarianists, but as free citizens. We act on behalf of all, and on behalf of truth. (George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.)
was special for me. The statue is still
blue, she was painted in pink. That
Mother but she wasn’t in the usual
grade, there was a statue of the Blessed
been a student at St. Joan of Arc. Her
happened to the Jell-O, I might have
good chance that had I not seen what
minutes later the same student walked
the door of the bathroom,” she remem-
the floor a few times, up against a few
began with a slight giggle in her voice.
“Eventually passed the student and
room a student at St. Joan of Arc School in Her-
and with whom she wants to share
ment about the day, contact Dea-
that the parents
the parents and some local residents dis-
agreeing on a fence that the parents
the children safe during recess. Sister
the children
of contacts. She has been happy to
much of the community and had lots
most classrooms have at least
plentiful computer room, smart boards
from her first year there, when
continued to help her school grow into the
future: from her first year there, when
years. Sister Eileen has contin-
25 years, stands by a statue of the Blessed Mother that graces the outside of the
school.

Sister Eileen Maric McGowan, principal of St. Joan of Arc School in Her-
for 25 years, stops and remembers
her faith, even if only once a week. “I
want these students to know I’m here
them.” Sister Eileen also been adopted into the WINGS
healthy eating and exercise, which has
also received several different grants
also been adopted into the WINGS

by Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Smiling and laughing to herself, Sister Eileen Marie McGowan, princi-
spend time with her family who live
right up!" Sister Eileen shared.

August 2 from
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Emmitsburg, Maryland

Bishop William J. Waltersheid,
Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh,
Principal Celebrant and Homilist

The day of prayer will include the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary and Mass at the Grotto (weather permitting), a Marian Conference, Act of Consecration to Mary, and a Holy Hour.

Pilgrims must bring a boxed
lunch, but the first day they gobbled it
up!" Sister Eileen also been adopted into the WINGS
healthy eating and exercise, which has
also received several different grants
also been adopted into the WINGS

Pilgrimage to the
Lady of Lourdes

25th Annual Diocesan-Wide
Pilgrimage to the National Shrine
Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Solemn Novena in Honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

July 8-15, 7 p.m.
At the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
430 Monastery Road, Elwinsburg PA
Holy Mass and sermon preached
daily by Father Jonathan Sawicki

On Monday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m.,
celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of
Mount Carmel with Bishop William
Waltersheid, Auxiliary Bishop of
Pittsburgh.

The day of prayer will include
the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
Rosary and Mass at the Grotto
(weather permitting), a Marian
Conference, Act of Consecration
to Mary, and a Holy Hour.
Pilgrims must bring a boxed
lunch and water. For general information
about the day, contact Dea-
con Michael Grela at 717-939-
6431 (home) 717-379-4083 (cell),
or dmgrrela@abgdiocece.org.

should keep driving. After PTO meet-
ings and discussion this first conflict
was solved by creating a beautiful
new playground for the children on the
other side of the school, away from
the street, and a nice, natural boarder
of bushes planted instead of the fence.
This was the first of Sister Eileen’s many accomplishments as principal.
Even though Sister Eileen was ini-
tially apprehensive to return home,
St. Joan of Arc has been a perfect fit.
Sometimes going home can be hard,
but trying to make new contacts in a
brand new home can be even more
difficult. And in this way, Sister Eileen
had a head start. She already knew
much of the community and had lots
of contacts. She has been happy to
spend time with her family who live
just down the road. Her brother’s chil-
dren were taught at the school and she
can visit her mother, who is 92.
The late Monsignor Leo Bierster also
played an active role in Sister Ei-
leen’s adjustment from teacher to prin-
cipal. Sister Eileen thoughtfully spoke
about Monsignor, “He was the perfect
mentor for a new principal. He had
past experience as Superintendent of
Schools and he was never wrong. He
would always say, ‘Don’t worry Sis-
ter, it will be ok.’ And it always was.”
She continued, “It was very hard to see
him retire, still today I can hear
him tell me everything will be ok.”
In 25 years Sister Eileen has contin-
ued to help her school grow into the
future: from her first year there, when
much of the paperwork, grading and
bus scheduling was done with paper
and pencil, to today where they have
a plentiful computer room, smart boards
in every classroom as of this sum-
mer, most classrooms have at least
one computer in them, and the entire
school has wifi. It was after her first
year there, when, graduation was just
an hour or two away and the buses
had made the request for the new bus
schedule to be given day, that Sister
Eileen thought, “Never again” doing it
here,” she shared, smiling.
First day she arrived she was
welcomed with a unique dilemma.
Upon pulling into the parking lot, she
noticed a large group of people in a
disagreement. It had been a mix of
parents and some local residents dis-
agreeing on a fence that the parents
wanted the school to put up to keep the
children safe during recess. Sister
Eileen recalled that at that moment she
couldn’t help but to think if maybe she

Summer Camp for People with Mental Disabilities

August 12-17
Camp Kirchenwald, near Hershey

The Diocese of Harrisburg will sponsor this annual summer camp for adolescents and young adults with mental disabilities. The camp is designed for those 18 and older, with mild to moderate mental retardation and no significant behavioral problems. Camperships are available for participants. Contact the Diocesan Family Ministries Office at 717-657-4804 or familiyministries@hbgdiocese.org.

Would you like to volunteer or sponsor a camper? Call 717-657-4804. This camp is seeking full-time and part-time staff. No experience is necessary, but those with experience in fishing, camping, hiking, and arts and crafts are especially welcome. The camp is in need of nurses. If you're interested in volunteering, or if you’d like to sponsor a camper, contact the Diocesan Family Ministries Office at 717-657-4804 or familyministries@hbgdiocese.org.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

August 3-5
Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading PA

Space is limited – Please register early

Completely Confidential
Contact Joy: 717-788-4959 or email RVpadm@gmail.com or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

If you are suffering from the pain and hurt of an abortion experience, we invite you to attend this healing weekend. If you are the mother, father, grandparent, sibling or medical personnel involved with this experience, this weekend is for you. There is no judgment, only love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness, as we journey together to place that begins with the darkness of choice and ends in the healing arms of our Lord Jesus. All inquiries are totally confidential.

The Friends of Carmel JMJ Seeks Members to Help Support Discalced Carmelites

The Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was founded at the monastery in Elsberg in 2009 at the invitation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Harrisburg. The Discalced Carmelites needed an additional convent as the Valparaiso Nebraska location had become overfilled. The solemn blessing and enclosure took place on Aug. 24, 2009, on the 447th anniversary of the first formation by St. Teresa of Avila.

The Friends of Carmel JMJ is a new organization of volunteers who have come together to provide support and financial assistance to the nuns. Since the nuns live a completely enclosed life, they are dependent on the charity of others for their material needs. The Friends of Carmel JMJ aspire to grow the network of friends and the corresponding invaluable benefits which can be attained.

