‘No One Can Do it on Their Own’

Quo Vadis Days Give Gift of Discernment

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

At the age of 15, Father Samuel Dubois was already thinking about being a priest someday, and searching for answers about life as a seminarian and formation to the priesthood. So when the Diocesan Office of Vocations offered the inaugural Quo Vadis Days retreat for young men discerning God’s will for their lives, young Sam, at the encouragement of his pastor Father Robert Sharman, signed up for the first-of-its-kind diocesan event.

That was in 2005. Admittedly introverted by nature, young Sam stepped onto grounds of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg – home to Quo Vadis Days for more than a decade now – and soon found a deeper calling to become a priest.

“The most incredible thing for me that first year was that I had met seminarians for the first time ever, and got to talk with them a lot and realize that they’re normal guys,” Father Dubois said in a recent interview with The Catholic Witness. The week included time for informal discussion with seminarians and priests, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, games and picnics. And, most importantly for a teenage Sam, opportunities for prayer in its various forms.

“Quo Vadis Days was really the first experience I had in praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and of spending time in silent prayer,” he recalled. “That renewed the feeling in me that the Lord wanted me to be a priest.”

Father Dubois, parochial vicar at St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, was among five new priests ordained to the diocesan priesthood in June of this year, along with Father Steven Arena, Father John Kuchinski, Father Richard Mowery and Father Brian Olkowski.

Several of the newly-ordained priests have attended Quo Vadis Days nearly every single year, as young men discerning and as seminarians in formation. In fact, when the seminarians at this year’s retreat, held in mid-June at the Mount, were asked to raise their hands if they’d been to a previous Quo Vadis Days retreat, all but two did.

“No one can do it on their own,” Father John Kuchinski said of the discernment process. “For me, one of the biggest supports was Quo Vadis Days.”

In fact, Father Kuchinski, serving this summer at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown, has attended all but one Quo Vadis Days retreat, and that’s because he was studying in Rome – where he’ll return this fall to complete an advanced degree.

More QUO VADIS, page 6

Pilgrim Virgin Statue Visits Diocese

In 1917, the Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, giving the world a message of peace:

“...God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.”

Upon the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is on a nationwide tour, calling for prayer and penance for peace in our nation and conversion of heart.

The statue is visiting 100 dioceses to mark 100 years since the apparitions. Earlier this month, the statue visited five locations in the Diocese of Harrisburg, accompanied by a sign with the message, “Do not touch her; she will touch you.” See page 16 for coverage.

‘Do Not Touch Her, She Will Touch You’

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

‘Do Not Touch Her, She Will Touch You’

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Courage Movement Offers Catholics with Same-Sex Attraction Support in Living Chaste Lives

Offshoot ‘Encourage’ Bolsters Family Members Too

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Amid a tidal wave of erroneous assumptions that the Church is “against homosexuals,” Catholics with same-sex attraction are invited to participate in the Courage Movement, a Catholic program that supports its members in living the virtue of chastity according to the teachings of Sacred Scripture and the Catholic Church.

Courage was founded in 1980 by Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, the Catholic Church gathers its members in prayer, fellowship and mutual understanding in order to strengthen their relationship with God, the Church and one another: Members benefit from Church teaching that they are loved by God and called to love. It is the love with all in a chaste, charitable way.

Parents and family members of those with same-sex attraction are invited to join the Encourage program, to benefit from prayer, shared wisdom and common experience. The participants help one another as they interact in a loving manner with their children and loved ones who have homosexual orientation.

Both groups meet in the Diocese of Harrisburg on a regular basis. For further information and for meeting dates and locations, please contact Father William Weary at 717-242-2781 or frweary@sacredheartlewistown.com.

Courage meetings also include a presentation by a member on one of the goals, or on a DVD or book relative to the faithful. There is a discussion follows in a quiet space of support and camaraderie.

The fellowship aspect is extremely important for me. We all have one thing in common,” said “Paul,” a practicing Catholic in the Diocese of Harrisburg. “Once you’ve been bruised seriously by sin, you need to develop perhaps a deeper devotion and prayer life, and have more frequent reception of Communion in order to Eucharist to strengthen yourself.”

PAUL

I needed to come to terms with as a person who are also supporting their loved ones in living chaste lives. “Same-sex attraction is something I had to come to terms with as a parent so that I could encourage my child,” Mrs. Lavender remarked. “And I appreciate that the Church says ‘a person with same-sex attraction,’ because that really is just a small part of who my child is. My child is much more than being gay.”

She advises parents to show unconditional love to their children as the first and best way to respond when they reveal that they are homosexual.

“Sometimes, I’ll hear someone say, ‘Oh, did you hear that her child is gay? I’m so glad mine isn’t.’ Other times, people will approach me and start talking about their gay child because they’re seeking camaraderie,” Mrs. Lavender said. “Just open your arms and give your child a hug. A lot of people just need a loved one to say, ‘I love you.’ As a parent, don’t hold back your love.”

