Participants in this year’s Quo Vadis Days discernment retreat gather at the mini grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., for a nighttime candlelight procession and Rosary June 27. The annual retreat, hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg, offers young men time to interact with priests and seminarians, learn about prayer and discernment, and enjoy recreation and camaraderie as they consider God’s call in their lives. See pages 8 and 9.

Illuminating Discernment

By Josephine von Dohlen
Catholic News Service

Religious liberty won June 26 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states cannot discriminate against religious institutions in the distribution of state funds for nonreligious activities. The high court, in a 7-2 ruling in Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer, sided with the school. Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, said the decision was a “landmark victory for religious freedom.”

“The Supreme Court rightly recognized that people of faith should not be discriminated against when it comes to government programs that should be made available to all,” Archbishop Lori said in a statement.

The Supreme Court reversed what the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed in 2015, who upheld a Missouri law that denied state funds to a religiously affiliated school.

Msgr. Schlert Appointed Bishop of Allentown

By Tara Connolly
Special to The Witness

Msgr. Alfred Schlert will take over the reins of the five-county diocese in August. The Holy Father announced June 27 that the former diocesan vicar general and current diocesan administrator will become the fifth bishop of the diocese he has served for 30 years.

“This appointment elicits in me a great realization of my own inadequacies, but with equally great gratitude to almighty God for the grace and the strength that he gives. I will do my best to fulfill the responsibilities that the
‘Jesus Has Not Called you to Become Princes,’ Pope Tells New Cardinals

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Cardinals are not called to be “princes” of the Church, but to serve the people of God and tackle the sins of the world, Pope Francis told five new cardinals.

Jesus “calls you to serve like him and with him, to serve the father and your brothers and sisters,” the pope said as he created five new cardinals from five nations June 28.

The new cardinals created during the prayer service in St. Peter’s Basilica were:

■ Cardinal Jean Zerbo of Bamako, Mali, 73
■ Cardinal Juan Jose Omella of Barcelona, Spain, 71
■ Cardinal Anders Arborelius of Stockholm, 67
■ Cardinal Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun, apostolic vicar of Pakse, Laos, 73
■ Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez, 74, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, El Salvador

After reciting the Creed and taking an oath of fidelity to Pope Francis and his successors, each cardinal – in his new red robes – went up to Pope Francis and knelt before him. The pope gave them each a cardinal’s ring, a red skullcap and red robes – went up to Pope Francis and knelt before him. The pope gave them each a cardinal’s ring, a red skullcap and red three-cornered red hat. The crimson hue the cardinals wear is a reminder that they must be courageous and faithful to Christ, his Church and the pope to the point of shedding blood, if necessary.

They also received a scroll attesting to their appointment as cardinals and containing the name of their “titular church” in Rome. The assignment of a church is a sign they now are members of the clergy of the pope’s diocese.

After the consistory, Pope Francis and the new cardinals were scheduled to visit retired Pope Benedict XVI in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, his residence in the Vatican gardens.

The Gospel reading at the consistory was St. Mark’s account of James’ and John’s pride and ambition to have a position of power and be honored, and how the other disciples reacted with angry jealousy (Mk 10:32-45).

Jesus corrects his disciples, explaining that pagan leaders are the ones who lord their authority over their people, and “it shall not be so among you.” The pope said the cardinals, as leaders like Christ, are there to be slaves and serve others.

The Gospel reading, he said, shows how Jesus asked his disciples to “look at reality, not let yourselves be distracted by other interests or prospects.”

The reality is always the cross, he said, and the sins the cardinals must face today include: “the innocent who suffer and die as victims of war and terrorism; the forms of enslavement that continue to violate human dignity even in the age of human rights; the refugee camps, which at times are forced upon people, and at times seem more like a hell than a purgatory; the systematic discerning of all that is no longer useful, people included.”

Jesus “has not called you to become ‘princes’ of the Church, to sit at his right or at his left,” the pope told the new cardinals. “He calls you to serve like him and with him.”

Cardinal Arborelius told Catholic News Service that about 450 people from Sweden had planned to travel to Rome for the consistory, including the leaders of the Lutheran, Syriac Orthodox and Baptist churches in Sweden. The Catholic contingent included a large group of Chaldean Catholics who emigrated from Iraq to Sweden. But, he said, there also was a big group of Salvadorans living in Sweden who were traveling to Rome to celebrate the red hat of Cardinal Rosa Chavez.

The Salvadoran auxiliary bishop was a friend of and mentor of Blessed Oscar Romero, who was assassinated in 1980. The new cardinal’s loyalty to the memory of Blessed Romero and to the memory of his country’s sufferings is reflected in his coat of arms, which features a sprig of rosemary because in Spanish “Romero” also means rosemary, a palm frond as a symbol of the Salvadoran Church’s persecution and martyrdom, and a hand grabbing another hand, a symbol of the church’s option for the poor.

When Cardinal Omella was asked how his life would change as a cardinal, he told reporters, “I think the tree is already fully grown. I will hardly change, I will be the same person.”

“I don’t see the cardinariate as major upgrade, of importance or climbing up to some honorable position,” he said. “What is asked of me now is a greater service to the Church, but in the way taught by Pope Francis, who goes to wash the feet of prisoners.”

Serving the people of God and society, Spain’s new cardinal said, “demands dying to one’s self; it is difficult to be available every day, but it must be done with generosity.”