If you were awarded a writing award while those truly in need, and at the same time acquire graces for you, your loved ones, the Church and society, would you be interested?

Friends of Carmel JMJ share their gifts to sustain and enable growth in the contemplative community because we know that faith without works is vain (1 Corinthians 13:1). The value and results of our help are not immediately apparent, though we know through faith that the prayers of consecrated souls are so dear to God. Thanks and appreciation are not available, though we know charity that gains access and grace in this world gains no eternal merit (Matt 6:6). The nuns, in their gratitude, respond “May God reward you,” a simple reminder of the source of all good and the proper end for our actions.

Please visit the web site www.friendsofcarmeljmj.org. You can register for the quarterly newsletter to learn more and stay-up-to-date with the community. There is contact information and listings of assistance that is needed. There is a Religious Store with invaluable and practical hand-made items for you and for gifts to loved ones. Please make use of Mass cards and prayer requests for your most important intentions. Watch for upcoming activities including Feast and Profession of Vows. It is a blessing to be able to join the Mass at their chapel; either a quiet daily Mass or the High Mass with the nuns singing behind the grille; it’s the rite you will never forget.

Blessed John Paul II, on the contemplative, reminds us: “In this way, through the many charisms of spiritual and apostolic life bestowed on them by the Holy Spirit, they have helped to make the mystery and mission of the Church shine forth, and in doing so have contributed to the renewal of society.”

Share the joy! Let us give thanks to God by remembering the consecrated souls in our prayers and help as you can to support vocations here in the Diocese of Harrisburg. We pray for the good of souls, the strength of the Church, and this world so in need of renewal.

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Thirteen years ago this August, I walked into his office for the first time.

The clutter was rampant. Volumes of books filled every nook and cranny. A rabbit ear television sat in the corner with a few scribbled notes about a sermon. A number of pens and pencils lay strewn about, remote control, several tobacco pouches, one frequently used pipe, and all variety of chips and pretzels seemingly within arms’ reach.

That memory of my first encounter with Father T. Ronald Haney centers more on his chaotic office than on the priest himself. One could not help but notice the true character of the man.

But in many ways, his corner office here at the Catholic Witness truly reflected him: You had to look beyond the surface to find the true character.

The job interview I had with him in the summer of ’99 was anything but run-of-the-mill. He sat across from me at his desk, and cleared a chair of his briefcase and sweater so I could sit. I rested my portfolio across his lap as he flicked a lighter to smoke his pipe.

It was my fourth interview this month, and my first with a priest.

“No, you went to Lebanon Catholic? That’s good,” he said as he glanced at my résumé.

He leafed through the sampling of articles I presented. He was satisfied with what he saw, I guessed. Though I didn’t know it then, you had to get right to the point with Father Haney. I’m glad I didn’t save the best writings for last. Most of them were Linux articles and feature pieces from an internet newspaper, and a handful of writings from college.

His face brightened for a moment when I showed him a few snippets I had written that spring for TV Host magazine before the publication had been discontinued.

I relaxed.

Then, just as quickly, his smile turned to a frown, and my stomach flip flopped. I wondered what could have gone wrong so fast.

“You worked at TV Host?” he asked. I used to subscribe to that, you know, “he said. He pondered why the magazine was no longer in production, and relaxed the account of the inconvenience of signing up for another publication to keep the schedule of his favorite show.

He posed a few questions: What knowledge edge did I have of the Church? Had I ever read The Witness? What kind of articles did I write?

And he spoke highly of the rest of the staff involved with this experience, this weekend is for you. There is no necessity with kidney failure, he offered prayers Masses. When our nation was attacked on September 11, we watched the television together in shock, tears and prayer.

Six years ago, when he said he wanted me to become managing editor for The Witness, I asked him, “What’s the best piece of advice you can give?”

“Remember that you can’t please everybody all of the time. Just do your work and trust your judgment.”

It’s funny how significant words and shared moments come to the forefront of my memory when you mourn the loss of someone who left their imprint on your life. Thinking of Father Haney in these days since his death, I recall a priest and friend who genuinely cared for me and wanted the best for my life.

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Now I sit here in the corner office that he occupied for 30 years, and I think of him, just as I have done nearly every day since his retirement six years ago. All that remains of his in this space is the rosebush that grows outside the window and the old television, still without a remote.

He visited me here a few times in his retirement, and admired how bright and clean his former office had become. Maybe, just for old time’s sake, I’ll fill it up now and then with stacks of books, random papers, and a mish-mash of trinkets. After all, it’s not the surface that counts.

(That certainly would have been easy to do). I returned his call.

“What do you think about working for The Witness?” he asked. “I want to offer you the job.”

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Outreach Program at Good Shepherd Parish Responds to Seniors’ Needs

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Sometimes, a simple phone call can make a world of difference in a person’s life.

More than ten years ago, Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill initiated its Senior Search program, an outreach effort designed to connect with and provide assistance to parishioners who are 80 years of age or older.

With lists of senior citizen parishioners and their contact information at hand, parish volunteers spend several weeks every other year calling up and reaching out to seniors.

“When we call, our aim is to let them know that we’re here and that we care about them, and to ask if there is anything we can do for them,” said volunteer Anne Boyle. “Our efforts are about making a connection and finding out as much as we can about them.”

The Senior Search program was implemented in response to a tragic event in 2000 surrounding two elderly sisters who were members of Good Shepherd.

The women – Ann and Theresa – looked after each other as best they could from their homes in Lemoyne, but stopped attending Mass once Ann could from her home in Millersville.

“We do find that some of the people we call are lonely, and believe me, they’re happy sometimes just to talk to someone, and we can do that too,” said volunteer Anne Boyle. “Our efforts are all about making a connection and finding out as much as we can about them.”

The Senior Search program was implemented to respond to the tragedy in 2000 surrounding two elderly sisters who were members of Good Shepherd.

The women – Ann and Theresa – looked after each other as best they could from their homes in Lemoyne, but stopped attending Mass once Ann was no longer able to drive. When the restaurant that they habitually visited for meals went out of business, their nutrition suffered. Eventually, a concerned mail carrier phoned the Department of Aging about the sisters’ plight when he became concerned about their health.

A call from the Department of Aging to Good Shepherd was the parish’s first notification about the sisters’ situation. Immediately, parish volunteers began supplying Ann and Theresa with meals and offering other forms of assistance.

The court assigned a guardian to Ann and Theresa, and they soon moved into a nursing home where they received the care they needed until they died a few years later.

Ann and Theresa’s situation prompted Good Shepherd Parish to put a senior citizen outreach program into place.

“Shame on us, we didn’t realize that perhaps they currently don’t have a spe-
cific request for help, but if a need arises in the future, they know they can contact the parish for assistance.”

In 2012, Senior Search contacted 261 parishioners. That figure didn’t include parishioners in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, or those who are very visible and active in the parish on a regular basis.

Father Helwig pointed out that connecting with senior citizens is a means of responding to our responsibility for others, and of practicing the corporal works of mercy – feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and burying the dead.