“You are loved by God. You are created by God, and your destiny is Heaven. The Church movement works to convey that love,” Father Weary tells parents who are concerned about their children’s same-sex attraction. “We love you, God loves you, the Catholic Church loves you, and we want to help you get to Heaven. You will experience that love if you come to the Courage Movement.”

“Courage members and Encourage members meet regularly in the Diocese of Harrisburg, under the spiritual direction of Father Weary. He can be reached at 717-242-2781 or frweary@sacredheartlewistown.com.
Diocesan Tribunal Seeks Assessors

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking men and women who would like to be part of the Ministry of Assessor. Assessors assist the diocesan Tribunal in making determinations about annulments from a previous marriage. Training is required, and candidates will meet for three hours on each of five Saturdays beginning in September. Applications are available through your pastor, or you may contact the Tribunal to have one sent to you. The recommendation of your pastor will be required. For more information, please call 717-657-4804, ext. 307. Deadline for submitting applications is August 12.

To apply, please send your cover letter and résumé to employment@hbgdiocese.org.

The full job description can be found at hbgdiocese.org - employment

Closing date: August 1, 2016

The Catholic Witness

Diocesan Tribunal Seeks Assessors

The Catholic Witness its taking its summer publication hiatus and will resume bi-weekly publication with the August 7 edition. Stay in touch with news from the diocese by visiting its Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org, by following its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DioceseofHarrisburg, and by connecting via Twitter at www.twitter.com/HBGDiocese. If you’re planning a little travel this summer, you can find Mass times worldwide at www.masstimes.org.

Have you signed up yet to receive the Catholic Witness electronically? Through a free service, you can receive the paper via e-mail with a direct link to each edition as it is published.

Sign up for the e-mail service by logging on to the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page and click on “Catholic Witness E-mail Sign-Up.” Once you complete the form, you’ll be added to our e-mail list.

Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, contact our Circulation Coordinator, Susan Huntsberger, at shuntsberger@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 201, with your Witness account number, and your name, address and phone number.

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 publication dates and submission guidelines for 2015 can be accessed on The Catholic Witness page at www.hbgdiocese.org or e-mailed upon request.

Enjoy a safe and blessed summer, and look for our next edition on August 5.

Annual Pilgrimage to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Mount St. Mary’s Emmitsburg, Maryland • Thursday, August 4

Started by Father Walter Sempo in 1987, the 29th Annual Pilgrimage for World Peace will take place on Thursday, August 4, at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Day’s Schedule:

10 a.m. – Welcome (St. Mary’s Chapel on the Hill)
10:15-11:30 a.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation
11:30 a.m. – Holy Rosary (Grotto, weather permitting)
12 p.m. – Holy Mass (Grotto, weather permitting)

Celebrant and Homilist: Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Greensburg
Concelebrants: Priests of the Dioceses of Harrisburg and Greensburg

1:15 p.m. – Lunch on your own (must bring your lunch)
2:15-2:45 p.m. – Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Prayer of Consecration (Grotto, weather permitting)
3-4 p.m. – Holy Hour with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Bishop Malesic homilist (St. Mary’s Chapel on the Hill)

The day ends with the conclusion of the Holy Hour

All are welcome this day to join with Bishop Malesic to pray for peace through the conversion of hearts, and to receive God’s blessings through Mary, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church.

No need to register

Attendees must provide their own transportation, lunch and drinks

Part-Time Position Available

Newman Club Coordinator for Catholic Campus Ministry

 Messiah College in Grantham, PA

Help Catholic students live their Catholic faith.

Catholic Campus Ministry at Messiah College is seeking a Newman Club Coordinator, a part-time, ten-month position for our Christ-centered Catholic Campus Ministry. Ten to 15 hours per week during the academic year. Responsibilities include: being present and accessible for students, faculty and staff; mentoring students and developing strong student Catholic leaders; coordinating meetings and activities to help enrich students’ Catholic faith; acting as primary liaison with the local Catholic parish, the Catholic Diocese and the College Campus Ministry Office. We offer competitive salary. This position requires fully initiated active member of the Catholic Church. Preferred candidates will have previous experience in youth/young adult ministry and a strong academic background in a related field.

All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter by July 15, 2016 to: employment@hbgdiocese.org

MEDICAL MORA L ISSUES


When: September 30, 2016 at 8:30AM - noon | Registration Fee: $10 | Where: Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg Pennsylvania

SOONER OR LATER you, a loved one or a friend is going to have to deal with one of these difficult issues. Do you know how to look at these and other medical moral issues through the eyes of our Catholic faith? Have your questions answered by Reverend Paul C.B. Scheunck, Catholic Health Care Ethicist & Director of the Respect Life Office, and guests from the medical and legal fields. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with Hospital Chaplains.