Cardinal Ling experienced persecution first hand. After Laos became a communist nation, he set off – without government permission – to preach the Gospel in small villages and in prisons, according to his Vatican biography. He was arrested in 1984 and accused of “making propaganda for Jesus.”

The new cardinal was imprisoned for three years, “with chains on my arms and my legs,” he said.

But being a prisoner was an apostolate, he said. “My presence [in prison] was necessary for my conversion and purification and also for that of others.”

At the end of the consistory, the College of Cardinals had 225 members, 121 of whom are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a pope.
The Witness Returns August 4

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As always, if you’d like to promote an upcoming event, share stories of interest or otherwise get in touch with us, send an e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org or call 717-657-4804. Our published deadlines are: for a Sunday edition, by Friday of the previous week; for a Wednesday edition, by Monday of the previous week.

Enjoy a safe and blessed summer, and look for our next edition on August 4.

--The Catholic Witness--

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

- July 9 – Celebrant and Homilist for the Mass for couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Church of the Good Shepherd, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.
- July 10 – Celebrant and Homilist for Mass at the St. Pauline Visintainer Center, Kulpmont, 6 p.m.
- July 18-19 – Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Administrative Board Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- July 20 – Seminarian Family Picnic, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.

PA Catholic Conference Welcomes Two New Staff

By A.B. Hill

Special to the Witness

Two new faces have joined the staff of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC), the public affairs agency of the ten Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania based in the state capital, Harrisburg.

Eric Failing is director of social concerns and Stephany Dugan is director of outreach.

The PCC’s mission is to formulate positions on public policy issues that affect the Church as an institution, but also on issues of morality, health, welfare, human rights, education and the common good. The PCC officially represents the Church in public affairs, and works in cooperation with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on federal issues. The PCC also aims to foster a public understanding of the Church’s teaching and concern about all of these issues.

Mr. Failing represents the Church’s concern about pro-life, social justice, and family-life issues so they can be effective advocates for the needy population groups.

As a past participant of the diocesan College of Consultors, he is looking forward to collaborating with his brother priests as they continue to serve the people of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

“Everything I know about being a priest, I know from the fine examples of faithful men who have served and stressed in the Diocese of Allentown,” said Bishop-elect Schlert.

According to Bishop-elect Schlert, his appointment as a pastor – “A Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church’s teachings, bringing the light of Christ to each other and to our community.”

After his ordination and installation as bishop of Allentown, Bishop-elect Schlert was named vice chancellor of the diocese and a member of the council of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He has an older brother, Ted.

He was educated at St. Jane Frances de Chantal High School and Notre Dame High School (NDHS), both in Easton. He prepared for the priesthood at St. Charles Seminary and received his licentiate in canon law degree from the Pontifical Roman Seminary and St. John Lateran University, Rome.

He was ordained a priest Sept. 19, 1987 at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena, Allentown by Bishop Thomas Welsh, second bishop of Allentown.

Bishop-elect Schlert was named vice chancellor and secretary to Bishop Welsh in 1997 before being named diocesan vicar general by Bishop Cullen in 1998. As vicar general he has overseen coordination of all administrative offices of the diocese, and assisted Bishop Cullen and Bishop Barres in the governance of the diocese.

Mr. Failing represents the Church’s concern toward others. During his high school years, he said, his compassion and kind-heartedness were so evident that she wonerrated if the priesthood was in his future.

“We talked about college and then he told me he wanted to be a priest before I could even bring it up,” said Marylou.

“We weren’t surprised. We were happy and didn’t give him an argument,” she said.

Throughout his ministries and positions serving the diocesan church, Msgr. Schlert said, his son continued to exude compassion and concern toward others.

“He is a wonderful priest, but he is also a wonderful son to us. He takes care of us and is so humble,” she said.

The couple rose early the day of the announcement to tell Bishop-elect Schlert at the morning Mass he was celebrating at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown.

“We wanted to be with him and give him thanks to God. But the smiles and feelings of excitement won’t leave us. We are trying to be humble but sometimes you just can’t,” said Marylou.

Dioescan Roots and Priestly Assignments

Bishop-elect Schlert was born in Easton July 24, 1961, just six months after the Diocese of Allentown was formed from part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He has an older brother, Ted.

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Forgiving Others as God Forgives Us

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Every once in a while, as I begin to write an article, I stare at the blinking cursor on the page and declare to myself, “I got nothing!” With that, I usually save the document and then close it. After all, one can never force a story that is to be shared before it has been lived. Completely exhausted from the situation, I usually decide to try it again on another day. Other times, for other articles, I have to “live” with a idea for a few days until a story surfaces, either from my memory or from a lived experience.

As I began the part of the Lord’s Prayer, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” I experienced the first scenario described above. After several hours of chewing on an idea for this article, I still didn’t have anything! As I was walking through the lobby in the Cardinal Keeler Center, I watched as my feet pounded the tile floor and I whispered, “I need an idea! Can you help me out here?” As I voiced that prayer, I perused the “free cart” of books in the lobby.

Scanning the titles, I came across a book by Scott Hahn, Understanding Our Father: Biblical Reflections on the Lord’s Prayer. I thought, “I wonder what he has to say about this part of the Our Father?” As I flipped to the chapter that dealt with this part of the prayer and began to skim the pages, I was not disappointed; I got something!

Scott Hahn goes on to explain that we should not think of each part of the Lord’s Prayer “as it were thematically separated from the others.” In other words, “Give us this day our daily bread” is intricately linked to forgiveness and our ability to forgive others as God forgives us.