“It’s a way in which we can reach out into the parish and let people know that we want to respond to their needs,” Father Helwig said.

“The Senior Search program is an excellent way of keeping the arms of the parish around its people,” he said.

Those who volunteer with the Senior Search program at Good Shepherd hope that other parishes would be inspired to implement it for their parishioners as well.

“It does involve quite a bit of work, but you always feel you’re away with more than you give,” Mrs. O’Brien remarked.

“It’s so gratifying, especially when you find so many people who are doing well and – for those who need help – ways to assist them. We love doing it, and we intend to keep up the effort.”

“This program helps to keep the arms of the parish around its people,” she said.

(Priests or parish staff interested in implementing the Senior Search program in their parish are encouraged to contact Gail O’Brien at 717-765-7888.)

Save The Date: Catholic Charities Come and See Dinner

Mark your calendars now for the annual Catholic Charities Come and See Dinner. The event will take place Monday, November 19 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. A reception and auction begins at 5 p.m. followed by a demonstration at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

The guest presenter will be Father Leo Patalinghug, an accomplished writer and popular conference speaker, who will provide an entertaining demonstration that evening.

Father Leo is the author of Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life. He has been featured in various national media outlets and also competed on the Food Network’s hit show “Throw Down with Bobby Flay,” where he defeated the world renowned chef in a steak fajita cooking competition. For more information, contact Christopher Meehan, Catholic Charities Director of Development, at 717-657-4804 or cmeehan@hbgdiocese.org.

Catholic Charities Notre Dame Football Game Raffle

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg is sponsoring a Notre Dame football game raffle for the October 13 game versus Stanford.

First Prize:
- Two tickets to the Notre Dame versus Stanford game on October 13, 2012
- Two nights lodging at the Comfort Inn in Mishawaka, Ind.
- $200 in spending money

Second Prize:
- Two tickets to the Notre Dame versus Stanford game on October 13, 2012
- Two nights lodging at the Comfort Inn in Mishawaka, Ind.
- $100 in spending money

Tickets cost $10 each, and the drawing will be held on August 31. All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg. To purchase tickets, contact Christopher Meehan, Director of Development for Catholic Charities, at 717-657-4804.
For Father Anthony Dill, Call to Priesthood was Unexpected

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Having experienced what he called “an average upbringing in the Catholic faith,” Father Anthony Dill says he never expected the call from God to become a priest. He heard it atop Mount Nittany, overlooking State College.

The diocece’s newest priest was ordained by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg June 30, and shared with The Catholic Witness the story of his discernment just days before his ordination.

Raised in St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland and educated in the West Shore School District, young Anthony – one of four sons of James and Virginia Dill – attended Mass with his family every Sunday and religious education classes on Wednesday evenings.

At Red Land High School, he wrestled, ran track and played football.

It was “an average high school experience, and an average Catholic education,” he said.

After high school graduation, he set out for Penn State University, but during the first semester, found that it wasn’t the fit for him.

He was unsettled and unhappy with the atmosphere there.

Then, he received an invitation to join other freshmen for an outdoor Mass on Mount Nittany. As the small group hiked, they enjoyed discussions with the priest among the beauty of God’s creation. Anthony was transformed.

“It was a really powerful conversion experience for me,” he said. “It stirred something up. It wasn’t a very positive time in my life, and I was a little depressed at Penn State, so the Mass was a strong turning point.”

“For the first time, I felt an invitation to the priesthood,” he said. “Even though I felt rather ignorant about the priesthood, I still felt called.”

He began to focus on his prayer life. “I started meditating on Sacred Scripture on my own and tried to enjoy a little more silent time and listen more attentively to God,” he noted.

The experience changed his life. He enrolled at Messiah College in Grantham, Pa., where he found a bit of a disciplined atmosphere, contentment and friends he knew well.

The transfer marked “the beginning of my calling, and more of a beginning to feed my curiosity toward a religious vocation,” Father Dill recalled.

But he was self-conscious about his lack of knowledge about the priesthood and unsure of his ability to effectively explain the Catholic faith, so he sought counsel. He connected with Father Edward Malesic, who was serving as chaplain at Messiah College. They formed a strong bond, and when Father Malesic was appointed pastor of Holy Infant Parish in York Haven, the Dill family – who lived within the parish boundary – followed him.

“Father Malesic has taken care of me and has really been patient with me,” Father Dill said. “Anyone who is advancing in the faith makes a lot of mistakes and has a lot of doubts or is just really ignorant in a lot of things, and so he has patiently helped me to grow.”

“Everybody knew it was coming,” he said. “But then again, neither did I.”
As nighttime descended upon Emmitsburg June 24, more than 100 young men gathered with diocesan priests and close to 40 seminarians on the lush grounds of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary for the first night of Quo Vadis Days, the diocese’s annual vocational discernment camp.

With storm clouds casting an ethereal scene over the seminary, Quo Vadis Days attendees geared up for their first recreational activity of the week: a spirited and competitive game of Glow Necklace Ultimate Frisbee with seminarians and priests.

The amusing and recreational game contributed to the teambuilding and camaraderie of the discernment camp, held June 24-28 this year. The week offers young men, ages 15-25, an opportunity to discern their vocation and discover the joy of the priesthood.

Spiritual offerings included a Eucharistic Procession with Vespers with Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, recitation of the Rosary, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, a candlelight procession, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Diocesan priests and seminarians staffed the camp, leading small-group discussion, answering questions and presenting talks on discernment, Jesus, the priesthood and seminary experiences.

Quo Vadis is Latin for “Where are you going?” Legend tells us that St. Peter asked Jesus this question on the outskirts of Rome.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

As twilight settles over Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., diocesan seminarians Daniel O’Leary, standing center, Joey Barvir, far right, and Joshua Cavender, background, introduce Quo Vadis Days participants to the game of Glow Necklace Ultimate Frisbee. Diocesan priests and seminarians led the discernment camp, which offers a variety of spiritual and recreational activities for young men.


Local Church News

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

As twilight settles over Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., diocesan seminarians Daniel O’Leary, standing center, Joey Barvir, far right, and Joshua Cavender, background, introduce Quo Vadis Days participants to the game of Glow Necklace Ultimate Frisbee. Diocesan priests and seminarians led the discernment camp, which offers a variety of spiritual and recreational activities for young men.
10,000 Hours is Open to Question

Sports Commentary

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Back in the early spring, I watched an interview with Dan McLaughlin that intrigued me in a number of ways and posed a few questions that I have always batted about my mind. Dan McLaughlin is in his early 30s living in central Oregon, where he has devoted the past several years to playing golf. He’s single, not independently wealthy, but what makes him unique is that he set about a goal a few years ago that is more than meets the eye. As a photographer for the Chattanooga Times Free Press after graduating from the University of Georgia, Dan found little meaning in being a photojournalist. When he was 28, he was working as a commercial photographer in his hometown of Atlanta, when he decided that he might start a sparkling water company. Just before signing the loan, he backed out and enrolled in business school, which bored him from the start so he quit.