How so?

Hahn goes on to explain, “The Mass is a sacrifice, and so the ‘daily bread’ is a daily offering for sin, like those prefigured in the Temple of ancient Israel. St. Justin Martyr spelled this out clearly, around A.D. 150, in language that echoes the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus ordered the lighting of fine flour, he wrote, ‘which was prescribed to be presented on behalf of those purified from leprosy, was a type of bread of the Eucharist, the celebration of which our Lord Jesus Christ presided, in remembrance of the sufferings which He endured on behalf of all who are purified in soul from all iniquity, in order that we may at the same time thank God … for delivering us from the evil.”

Delivery from evil and forgiveness of sin are actions that only God can do. Over and over again, we witness the contemporaries of Jesus confronting him in his claim that he could forgive sins. By praying, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” Jesus is asking us to begin to live the life that we have been called to live, being in the image of God, forgiving like he does! This kind of forgiveness is only accomplished by loving the individual with one’s entire being. Loving like God is only completed through personally living the Eucharistic mystery.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it this way (2844-2845, 1327): “Forgiveness is a high point of Christian prayer; only hearts attuned to God’s compas- sion can receive the gift of prayer. Forgiveness also bears witness that, in our world, love is stronger than sin. … Forgiveness is fundamental condition of the reconcilia- tion of the children of God with their Father and of men with one another. … There is no limit or measure to his essentially divine forgiveness. … This is lived out in prayer, above all in the Eucharist. … In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: ‘Our Father’ is thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.’”

Bottom line: In order to forgive others as God forgives us, we must accept the grace that He willingly offers. We seek the intercessions of Jesus and bowl us to from the Eucharist. It seems that I do indeed have something after all!


(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordi- nator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she chal- lenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
The chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration said the country’s Catholic bishops are “deeply concerned” about the consequences of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to allow a partial ban on foreign nationals as it reviews the constitutionality of the six affected nations.

“At a time of such unprecedented need around the world, we should be doing more to help and resettle those who are in danger and need, not less,” Bishop Christopher K. Kerr, executive director of Ignatian Solidarity Network, a Washington, D.C.-based Catholic justice and development organization based in Ohio, said the high court’s decision “does not reflect our commitment to the spirit of compassion and welcome.”

“We create uncertainty for those seeking safety from conflict and persecution, communities that have long been allies of our government can do nothing to establish a religion,” he said.

“We didn’t ask for special treatment, we asked for equal treatment for people of faith,” said Michael Farris, who is the alliance’s president, CEO and general counsel, in a statement. “And the court agreed that the government cannot discriminate against people of faith by treating them unequally.”

Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, a legal adviser with the Catholic Association, said in a statement. “This ruling will devastate some of the most vulnerable people in the world, innocent people who are fleeing the exact kind of violence that this executive order seeks to protect against,” said Bill O’Keefe, CRS’ vice president for government relations and advocacy. “The facts tell us that these refugees already undergo significant vetting – more than anyone who comes into the United States – and none has gone on to commit acts of violence.”

“It's a clear victory for national security,” Byrnes told CNS. “If this decision went the right way and it certainly both there, but they're both to protect religious freedom and not discriminate against religious freedom or discriminate against the people of faith or religious organizations,” said David Cortman, vice president of U.S. litigation at Alliance for Defending Freedom, in a news conference.

“I think this is a really great victory for the Trump administration, it’s an important victory for freedom of speech as well as a violation of the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause. “This is an extremely important case just because of the way that the law has been going under the Free Exercise Clause and sometimes being subsumed by the Establishment Clause. “They’re certainly both there, but they’re both to protect religious freedom and not discriminate against religious freedom or discriminate against the people of faith or religious organizations,” said David Cortman, vice president of U.S. litigation at Alliance for Defending Freedom, in a news conference.

“The court seemed to be taking into consideration the hardships the ban would create for an “American party,” such as a family member, whose relatives are denied entry, or for a university or employer, while also trying to consider the administration’s arguments that it’s necessary to do so in the interest of national security.

“Denying entry to immigrants with no connection to the country “does not burden any American party,” the court said.

“The Missouri Constitution’s Blaine amendment should act as a shield against the establishment of an official state religion,” said Mike Hoey, executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, in a statement applauding the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision.

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“The court held that Missouri’s exclusion of Trinity Lutheran from the grant making process at stake here violated the Free Exercise Clause,” said Hillary Byrnes, an assistant general counsel at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Today’s decision does not start to chip away at some of the Blaine amendments that are on the books now in almost 40 states,” she told Catholic News Service on an interview.

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It doesn’t completely eliminate them, but it says that states cannot interpret the Missouri Constitution and other state constitutions prohibit government aid to assist religious affiliated educational institutions. Similar Blaine amendments exist in 37 other state’s constitutions, after Rep. James Blaine of Maine’s unsuccessful attempt for a similar amendment in the U.S. Constitution in 1875.

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By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

"'Faithful' and 'dedicated' are two common adjectives that we often use, but those words are really true of the parishioners here," Redemptorist Father James O'Blaney says of his flock at St. James Parish in Lititz.

The parish, in the northern quadrant of Lancaster County, is marking its centennial this year, and the milestone is highlighted by a history of fortitude and a celebration of conviction.

The epicenter of the 100th anniversary year was the celebration of Holy Mass on June 25 by Bishop Ronald Gainer, who was joined at the altar by Father Paul Borowski, Provincial Superior of the Baltimore Province of the Redemptorists, Father O'Blaney, and more than a dozen diocesan and Redemptorists priests.

The history of St. James Parish dates back to three years before its establishment as a mission of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Ephrata. In 1914, the Redemptorists established St. Clement Mission House in Ephrata, and Bishop John Shanahan of Harrisburg gave the priests the care of 12 townships in northern Lancaster County.

On June 17, 1917, Father William White began celebrating Mass in a rented storefront in Lititz, and thus the mission there was begun.

When St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church went up for sale at a cost of $2,850, the Redemptorists purchased it as a place of worship for the Lititz faithful. The first Mass was celebrated there on April 4, 1920.

In the mid-1950s, with the boom of manufacturing in the area, Lititz and its surrounding locales grew, and by the late 60s and early 70s, a larger church was needed for the growing congregation.

On Jan. 5, 1977, the Feast Day of St. John Neumann – a Redemptorist priest and Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia who would be canonized that June – St. James was established as a parish by Harrisburg Bishop Joseph Daley.

Father Frances Nelson oversaw the plans and construction of the current church, completed in 1978 and situated on a 17-acre tract of land on Woodcrest Avenue that had been sold by the Warwick School District. The first Mass was celebrated there on Oct. 14, 1978.

Expansion of ministries and activities continued over the decades at St. James, currently cared for by Father O'Blaney, who arrived in 2002. Under his leadership, the church was renovated to enlarge the sanctuary as well as the seating capacity for the congregation. Icons of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and St. James, and images and statues of saints grace the church.

St. James Parish is home to 3,132 parishioners, and half of them, according to Father O'Blaney, serve as volunteers in numerous parish ministries, including the Respect Life Committee, Meals Ministry, Operation Backpack, Catholics Reaching Out, the Light of Christ Prayer Group, the Social Justice Network and many additional prayer, education, social, outreach and fund-raising efforts.

Centennial year events include Vespers in Lititz Springs Park with the children's choir and an ice cream social, a concert series, summer pilgrimages, a dance, a parish picnic, a spaghetti dinner and a Christmas bazaar. For information, call the parish at 717-626-5580.

“Our motto is that our parish is ‘A Eucharistic Community of Life and Love.’ I pray that the Eucharist is impressed upon the people of the parish," Father O'Blaney told The Catholic Witness. “Any church or group can be a community of life and love, but we are a Eucharistic community with Jesus at the center.”
A look at the history of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg unveils the resiliency of the members of this western Cumberland County community of Catholics.

The first Catholic church in Shippensburg was built in 1840 along the Cumberland Valley Railroad tracks, serving a congregation largely comprised of Irish railroad workers. The church was dedicated under the title of St. Mary’s of the Visitation.

The congregation was small and transient, and by 1864, the church and property were sold. For the next 75 years, Catholics in Shippensburg traveled some 12 miles to Chambersburg for Mass.

When a census in 1939 revealed that there were 215 Catholics in Shippensburg, the pastor in Chambersburg began celebrating a Mass in a private home in Shippensburg, and then in a renovated one-room school.

Bishop George Leech established Our Lady of the Visitation as a parish on Feb. 15, 1950. Soon after the arrival of its first pastor, Father Edward Gerrity, property adjacent to the State Teachers’ College – now Shippensburg University – was purchased. Its homestead was remodeled to serve as a rectory, and a former stable was converted into a chapel, where Mass was celebrated for the first time on Dec. 3, 1950.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish began to flourish, and on July 2, 1967, the current church and rectory were dedicated. It is home to approximately 350 families, and also serves as the Newman Center for the Catholic students at Shippensburg University. A new social hall and education building were dedicated in 1999.

From a church by a railroad, to the celebration of Mass in a one-room schoolhouse and later in a remodeled stable before enjoying the modern amenities of their current church, the fortitude of the faithful of Our Lady of the Visitation cannot be overlooked, said Father Dwight Schlaline, pastor.

“I would describe this parish as a resilient one,” he told The Catholic Witness. “In the 1950s, there was a lot of anti-Catholic sentiment in Shippensburg. But the people persevered and remained faithful to their Catholic faith. There is a spirit of confidence in the Catholic faith and persistence.”

On July 2, the parish community marked the 50th anniversary of their current church, with a Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer.

The day offered an opportunity to also celebrate the various ministries of the parish:

- **The Pro-Life Ministry** aims to bring the Gospel of Life to the parish through prayer, education and community-building events, and supports such pro-life organizations as Undefeated Courage, local pregnancy resource centers, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and Rachel’s Vineyard retreats for post-abortion healing. The ministry recently began a Pro-Life Booth at the Shippensburg Fair to proclaim the truth about the dignity of human life.

- The parish also has an Intentional Disciples Group, which meets on Sunday evenings for faith-sharing in discipleship, and a weekly Book Study Group to learn more about the faith. Wednesday Evening Bible Study has explored the Bible timeline, the deuterocanonicals and the Acts of the Apostles, and will delve into the Crusades this summer.

“In my time here, I have emphasized and tried to focus the parish on the purpose of the Church: the salvation of souls,” Father Schlaline said. “The growth of the parish will be rooted in that focus.”
Quo Vadis Days Upholds Family as Seedbed of Vocations, Priesthood as Viable Option for Young Men

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Quo Vadis Days – an annual vocation discernment retreat that the Diocese of Harrisburg hosts for young men every summer – incorporated the family this year as participants arrived for the four-day experience.