Without much of a life compass, Dan moved to Portland, Oregon, and began snapping more pictures to feed himself. Floundering about like many young people do in pursuit of their vocation, Dan picked up a book that featured the writings of Anders Ericsson, a psychology professor at Florida State University. Dr. Ericsson has published numerous findings in which he tries to prove that talent is more overrated than it should be. In fact, he postulates that if you work hard at any endeavor, all pursuits, that you can achieve “professional” caliber talent with 10,000 hours of diligent practice, deliberate thought and daily regimen. I have long admired Dr. Ericsson’s arguments though on the surface they are not particularly. God affirming in aim.

Never, though, have I questioned that talent is God-given because to do so smacks of irreverence and ingratitude. For all ability must come from our benevolent Creator who puts us here to bring glory and honor to His kingdom, yet one can also argue without casting us here to bring glory and honor to His king.

I have long admired Dr. Ericsson’s arguments though on the surface they are not particularly. God affirming in aim. Never, though, have I questioned that talent is God-given because to do so smacks of irreverence and ingratitude. For all ability must come from our benevolent Creator who puts us here to bring glory and honor to His kingdom, yet one can also argue without casting us here to bring glory and honor to His king. Dr. Ericsson has published numerous findings in which he tries to prove that talent is more overrated than it should be. In fact, he postulates that if you work hard at any endeavor, all pursuits, that you can achieve “professional” caliber talent with 10,000 hours of diligent practice, deliberate thought and daily regimen. I have long admired Dr. Ericsson’s arguments though on the surface they are not particularly. God affirming in aim.

He’s a lefty, so the challenge is even greater, given the fact that only a dozen or so left handed players have ever really succeeded on the Tour over the past 30 years – Phil Mickelson and Bubba Watson are the only two that have become great of late. Dan also lives very simply on less than $2,000 a month. Last summer, he took a week break with his girlfriend to go to Montana, but other than that he has spent 6 to 8 hours a day working solely on golf. He’s devoted more than 2,900 hours thus far, and it will take him almost seven years to complete 10,000 hours of dedicated work.

In the past year, he has broken 80 consistently and he has his handicap under 8, which given the fact that he never had picked up a club before, is remarkable progress. Will 7,000 hours more work propel him to the PGA Tour? It’s a long shot at best, given the game’s immense skill set required to perform with the best. Truth is, Dan’s age is working against him as well, as his prime athletic ability is a decade past peak.

But isn’t the spirit of what Dan McLaughlin is trying to accomplish the ultimate point? How could God ever frown upon developing a plan, working hard, following the regimen faithfully, and dreaming big?

Got to really thinking about this venture even more watch- ing this year’s U.S. Open played at quirky Olympic Country Club located on the bluffs overlooking San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge two weeks ago. It was painful for me to watch 42-year-old Lancaster native Jim Furyk throw away the Open with some poor shot making down the stretch. I first met him when he was 16 years old playing at Manheim Township – a township boy as they are called down that way. Furyk is a tall order given the caliber of player that makes a million dollar living playing big-time golf on TV every weekend.

Golf is the type of game in which steady progress is quite visible. It’s not a subjective game, given your score and your handicap are based on hard numbers, and if you regress, the numbers do not lie.

To make the PGA tour, you must be able to score consistently under 70 under pressure on a course that measures more than 7,000 yards in length. Today’s excellent equipment seems making learning the game easier than ever before. Balls today fly 25 percent longer, while drivers boast higher launch angles and irons have expanded sweet spots that help the average ball striker to be better than mediocre. All combined, the game appears easier, yet the hole remains four inches in diameter and the premium of being a great putter has not changed. If you want to play sub-par golf, you better well be a fantastic putter.

So when he yanked his tee shot with a hybrid metal 40 yards left into the trees on the par-5, 16th hole at Olympic while tied for the lead in the Open, I nearly fell off the chair. He’s not one to choke, given his proven mettle even though the pressure was really immense. Every low-handicapper in America could hit the shot required 99 percent of the time better than what he did on that memorable Sunday afternoon, perhaps even myself included. It is a difficult 3-shot hole, but was not that difficult, given the hole was shortened by some 100-yards by using the front tee on Sunday’s final round. The unexpected lessoning required a precise fit to maneuver the golf ball around the dogleg.

Jim Furyk has probably practiced 25,000-plus hours in his lifetime since he was 16. I was so shocked he had utterly failed, until he said something in his immediate post-round interview that made me think.

“The tee was moved up 100 yards on 16, and I did not practice that tee shot from that front tee box earlier in the week never thinking that they would do that on Sunday,” he said in a tone that assuredly sounded more like he was angry with tournament officials for the change than he was with himself.

Fifteen minutes later at the formal press con- ference, he caught himself, given he’s a pro who’s perhaps a win or two away from solidify- ing his place in golf’s hall of fame. Now was not the time to say something stupid again, so he fixed his earlier temper gaffe with a good re-covery quote.

“There’s no way anyone else in the field was prepared for the tee to be that far up,” he said before pivoting. “I just did not handle it very well…. But the rest of the field had the same shot today, and I am pretty sure no one hit as lousy a shot as I did.”

Practice never makes perfect, no matter how many hours you toil. But I am rather certain that God gave him the talent to hit that required tee shot on 16, God also gave him the talent to prac- tice that shot for certain. It was Jim Furyk who was not able to handle the unexpected, and who was not prepared for that crucial longshot on the back nine of the Open.
Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:


BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT – St. Rita: Matthew Larnot.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Magdalena Pfuffer.

CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Frank Karpowicz.

CONEWAGO – Corpus Christi: Frank Karpowicz.

COVENTRY – Sacred Heart: Mary Anne Gross, Donald B. Smith, Sr.

ELIZABETHTOWN – St. Peter: Elizabeth K. Doyle.

GETTYSBURG – St. Joseph: Jane Peichelberger; St. Peter: Eliza Gross, Donald B. Smith, Sr.

GEORGETOWN – St. John the Baptist: Dennis Saenz.

HARRISBURG – St. Joseph: John Blausch.

HOPEWELL – St. Leo: The Great: Justine Dombkowski, Ellen Pfieffer.

KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Ralph J. Hart, Rodney Sinnott, Dorothy Spangler.

MARYSVILLE – Our Lady of Good Counsel: Martin Decker.

MCBEIRN – Assumption BVM: Zoe Hadley, Eileen Hossler.

MERIONVILLE – Seven Sorrows BVM: Eckerd, Robert Kimble.

MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Dan McNew.

MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Robert McAneny.

Lancaster – Assumption BVM: Zoe Hadley, Eileen Hossler.

LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Harold Duras.

LIMA – St. Paul the Apostle: Robert McAneny.

MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Robert McAneny.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Denise Saenz.


ROHERRSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Justine Dombkowski, Ellen Pfieffer.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Joanne Zlotorzynski.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Angelina Krasnov.

YORK – St. Joseph: Edna McDonald; St. Patrick: Eleanor “Mary” Morgan.

REMEMBER OUI Deceased Clergy

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

Father Kenneth Martin, 1988
Deacon Harold Alden, 1991
Deacon Joseph Brousard, 1992
Father Joseph Cepkonis, 1997
Msgr. Joseph Kealy, 1997
Father Charles Procopio, 1998
Msgr. Cletus Wagman, 2001
Father Joseph Coyne, 2001
Deacon Gerard Kole, 2002
Father Ramon Rivera-Lopez, 2007
Father Daniel Mahoney, 2007.

Knights of Columbus Ship Supplies to Afghanistan

The Knights of Columbus from the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg have completed a parish drive culminating in the shipment of more than 20 boxes of supplies to our U.S. troops and civilian contractors in Afghanistan.

Knights from the Cathedral united in this effort after hearing reports from a fellow Knight stationed overseas of the needs of Americans in Afghanistan. Members of Cathedral Council 11008 advertised these needs to parishioners and gathered donations after all Masses on June 23 and 24. By the end of the drive, the Knights had collected more than 300 pounds of supplies that were packed in more than 20 boxes and sent overseas.

“The response from parishioners and fellow Knights was tremendous,” remarked Grand Knight Joe Murphy. “After hearing firsthand accounts from our Brother Knight overseas about what people missed from back home, we knew we needed to do something.”

The Council is also nearing completion of a winter coat drive for an orphanage in Afghanistan that U.S. troops and contractors would like to help. This shipment is scheduled to be mailed out in the fall.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men’s organization whose members strive to live the lifestyle of Christ through prayer and service to others. For more information about the Knights of Columbus Council 11008, visit http://www.aokec11008.com or follow the Knights on twitter at #kofc11008.

Squires Make First Degree as Knights

Three Chief Squares from St. Joseph Circle 5102 of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicburg took their First Degrees of the Knights of Columbus last month, and are now members of St. Joseph Council 12788.

Dave Bluff, left, was immediate past Chief Squire of Circle 5102, Jonathon Stephens, center, was State Chief Squire, and Matthew Schlegel, right, was Chief Squire of Circle 5102.

The Columbian Squires program is the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus, through which the organization hands on its traditions and priorities to the younger generation. As Squires, young men develop as leaders committed to their faith and advocate for the Church and her teachings. David, Jonathon and Matthew are now members of the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph Parish.

New Freedom Parish to Host Icon Workshop by Prosopon School of Iconology

The Prosopon School of Iconology is coming to St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom to conduct an extensive six-day workshop, Sept. 3-8. As in 16th century Russia, students will create icons using ancient techniques and natural materials rich with symbolic meaning: carved wood boards prepared with gesso made from chalk and glue, finely ground clay, pure gold leaf and ground mineral pigments in an emulsion made from egg yolk. The underlying theology of the icon will be equally emphasized, as each technical step has a corresponding symbolic meaning.

Previous artistic experience is not necessary since icon “writing” is as much a contemplative form of prayer as an artistic discipline. The workshop will consist of six full-day sessions (see daily schedule below), when each first-time student will complete an icon. New students will be provided with step-by-step instructions and all necessary materials. Students who have attended previous workshops will be assigned an icon appropriate to their experience and skill.

The Prosopon School of Iconology was founded by Vladislav Andrejev. Mr. Andrejev was born in St. Petersburg Russia in 1938 where he attended the Youth Art School, Tavrichesk Art College, The Fine Art Academy, and Polygraphic Institute. Unable to freely practice iconography in Russia at that time, Mr. Andrejev came to the United States in 1980 and is widely regarded as one of the foremost iconographers in America. The New Freedom workshop will be conducted by Master Iconographer, Mr. Dmitri Andrejev, Vladislav’s oldest son. For more information about the Prosopon School, visit www.prosoponschool.org.

Workshop Daily Schedule: Monday through Saturday July 3-8 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, St. John Neumann Center, 315 Constitution Avenue in New Freedom. Cost for new students is approximately $600 total ($425 tuition+$125 materials+$50 estimated workshop expenses). For cost for returning students, contact coordinator for estimate.

Enrollment is limited to 15 full-time students (a minimum of 11 full-time participants will be necessary for the workshop to be held). Registration form and a non-refundable* deposit of $100 must be received by Aug. 15. For further information, contact mjferro@gmail.com, 717-332-0810 or 717-235-2544. *If the workshop is cancelled for any reason, your deposit will be refunded.

In response to the United States Bishops’ Fortnight for Freedom, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel held an outdoor prayer rally June 25 on the parish grounds. The rally was ecumenical in nature, drawing Protestant ministers who joined with Catholic clergy and faithful in the public witness. During the Fortnight, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish also offered a short prayer service after Masses and held an additional prayer rally on July 3.
Faith, History, Art: Mexico Has It All

By Pat Hennessy
Special to The Witness

The words “We are the Body of Christ” carry new meaning for me. A courtyard wall in the Shrine of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios outside Mexico City displays a familiar representation of the head of Jesus. His “cloak,” his body, is made up of hundreds of photos and thank you notes. “Thank you for the safe birth of my granddaughter,” “Thank you for my son’s health,” “Thank you for the cure of my cancer.”

I was fortunate to visit the pilgrimage site as one of a group of Catholic journalists on a tour hosted by the Mexican Tourist Office, Destination Management Services of Mexico and Regina Tours in Manhattan. Tens of thousands of U.S. Catholics travel each year to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. It is among the most visited pilgrimage sites worldwide. The multitude of languages heard in its central plaza, the flags of every nation, the Masses in English, Polish, French, Spanish, Vietnamese, and others beyond counting, captures the essence of the universal Church.

In contrast, Nuestra Señora de los Remedios embodies the soul of Mexico. That alone, plus its close proximity to Mexico City, should put it on the “must see” list for pilgrims. It is a curious thing to see a Cuba in the heart of Mexico, a late night coffee in Puebla’s charming courtyard wall in the Shrine of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios before departing for Rio. The cloak of an image of Christ at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios outside of Mexico City is filled with photos and notes expressing gratitude for blessings received. As part of the Diocese of Harrisburg’s World Youth Day 2013 journey, pilgrims will visit Nuestra Señora de los Remedios and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe before departing for Rio.

The cloak is an image of Christ at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios outside of Mexico City is filled with photos and notes expressing gratitude for blessings received. As part of the Diocese of Harrisburg’s World Youth Day 2013 journey, pilgrims will visit Nuestra Señora de los Remedios and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe before departing for Rio.