Beneath the mantle of the Blessed Mother towering above the lush grounds of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., the mothers, fathers and siblings of nearly 100 Quo Vadis Days participants escorted their sons and brothers to the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception for the celebration of the week’s opening Mass on June 25.

Some families walked hand-in-hand along the pathway connecting the seminary and the chapel, flanked by a small grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and “Mary’s Mountain” on one side, and vistas of fields and hamlets on the other below.

The opening Mass was new on this year’s docket, and set the tone for the week as a reminder that the family is the seedbed of vocations, explained Father Brian Wayne, Diocesan Director of Vocations.

“Parents are the primary influence in helping young men follow God’s will for their lives,” he told the parents during a special session that followed the opening Mass.

He presented them with some telling statistics from a survey of all newly-ordained priests each year. Of the approximately 550 men ordained to the priesthood this year, the number one factor in helping them follow God’s will is the support of the family.

“Thank you for this gift to your sons for four days,” Father Wayne told the parents. “We very much appreciate your encouragement of them, and sending them on this retreat.”

Quo Vadis Days continues on page 9

Deacon Benjamin Dunkeltberger, left, and a Quo Vadis Days participant strategize their next moves in a game of chess.

Father Brian Wayne, Diocesan Director of Vocations, prepares to make a catch in a game of Ultimate Frisbee during Quo Vadis Days.
Quo Vadis Days continued from page 8

Among those in the crowd were Mark and Krista Lookenbill of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover, whose son Jason was attending Quo Vadis Days for the first time.

They were accompanied at Mass by their daughter, Monica – who is attending a similar retreat there for young women, Fiat Days, this week – and their younger son, Kevin.

“I had heard about Quo Vadis Days from people at my parish, and I thought it would be a great experience for a young, Catholic man like myself,” said Jason, 15.

“I like how the retreat is set up so that we can stay overnight and spend a few days in the seminary,” he said of the appeal. “I’m looking forward to hearing the priests and seminarians talk about their experiences and how they came to be where they are today.”

Mrs. Lookenbill remarked that she and her husband “have always felt strongly about letting our children engage in truly Catholic experiences that are really going to deepen their faith.”

“We’ve heard a lot of great reviews about how Quo Vadis Days teaches the young men how to pray and how to discern what God is calling them to in life.”

That’s the key to Quo Vadis Days, Father Kevin Coyle, a newly-ordained priest of the diocese, told The Catholic Witness about the retreat. He’s participated there as a seminarian.

“It’s discernment for life,” he said. “Everybody has a vocation. Everybody’s vocation is different, but everybody is called to be saints, to become the best versions of themselves. Quo Vadis Days helps guys discern marriage and become a good, strong, Catholic man, and be a contributing member to Christ’s Body, the Church.”

“It also gives an excellent taste in realizing that these guys are normal,” said Father Coyle, who was ordained on June 3 and serves as parochial vicar at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg. “All the seminarians are out on the baseball field, on the soccer field, and entering into great conversations at the lunch table, small talk on the porch, and it allows the young men to see that there are guys with so many different backgrounds that come from so many different areas of life.”

Quo Vadis Days takes its name from the legend that Peter asked Jesus this question (Quo Vadis? – meaning “Where are you going?”) on the outskirts of Rome, as Peter was fleeing the persecution of Nero. Jesus’ response was, “To Rome, to be crucified again.”

The schedule for the week includes talks from seminarians and priests about how to discern, how to pray, life as a diocesan priest and what it means to be a Catholic man called to holiness. The week also includes daily prayer, Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, small-group discussion and the opportunity to receive spiritual direction and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Evenings were filled with various activities, from Glow Necklace Ultimate Frisbee competitions and dodgeball, to a candlelight procession and Rosary. Bishop Ronald Gainer attended to celebrate Mass for the participants and talk with them about the faith.

“At Quo Vadis Days, young men realize that priests and seminarians are normal people, that we have fun while following the Lord,” Father Wayne said. “They realize that it’s normal for Catholic guys to think about and ask if they’re called to it.”

“We just want to show them that the priesthood is a valid option,” he said.

Deacon Kenneth Roth, left, joins in a nighttime candlelight procession during Quo Vadis Days, a vocation discernment retreat that allowed young men to learn about prayer, discernment, living as a Catholic man, seminary life and the priesthood.
The Father of the American Cartoon

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Turn to any media source today, whether it spews bias from the left or right in the political battlefield, and you will likely be told that we are currently living in an era ripe with polarizing politics. So divided, we are told, that there is little common ground to be found amongst American extremes. And you may have heard that it has never been this bad before.

Is it the media that fuels the divide, or are Americans inclined to be divided partisans?

Thomas Nast was born on September 27, 1840, in Landau Rhineland, Germany, where his father was a musician – a trombonist – in the Bavarian 9th regiment, and by the time young Thomas was six, his father had had a serious falling out with the Bavarian government. While his father went to serve in the French Navy, Thomas, his sister Andie, and his mother fled for New York City like many other Catholic German immigrants during the mid-19th Century. Thomas had been baptized in Landau at Sankt Maria Catholic Church, and though the evidence is scant, it appears Thomas was educated in parish Catholic schools in the city until he was 14.

His academic record was never above average, but he was a talented artist, namely a drawer, and he enrolled when he was 15 in the National Academy of Design in New York. Two years later, he started working for Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper and soon after started drawing for Harper’s Weekly – arguably one of the most widely read and influential papers in the United States at a time when the country was on the precipice of Civil War.

In February of 1860, Nast returned to Europe as he began a working partnership with the New York Illustrated. After a couple of years in England and Italy covering politics and sporting events with his illustrations, Nast returned to New York, and in September 1861 married Sarah Edwards as the Civil War was only some six months old.

But Nast’s marriage was not a Catholic one – his bride was Episcopal – for Nast had developed a deep resentment of the Catholic Church by the time he was in his early twenties. And according to his recent biography, Nast was “intensely opposed to the encroachment of Catholic ideas into public education.” In addition, he considered the Catholic Church “a threat to American values.” What fueled his hatred for the Catholic Church is not certain, for Nast never made public comment about his religious intolerance, but by viewing his many drawings in newspapers it is not hyperbolic to say that Nast despised Irish Americans. He drew them as dirty drunks, and any written commentary in his drawings did not paint a picture of a smart or patriotic people. In fact, he showed Irish as corrupt political bullies who greased the wheels of party politics – the New York Democratic Party to exploit the poor and weak. Soon, with his bias in tow, he would return to Harper’s Weekly as a staff illustrator in 1862. Instead of news drawings of events, Nast began drawing political cartoons. Nast was a staunch Republican – a true abolitionist who loathed slavery and the South. And along with that political slant, he was an unapologetic Abraham Lincoln devotee.

Nast was virulently opposed to slavery and southern culture, and had become an abolitionist and champion of black freedom. As a boy and young adult, Nast had witnessed the mistreatment of New York City African Americans and he blamed Irish Catholics for the violence between the factions. While slavery flourished in the South with more than four million slaves producing a billion dollars of revenue a year for southern planters, African-Americans and Irish-Americans in the North’s industrial cities competed for wages in grueling jobs that paid them less than a dollar a week.

Nast’s drawing were stunningly detailed and rendered in newsprint in striking beauty. But underneath the beauty lay an ugly realism of a resentful racist. In the midst of the Civil War when 2,600 Americans were dying every week on the battlefield, Nast, the drawer, the political cartoonist, was finding a ripe audience in a hyper-partisan time with inflamed passions.

President Lincoln drew delight in reading newspapers, especially ones that were Republican and pro-administration. He likened Nast to being the “best recruiting sergeant we got.” While Nast’s wrath was clearly aimed at the Irish, he saved his most virulent attacks at southerners whom he portrayed as barbarous, cruel and greedy as slave owners. Lest you think Nast just thought the North was fighting the South, he was astute enough to know that Northern peace advocates were as treasonous as southerners were in his eyes. His cartoons were pro-war and em-
Work for ‘Holiness of Freedom, Freedom for Holiness,’ Bishop Says

By Erik Lamont
Catholic New Service

When Henry VIII, as England’s reigning monarch, was declared “a defender of the faith,” the future “must have seemed so bright to Thomas More and John Fisher,” Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said in a homily June 21.

He described an English which “seemed to have been spared the painful divisions that racked the Catholic Church on the continent of Europe.”

“The Mass was celebrated on the vigil of the English martyrs’ shared feast day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. Archbishop Lori is chairman of the bishops’ religious liberty committee.

“St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher fulfilled their mission of bearing witness to the faith in their time, in their place, their circumstances,” he said. “Dear friends, we’ve gathered in prayer tonight asking to acquire in the power of the Holy Spirit, a great measure of holiness, so that we too can use our freedom, not for ourselves and our own desires, but rather for Christ and the mission of spreading the Gospel far and wide.”

In far too many parts of the world, Archbishop Lori said the Catholic Church’s mission “is conducted amid raging persecution.” He cited a 2016 report from the University of Notre Dame, titled “Under Caesar’s Sword,” that chronicled the persecution of Christians in 25 countries around the world.

He said the “reality behind such statistics” is seen in the suffering of Christians and other religious minorities – including some Muslims, including Chaldean Christians “beheaded in Iraq simply for professing their faith” and Coptic Christians killed while praying in church on Palm Sunday.

“To be sure, we Christians in the West do not experience severe repression,” Archbishop Lori said, but in recent years there have been serious curtailments of religious freedom with regard to sexuality, marriage, and the sanctity of life.

The archbishop said that some have advised that Christians “withdraw from the fray.”

“While he acknowledged the importance of rest and spiritual renewal, he once again turned to St. More and St. John Fisher, and urged Catholics to develop in their hearts “the holiness of freedom and freedom for holiness – an irrepressible spirit of freedom, courage and mission that no earthly power can take away from us.”

“When we shall be truly free,” the archbishop said. “Then we shall be true missionary disciples.”

Those gathered for the Mass included members of the Catholic Business Association, Legatus, the St. Thomas More Society and the Catholic Medical Association. Their presence illustrated their solidarity and involvement with the Fortnight for Freedom.

“This kind of shows, to everybody, that we have to act on what we believe,” said Dr. Okan Akay, who recently completed his residency in internal medicine and had his hands blessed by Archbishop Lori following the Mass.

“It strengthens us in our ability to provide healing for people without having to go against what we believe in,” he told the Catholic Review, Baltimore’s archdiocesan news outlet.

Akay said there is increasing pressure in his line of work for those who would opt out of prescribing contraception or performing an abortion, for example. He was lightly mocked, he added with a shrug, for attending the annual March for Life in Washington.