Join the Bishop and the Holy Father at World Youth Day
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 20-29 2013

‘Go and make disciples of all nations’ - Matthew 28:19

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden invites you to join him and our Holy Father at World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The spiritual pilgrimage will include a two day retreat experience in Guadalupe, Mexico, and the World Youth Day activities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Diocesan group will be limited to 200 pilgrims within the ages of 16-17 (youth) and their parish group leaders and chaperones; young adults ages 18 (high school graduates)-35, priests, seminarians and consecrated individuals. For information on this wonderful spiritual pilgrimage, please contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804 ext. 327, or oyamy@hbgdiocese.org, or visit our Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch.

This combination of ancient and modern confronts visitors at every turn. Mexico is home to fully 25 UNESCO heritage sites, beginning with the city center itself. The central plaza, the Zócalo, has a Renaissance feel reminiscent of St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice. That’s surprising – the Renaissance was in full swing when it was built. The Metropolitan Cathedral, facing on the square, was dedicated in 1573, more than a generation before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock – before the Mayflower was so much as a gleam in some Stephens’ eye. Built on the site of the largest Aztec temple, its official name, the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary of Mexico City, recalls Cortés’ action of putting the statue of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios on the blood-soaked altar of the Aztec temple.

In addition, the city is home to magnificent churches, from the baroque of the Franciscans to the neoclassical restraint of the Jesuits. Art galleries, museums, elegant shops and any rooftop restaurant adds to the city’s delights.

Beyond the city, the massive Toltec ruins of Tula paint the cultural history that reaches back before the birth of Christ. Named by the Aztecs as “The Place Where the Gods Were Born,” it was the center of a flourishing culture when Europe was mired in the Dark Ages. Pilgrims who begin with Mexico City are inevitably called to explore further, particularly the delights of Cholula and Puebla. Cholula, an Aztec astronomical temple, had a temple for every day in the year. The Spanish, following the custom seen in Mexico City, built a church atop every temple. Over a hundred churches and small chapels still exist.

One of the most amazing, San Francisco de Asís, covered entirely in tiles, is decorated in a style called indigenous Baroque. Basically, it’s Baroque on steroids, because that one square inch would go unadorned.

It, too, is a parish church. The day we were there, people gathered in the entrance to one of the chandeliers that hung above the main altar, polishing it and cleaning the crystals to restore them to maximum brilliance. Nearby Puebla is home to possibly the most beautiful church in all the Americas. The Rose Church is located in the Church of Santo Domingo. The church itself is beautifully decorated in Baroque style, the church’s name, Our Lady of the Rosary will simply take your breath away.

The buildings and dome are completely coated with ornate sculpture in gold leaf and plaster, including saints, cherubs, and dancing angels. On the walls, gold-coated vines form the frames of six paintings depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary, “Golden” in this chapel, and in the churches of this era spread across Mexico, simply means gold – no substitutes.

Sooner or later, in a discussion of travel in Mexico, the question comes up: “But is it safe?”

Certainly, like New York or Boston, every city has places that delight and places to avoid. But mostly I remember the graceful couples in the main square of Oaxaca, dancing one evening to a five band in front of the cathedral. We enjoyed a late night coffee in Puebla’s charming plaza and window shopped along the Avenida de la Reforma, Mexico City’s answer to Fifth Avenue. Maybe the best response to those fears can be found in Mexico’s dazzling cathedrals and pilgrimage sites. The gilded frescoes, the grand work are most often protected by a simple sign: “No Tocar” – “Don’t Touch.” The warning is universally obeyed.

(Pat Hennessy is the Managing Editor of Fairfield County Catholic, the monthly newspaper of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Her article is reprinted here with permission in promotion of the Diocese of Harrisburg’s World Youth Day pilgrimage to Mexico and Brazil.)

Pat Hennessy
SPiritual Offerings

Children’s Admission (an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for children) takes place in the perpetual adoration Chapel on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:45-2:15 and on Thursdays from 1:45-2:15, through Aug. 23. All children are welcome.

A pro-life Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisburg July 7 at 7 a.m. Father Paul Fisher, pastor, will be the celebrant.

A Mass in memory of Sister Margarette Vercruysse, OSB of St. Paul’s Parish in Annville to the Holy Land, Nov. 7-15, 2013. The trip is open to all. There is also another group going Oct. 14-28. The trips are for adults, children and infants. Cost is $4500 per person. Round-trip bus transportation is an additional $65. Contact: Sister Karin schwarzer at 717-394-0669 or karin.schwarzer@stjncath.org.

The annual Novena to St. Anne, the Blessed Virgin Mary, will take place at Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton through Aug. 23. Mass will be celebrated daily at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., followed by a novena. Confessions are heard after Mass.

The Magnificat Prayer Group will facilitate a Healing Mass July 9 at St. John Church in Harrisburg. Mass will begin at 7:15 a.m. The Magnificat Prayer Group, led by The Women at the Well from Lancaster County, will begin at 7 a.m. For more information, call 717-664-2816.

The Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat for men of the Harrisburg Diocese will take place the weekend of Aug. 3-4 at the Seven Sorrows Retreat Center in Medford. The weekend begins with the Friday evening Mass of the Rosary. Following the Mass, a “Rosary Reformation” will take place, sponsored by Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg. The cost is $47 and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. A deposit of $5 is due when registering to reserve your space. For more information, call 717-394-0669 or stop by the parish office.

Tuscarora Catholic Summer Camp will hold its 19th Annual week of June 24-30. Located off Route 11 between Greensville and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Information and registration forms are available at www.tuscaroracatholicsummercamp.com. The cost is $275 per week and includes all meals. Round-trip bus transportation is an additional $65. Help is needed. Contact: Cindy Majaski, cindy.majaski@usccb.org.

The Holy Trinity Parish in Steelton will hold its annual picnic July 15 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Steelton Community Center, 38 Calumet Drive. The picnic will include chicken, hot dogs, potato pancakes, ice cream, raffles, games and more. Cost is $7 and the dinner can be picked up at Holy Trinity Church. For information, call 717-394-0669 or stop by the parish office.

The Harrisburg Area Women’s Retreat Club will hold its annual retreat Sept. 7-9 at Villa of Our Lady in Mount Pocono, Pa. Villa of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 1701 Lakeview Drive, is 1.5 hours from Harrisburg. The cost is $115 and includes all meals. For more information, call 717-774-2056 or stop by the parish office.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore. The retreat is open to men ages 14 and older. The cost is $300. Reservations are required. For more information, call 717-394-0669 or stop by the parish office.

Festivals & Picnics

Seven Sorrows the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown will hold its 10th annual community festival July 5-7 from 6-10 p.m. Each of the three days will feature a guest feature: Thursday night will feature a wine from our area - Notre Dame football; Friday night will feature a food from our area; and Saturday night will feature a Christian guide. Accommodation in First Class hotels (five nights cost $450). Proceeds benefit St. John Neumann Church, Boy Scout Troop 24, the Catholic Social Services of Dauphin County, and the Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Fund.