Interestingly, it was an overt display of faith – ashes on foreheads – that initially drew Akay, a former Muslim, now a basilica parishioner, toward the Catholic Church.

Cartoon

By Erik Lamont

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Beginning Experience Program to Offer Weekend for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse

The ecumenical Beginning Experience weekends are a Church-approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

The Beginning Experience team in the Diocese of Harrisburg has booked Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa., for a weekend on Nov. 10-12, 2017. The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce, and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

The following is a testimonial of a person who has attended the weekend:

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

Beginning Experience is the Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. Visit the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org, and go to Marriage and Family, or visit www.beginningexperience.org to learn more. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team at 717-379-0800.

Harrisburg Diocesan Charismatic Day of Renewal

September 16, 2017, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
“The Holy Spirit – Fountain of Grace”

The keynote speaker will be Rev. William “Bill” Cosgrove, a 12-year service team member for the Charismatic Renewal and current liaison for the Charismatic Renewal under Timothy Cardinal Dolan in the Archdiocese of New York. For 32 years, Father Cosgrove has been an active member of the International Fraternity of Priests, one of a number of priest support groups that is a strong advocate of priestly fraternity. He is also an active member of the Clarkstown Ethic Board of City and the Clarkstown Ecumenical Clergy Association.

The $20 program cost includes lunch. Checks can be made payable to “Diocese of Harrisburg.” Deadline for registration to include lunch is September 5. To register, or for additional information, go to: www.aliveinthespirt.net or www.hbgdiocese.org/renewal or call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.

Religious Brother, Priest Forever Bonded by Kidney Transplant

By Dan Russo

Catholic News Service

Father Scott Bullock and Christian Brother Stephen Markham in Dubuque, Iowa.

Father Scott Bullock and Christian Brother Stephen Markham in Dubuque, Iowa.

Father Scott Bullock and Christian Brother Stephen Markham have been forever bonded by a kidney transplant a year ago that has changed both men physically and spiritually.

“It is without a doubt the greatest gift you can give anyone,” Brother Markham said of the donated kidney he received from his priest friend.

In 2015, Brother Markham, now living in Balltown, Iowa, about nine months after kidney transplant surgery. “It is without a doubt the greatest gift you can give anyone,” Brother Markham said of the donated kidney he received from his priest friend.

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Parish Festivals and Picnics ~ Summer 2017

(A listing of parish festivals and picnics will also be available online at www.hbgdiocese.org. Announcements for parish festivals and picnics can be sent via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org.)

The Annual Family Picnic of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Catatissa (near Ideal Park) will be held on the church grounds on Aug. 4, from 6-11 p.m. and Aug. 5 from 6-11 p.m. Two popular bands will play throughout the picnic: “Kortune” (classic rock band Friday evening, and “The 60’s Boys” (with former Mudflap members) Saturday evening. There will be delicious food, games, fine music and dancing. Everyone is invited.

Sacred Heart Parish of Lewistown will hold its Summer Festival July 6-8 from 5-10 p.m. Music by Spinn City DJs and QuickDraw. Pork BBQ dinner Thursday and fish dinner Friday, starting at 4 p.m. Outside food and drinks and beer garden with 6 beers and wine. Basket raffles, skill games, games of chance, money wheels, caricatures. Kids’ section with face painting, bouncy houses, and games. For more info, call Jeff at 717-389-0878.

Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton will hold its picnic July 9 from noon-8 p.m. at Emerick Cibort Park in Breslau. Our menu consists of lamb, pork, cabbage and noodles, sausages (pig in the blanket), hot dogs, barbecue. French fries and ice cream as well as assorted beverages plus lots more. Entertainment for you listening or dancing pleasure, raffle tickets, basket raffle and pull tab instant tickets will be available. Come and enjoy the day with family, friends, parishioners and renew friendships from years past. For information, contact the Prince of Peace Parish Picnic Committee at 717-985-1330 pop.parish@comcast.net.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will hold its festival July 13-15 at 760 State Drive. Festivities begin with dinner at 4 p.m., with spaghetti on Thursday, fish on Friday, and roast beef on Saturday. And the bands start outside. Thursday night is DJ Bressler. Food court opens at approximately 5-5:30 p.m., and games of chance, kids’ games, and games of chance start at 6 p.m. Dinners conclude at 7 p.m. in time for bingo. Raffles, skill games, games of chance, money wheels, carriages. Saturdays section with face painting, bouncy houses, and games. For more info, call Jeff at 717-389-0878.

St. Joseph Parish in Berwick will hold its Italian Festival Aug. 4-6 on the parish grounds. Friday and Saturday from 4-9 p.m., and Sunday from noon-4 p.m. Porkette, fireballs, meatballs, sausage, haluski, chicken, parmesan, eggplant parmesan, potato pancakes, chicken fingers, French fries, hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel fries, deep fried pierogi, deep fried ravioli, pizza, wedding soup, baked goods and ice cream. Fried dough available Friday and Saturday only. Adult beverage pavilion, pasta dinner Sunday, money raffle, raffle tickets, kids’ games, and games of chance. Entertainment by “The Shorelineers” Friday, “The Legends” Saturday, and “Polka Punch” Sunday. No pets permitted.