St. Mary’s Hispanic Festival will be held at 367 S George St. in York. July 14 from 4-9 p.m. All kinds of great Latin food music, dance, games, and food. For more information, call 845-7629.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York will hold its annual Columbus Day Festival on the school grounds in Coal Township Aug. 3 from 6-10 p.m. and Aug. 4 from 6-11 p.m., on the grounds of the Maria Assunta Society at 901 Monroe Street in Hanover. Sponsored by the Holy Trinity Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 14013. The festival will feature food, games, prizes, and entertainment. Everyone invited. For more information, call 717-816-0526 or stop by the parish office.

Parish, School & Organization News

St. Katharine Drexel Parish Office in Mechanic- icsburg has a vacancy for a full-time parish secretary posi- tion. Responsibilities include receptionist, scheduling for Renovation Committee, maintenance, Parish Bulletin, and miscellaneous clerical duties. This position requires a detail-oriented and flexible individual who is adept at computer systems. Knowledge of Microsoft Office software applications is required, as are the ability to learn and troubleshoot software programs. Proofreading capability, coupled with good spelling and grammar, is essential. The individual in this position needs to be mature, courteous, and capable of professional interaction with others. Trustworthiness, reliability, willingness to maintain confidentiality, and the ability to complete routine tasks in a timely manner are essential. Hours of work are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact Jo Jandoli at 717-264-9428.
Pope Says Pallium is Sign of Tie to Heaven and Earth, Christ and Pope

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

After placing a woolen band around the shoulders of 44 new archbishops as they knelt before him, Pope Benedict XVI told them it was a reminder of their ties to heaven and earth and of their loyalty to Christ and the successor of Peter.

“You have been constituted in a new order of men, a community of communion that is the church, the spiritual edifice built upon Christ as the cornerstone, while in its earthly and historical dimension, it is built on the rock of Peter,” the pope said June 29 during his homily on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

However, he added, the “church is not a community of the perfect, but a community of sinners, obliged to recognize their need for God’s love, their need to be purified through the cross of Jesus Christ.”

Before celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Benedict gave the archbishops from 23 countries the woolen pallium as a sign of their sharing with him authority over the faithful in their archdioceses.

The pallium is presented every year to new archbishops or those, who have been assigned to a new archdiocese.


Among the others were four prelates from Canada, including Archbishop Christian Lepine of Montreal, and two from Australia, including Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane.

Two new archbishops were unable to attend the ceremony and received their palliums at home, making the final count 46 new archbishops from 34 countries, including South Korea, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In his homily, the pope said Sts. Peter and Paul represent a “new brotherhood” in which differences can be harmonized in unity with love for Christ. That unity extends not just among Catholics, but all believers in Christ as they pursue full communion, he said.

“Together we are all cooperators of the truth, which as we know is one and single, and of the grace of the one Spirit,” they told the archbishops.

Speaking to Catholic News Service, the U.S. archbishops reflected on the deeper meaning of the ceremony.

Archbishop Chaput said because the pallium is a symbol of the relationship between the bishop and the pope, everyone time he puts it on, “I pray for the people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and for the Holy Father and his associates as they serve the universal church.”

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is facing a multimillion dollar debt and recent trials of priests on charges related to sexual abuse, he said, so “there’s a lot of tension in our local church, and as the archbishop I’m carrying that tension.”

Pope Benedict “actually confirmed me, in faith and also in my work as archbishop, when he placed the pallium on my shoulders today,” Archbishop Chaput said. “So it means a lot to me in this difficult moment in our local church.”

Archbishop Lori, who came to Rome with nearly 100 pilgrims, said, “When we wear the woolen pallium around our neck, we are symbolizing our call and responsibility to go in search of a lost and suffering humanity and gently to lay to rest upon our shoulders and bring everyone as much as we can to safety and to joy, to peace, to salvation.”

Archbishop Aquila said the pallium ceremony “keeps very much alive the consistent teaching of the church, the consistent reflection of the church, with the teachings of Christ himself and of the apostles” that all Christians are called to imitate Christ the good shepherd.

Vatican Plans for Year of Faith Include Hymn, Mass, Packed Calendar

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

With a hymn and a prayer, Italian Archbishop Rino Fisichella presented the Vatican’s initial calendar of events for the Year of Faith, which begins with Mass Oct. 11 at St. Peter’s Square.

Archbishop Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, said the pope has invited as celebrants bishops and theologians who, like the pontiff, served as members or experts at the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council.

The archbishop said he hoped about 35 “council fathers” would be able to join the presidents of national bishops’ conferences and bishops participating in the world Synod of Bishops in concelebrating the opening Mass.

During a news conference at the Vatican June 21, Archbishop Fisichella unveiled the sheet music for the official hymn for the Year of Faith, “Credo, Domine, Adauge Nobis Fidem” (I believe, Lord, increase our faith).

“I’ll spare you my musical interpretation,” he told reporters, smiling.

He also distributed copies of the official Year of Faith logo and prayer card, which features a mosaic image of Christ from the cathedral in Cefalu, Italy. The Nazine Creed is printed on the back of the cards, with the idea that the profession of faith would become “a daily prayer, learned by heart, as it was in the first centuries of Christianity,” the archbishop said.

Archbishop Fisichella also announced that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments had just approved prayer texts in Latin and Italian for a special Mass for New Evangelization. “The archbishop’s office is translating the Latin text into English, Spanish and other languages, and hopes to have the congregation’s approval of the translations by the time the Year of Faith opens, he said.

Pope Benedict called the gathering “a huge concert” in St. Peter’s Square June 22, 2013. Archbishop Fisichella was not ready to reveal the conductor’s name, but he promised it was someone well-known. And, he said, the concert is likely to involve at least two orchestras and three choirs.

The Year of Faith is scheduled to conclude Nov. 24, 2013.
Pope Approves Archbishop Sheen’s Heroic Virtues, Step Toward Sainthood

By Francis X. Rocca

Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI has approved the heroic virtues of U.S. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, the Vatican announced June 28, clearing the way for the advancement of his sainthood cause.

Among the others honored in decrees announced the same day were the first prelate of Opus Dei, the Canadian and Irish-American founders of two orders of religious women, a priest murdered by the Sicilian Mafia, and 154 martyrs killed during the Spanish Civil War.

Archbishop Sheen heroically lived Christian virtues and should be considered “venerable,” said a decree issued by the Congregation for Saints’ Causes and signed by Pope Benedict. Before the archbishop can be beatified, the Vatican must recognize that a miracle has occurred through his intercession.

The decree came just more than 3 months after Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., presented Pope Benedict with two thick volumes about the life of Archbishop Sheen, whose home diocese was Peoria.

Archbishop Sheen, who was born in Illinois in 1895 and died in New York in 1979, was an Emmy-winning televangelist. His program, “Life is Worth Living,” aired in the United States from 1951 to 1957. Archbishop Sheen, whose home diocese was Peoria.

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Last September, a tribunal of inquiry was sworn in to investigate the allegedly miraculous healing of a newborn whose parents had prayed to the archbishop’s intercession. The Vatican also announced papal decrees approving the beatification of 158 men and women, including 156 martyrs, all but two of them Spaniards, killed during their country’s 1936-39 Civil War.

Father Giuseppe Puglisi, a Sicilian priest and activist against organized crime who was killed by the Mafia in 1993, was another of the martyrs recognized.

Martyrs do not need a miracle attributed to their intercession in order to be beatiﬁed. However, miracles must be recognized by the Vatican in order for martyrs to be canonized.

Other decrees recognized the heroic virtues of eight men and women, including: Bishop Alvino del Portillo, the first prelate of Opus Dei.

Mother Marie-Josephite Fitzbach, founder of the Good Shepherd Sisters of Quebec.

Mother Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, the Irish-born founder of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, who died in New York state in 1984.

Bishops Plan to Use London Olympics to Renew Interest in Catholic Faith

By Simon Caldwell

Catholic News Service

British bishops plan to use the 2012 London Olympic Games to renew interest in the Catholic faith, with initiatives ranging from fighting human trafficking and homelessness to promoting youth ministry and ecumenical dialogue.

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales is also preparing resources for liturgies and holy hours and will post them on the Internet before the July 27-Aug. 12 games.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the bishops’ conference, called the Olympics and Paralympics “a moment of great opportunity for us all.”

“These great sporting events generate all sorts of good ideas and initiatives, particularly for young people, reminding all of us of the importance of good health, the dignity of our bodies, the care of our physical well-being and its spiritual meaning,” the archbishop said.

“The example of many who are dedicated to training routines in preparation for these games reminds us of the need for good habits and routines in our own daily lives if we are to make the most of our God-given talents,” he said.

The Catholic Church in Britain has been preparing for three years to seize the opportunity presented by the games to evangelize, said James Parker, the Catholic executive coordinator for the games.

“Twenty-four chaplains have been trained for the occasion, and training is also being offered to representatives of more than 5,000 Catholic churches who will organize parish events, such as street parties, during the games.”

In London, visitors will have access to two Catholic hospitality centers – one at Westminster Cathedral and the other at St. Anthony Parish, the church closest to the XXX Olympiad Stadium.

The Joshua Camp, a tented village for Catholic youth, will open near London’s Olympic Park, to offer catechesis and formation centered around sport themes.

Paralympic rings mounted on a barge on the River Thames are seen in front of the Tower of London earlier this year. London is hosting the summer Olympic Games July 27-Aug. 12.

Parker said the church also will use the Olympics to draw attention to a range of social issues, such as homelessness, fair trade and care for the environment, and the bishops intend to use the occasion to promote Catholic teaching on the human body.

“Many of the Church’s projects will be carried out through More Than Gold, a charity made up of 16 Christian denominations, taking its name from the attempts at Christian engagement made at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Its initiatives include the Athlete Family Homestay Program, in which individuals and hoteliers are recruited to show hospitality to athletes and their families unable to afford to stay in London hotels.

Parker said the Church is involved in the 100 Days of Peace Initiative, which encourages parishes and schools to promote peace in the 50 days before the Olympic opening ceremony and 50 days after the Paralympic closing ceremony. The initiative will aim to combat gang violence in particular.

Parker told Catholic News Service in an email that “it will be difficult for the Catholic Church in the future to not take seriously the importance of engaging wholeheartedly with global sporting events.”

“This venture has stirred the Catholic Church in the U.K. to be more than a spectator of the world of sport,” he said.

Parker added: “We hope to bring the presence of Christ into greater play by reaching the 800,000 pupils in our Catholic schools and people within our 5,000 parishes about the goodness of sport, the God-given dignity of the human body, and the untapped talents that lie within each one of us, irrespective of our level of ability.”
Defense of Religious Liberty is about Lifestyle, Bishop McFadden Says at Fortnight’s Opening Mass

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Opening the Fortnight for Freedom observance in the Diocese of Harrisburg, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden stated that the fundamental right of religious liberty is being threatened in our nation, and called upon Catholics to continue to pray and engage in efforts to protect this God-given right.

“I'm sorry to say that this fundamental right is now under attack in our own country, despite the fact that the founding fathers of our nation, in our foundational documents, sought to guarantee religious liberty as the right to live one’s life in conformity with one’s belief. It was not simply worship, but rather fashioning one’s life on a moral code that influenced every aspect of their being.”

The Mass opening the Fortnight for Freedom in the diocese was celebrated on the Feast of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, a diplomat and bishop respectively, who were beheaded by order of King Henry VIII in 1535 for refusing to comply with the Act of Supremacy that required English subjects to recognize the king’s supremacy over the pope.

“In the case of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, they understood that man did not live life with one foot in this world and one foot in the next,” Bishop McFadden said. “They were called to live their life in integrity and in truth, in concert with the Lord.”

The Fortnight for Freedom was a two-week initiative, June 21-July 4, of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty. The 14-day period of prayer, education and action called Catholics to focus on support for religious freedom. The bishop celebrated its closing Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on July 4.

“The hope of these efforts is that all people will grow in their desire to protect this most fundamental and basic right, and that they will understand that religious liberty is not about worship, it is about a lifestyle,” Bishop McFadden said.

“Today, we are called to be good Americans, and at the same time, good disciples of the Lord. Up until this moment, that has been possible,” Bishop McFadden remarked. “We have not been asked to choose between being a Christian, a follower of Jesus, and being American. That has never been the issue in this country. We pray that, like St. Thomas More, we will not have to stand and be counted as un-American because we stand with the Lord.”

James Darby, President of the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania, told The Catholic Witness that the saint’s feast fell hand-in-hand with the call for the Fortnight for Freedom.

“St. Thomas More was a hero. He was someone who didn’t let the political winds change his Catholic thinking,” he said. “Today, Catholics are forced by public thought to either apologize for or hide their religious beliefs. St. Thomas More shows us we have to speak out on these topics like religious liberty. It doesn’t mean that we’re being judgmental or that we’re telling others that they have to live according to the way we live, it’s just a matter of expressing our religious beliefs and not having to compromise in the public square.”

“I don’t think we need any greater motivation to protect religious liberty than to think about what could happen if we sit back,” Mr. Darby said. “We’d end up losing our ability to practice our faith the way God intended us to.”

The St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania was founded for Catholic lawyers, judges and law students to promote the ideals and principles of its patron saint. The society sponsors various annual events, including the Red Mass, the Fidelis Award dinner, spiritual retreats, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and luncheon programs. Those interested in more information or membership should visit www.saintthomasmoresociety.com.

See the Homily Online
You can view a video of Bishop McFadden’s homily during the Fortnight for Freedom Mass online via the diocese’s YouTube channel. Link to the channel at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Gathered at the altar with diocesan clergy, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden celebrates Mass at St. Patrick Church in Carlisle to open the Fortnight for Freedom in the diocese.