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown will hold its 15th annual community festival July 6-10 at 100 N. East Water Street. Games for kids and adults, car show Thursday from 5-8 p.m., Bingo, flea market, raffle basket, cash prize. Plus with spaghetti on Thursday, fish on Friday, spaghetti, sausage, chicken fingers, funnel cakes, milk shakes, ice cream, fried Oreos. Homemade dinners served in the cafeteria from 5-9 p.m., including fish, haluski, haluski, stuffed shells, spaghetti and meatballs, chicken parmesan, cheesesteak, meatball subs, fish and pulled pork BBQ, all with sides and desserts. The CCY will have a bake sale, table sale, and entertainment nightly. By DJ Joe Trocjan on Thursday, Rita Angelucci from Class Act on Friday, and “Fresh Aye” on Saturday.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg will hold its Fourth Annual Lobster Fest on Aug. 26 from 5-11 p.m. on the church grounds. You do not need a ticket to enter. This year the festival will feature hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian porkette, haluski, delicious soups including lobster bisque, and beverages. There will be an expanded garden area for children as well as drawings and raffles for adults. Chances available for a variety of theme baskets, gift cards and large prizes. Entertainment by local talent, “Double Talk.” Ultimate Penn State Package tickets will also be available, which includes 4 game tickets, parking pass, and entire tailgate package. Lobster dinners, which include a whole steamed Maine lobster, come with choice of salad, potato or cucumber salad, and two beverages are available for $25.

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The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishies. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Claudette DiAngelis, Philip John in Heaven, Kenneth Raymond, Sarah Raymond.
BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Sylvia Garbacik, Jeffrey Kanto, Carol Stuck.
BUCKSPORT – St. Columbia: Grace E. Lutz.
BUCHANAN VALLEY – St. Ignatius Loyola: Mary Margaret Kane.
CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Monica Petrone.
CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Anthony Raymond Paar.
COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Erla Brosch, George Eckert, Patricia Fellenberger.
DAUPHIN – St. Matthew: John Kruleski, Frances Sossong.
GREENCASTLE – St. Mark: Kathryn “Kay” Barry.
HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Idella Krug.
HARRISBURG – Holy Name of Jesus: Dr. John B. Goedecke, Edward F. Kovach, Sr., Thomas C. Mont, St. Gabriel parishes: Charlotte Lang, St. Francis of Assisi: Luis Ayala; St. Margaret Mary: Mary Caruso.

LEBANON – Annunciation BVM: Anthony G. Verna, Robert J. Weddle; St. Cecilia: Mary Becker, Catherine Moody, Ethel Rennig, Monica Petrino.
LITTLESTOWN – St. Aloysius: Sharon Byron.
MCSHERRYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: John Walsh.
MOUNT JOY – Mother of the Church: Margaret “Peggy” Anderson.
NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Michael Boytim, Ethel Culp, John mateer.

Hershey's practice included serving as a field instructor for the military training program at the Army's War College and as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught courses in political science and international law. He was also a member of the American Bar Association and the American Society of International Law. In his career, he has published numerous articles and books on international relations and the law, including a comprehensive treatise on international law. His contributions to the field have been widely recognized, and he has been honored with numerous awards and distinctions.
Pilgrimages and Retreats
Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat — All men in the Harrisburg Diocese are invited to join the Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 22, starting at 8:30 a.m., at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. The retreat will include Mass, breakfast, lunch, music, prayer, talks and small group discussions. The retreat is free but requires registration. To register or for more information, contact Sister Rosanne at sjbnf.org/for-adults. You may contact the Religious Education Director Connie Egan at cegan@hbgdiocese.org. For further information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org. Direct any questions to Connie Egan at cegan@hbgdiocese.org.

Tuscarora Catholic Summer Camp — Tuscarora Catholic Summer Camp will be held from July 24-27, located off Route 11 between Greencastle and Baltimore. Enrollment is limited to 50, and the registration deadline is May 2. The camp includes a $10,000 prize for a hole in one on hole four sponsored by the Auxiliary Bishop’s Office. For more information, contact the camp at 717-235-0432 or visit www.tuscarora.org.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster is seeking a full-time Junior High Math and Science teacher to teach grades 7 and 8. The teacher must hold a minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree and PA instructional teaching certification. Please send letter, resume, and references to Miss Brenda Weaver at bweaver@resurrectioncschool.net.

Diocesan Liturgical Workshop — The workshop, “Unlocking the Power and Influence of the Sacred Liturgy,” will be held on Sat., Aug. 12 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg. There is no registration fee, but registration is required that ensures that the correct materials are prepared. A registration form is available on the diocesan website events calendar at www.HbgDiocese.org. Direct any questions to Connie Egan at cegan@hbgdiocese.org.

St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrersville will sponsor “A Summer Faith Journey — Catholicism: The Pilots App” with Bishop Robert Barron’s 2020 videos. Each session will be held on the following Wednesday evenings, after 7 p.m. Mass, in Rooms 3 & 4 of the church. July 12 - St. Catherine of Siena: The Mystic, Her Gospel and Her Message. Register online, by phone, by email, or in person. Please visit stleo.org and the “resin info” for more information.

St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom Adult Faith Formation Program will be hosting Bible study and faith sharing on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7:30 p.m. The schedule includes: Jan. 22, starting at 8:30 a.m., at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. The retreat is free but requires registration. To register or for more information, contact Sister Rosanne at sjbnf.org/for-adults. You may contact the Religious Education Director Connie Egan at cegan@hbgdiocese.org. For further information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org. Direct any questions to Connie Egan at cegan@hbgdiocese.org.
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