To register online visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/evangelization or contact Jaclyn Curran: (717) 657-4804 ext 313 or email jcurran@hbgdiocese.org

Lunch will be provided.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

• July 10 – Anniversary Mass for Couples Married 50 Years, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.
• July 11 – Groundbreaking Ceremony, Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, York, 10 a.m.; Celebrate Mass and Priests Elections, Monastery of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, Lancaster, 1 p.m.
• July 16 – Attend Worship Celebration for Bishop Robert L. Driesen, Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport, Pa., 2 p.m.
• July 17 – Celebrate World Youth Day Send Off Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 12:15 p.m.; Rosary Rally for Student Athletes, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 6 p.m.
• July 19-20 – PCC Administrative Board Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg.
• July 23-August 1 – World Youth Day, Poland.
Counsel the Doubtful
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Several years ago, when I was a teacher at Bishop McDevitt High School and the chairperson of the Technology Committee, it became apparent that a new position at the diocesan level dealing with technology and schools was needed. During a meeting of the Technology Committee, the GT Director of the Diocese turned to me and said, “Sister, do you want a job?” I retorted, “Ah, got one already! I teach at McDevitt!”

Several months later, I found myself knocking at the door of the office of a very wise Sister, trying to discern whether or not I was called to leave the classroom and begin working at the Diocesan Center. She knew and understood not only my heart but also my mind and how it was divided as a wisdom figure for me, even after her death several years ago.

After exchanging pleasantries, I told Sister Joanna about the new position that was offered to me. She looked away and then asked me, “Why do you fear? Jesus and His Mother understood that of others as well. It is only when we become truly transparent and filled with grace will be completely enjoying themselves, and completely content, with their a bit. And for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound speech which is beyond reproach...

So, as we age and live life, we begin to understand that our ministry is one of presence. Our prayer, our study and our life experiences are not only for our own sake, but also for that of others as well. It is only when we become truly transparent and filled with the presence of God that we can become the vehicle of inspiration as we point to Him who created us in the first place.

But there is a second person involved in this “work” of mercy: the doubter. Doubting can be a powerful component for change and clarity. When you doubt about something, especially about the workings of God, look at it not as something that needs to be fixed or solved but rather as a moment of growth. When doubt rattles your mind and heart, reach out to others who possess, by your perception, what you personally doubt. We have been made for communion with others. By reaching out to one another, we no longer become isolated and isolated in doubt. By doing this, we can easily learn that really we don’t walk alone!

What Sister Joanna sang to me still rings true: “Dance in the darkness, slow be the pace, surrender to the rhythm of redeeming grace.”

Summer Vacation: A Little Slice of Heaven
By Jim Gontis
Special to The Witness

“Are we almost there, Dad? How much longer til we’re there, Mom?”

These oh-so-familiar words will be echoed millions of times this summer as families throughout our diocese make these annual pilgrimages of grace and beauty waves of grain to destinations far and wide.

Ah yes, summer vacation! We have saved for it, sacrificed for it, waited for it with anticipation. Our kids have outlined the days on their summer calendar and began their respective countdowns months ago. We have packed for it, loaded our vehicles to their stumping point, gotten up early with bleary eyes, and swilled down several cups of heavily-coffee and now the time has arrived.

But why is it that this week or two means so much each year for those who are fortunate enough to spend this annual rite of summer? There are the obvious attractions. Depending on the kind of vacation, it might involve the exploration of beautiful national parks with animals we’ve seen only on television or in zoos. Many head to the shore to frolic in waves, soak in some sun, build sandcastles, and smell the salty sea. Some vacations involve Colemans, potlucks, fishing pristine mountain streams while occasionally reeling in a colorful, speckled brook or cutthroat trout, and the evening smell of hotdogs and marshmallows roasted over campfires.

Many of us experience the joy of seeing family and friends that we have not seen for years, or at least since last year. We laugh, share stories, tell tall-tales, and sometimes reminisce about family members no longer with us. We have, perhaps, a bit more time to renew our bonds with our beloved spouse, to listen closely to the delightful squeals and banter of our children and to play catch with them or splash in the pool or lake or ocean with them.

If we are lucky, it is also a time for our children to see and hear the gentle, wise and knowing laughter of Grandma and Grandpa and to be spoiled by them a bit. Then we think, it was not so long ago when it was they, our parents, who were listening to our own childlike wonderment, persistent questions, and banter with our own brothers and sisters and cousins. The generations are joined. To quote the old familiar Gospel song, “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?”

What is it that we are seeking? Maybe it is a little foretaste, a small slice, of heaven. After all, aren’t we all looking for that which is transcendent, yet ultimately simple? Besides everything else, heaven will be really enjoyable, dare I say fun? Yes, really fun and relaxing. After the general resurrection, all of those who have exited this life in the state of sanctifying grace will be completely enjoying themselves, and completely content, for their own skin. These are things we get a taste of on vacation.

Let’s face it, much of this life involves being tethered to our responsibilities, and, if we are honest, to the stresses, anxieties and, at times, the monotony of the work-a-day world. Before the Fall, Adam and Eve, our first human parents, certainly worked. They named the animals, cultivated the garden, etc., but it was pure joy and without toil. But after the Fall, we see in Genesis, Chapter 3, God said to Adam, “Curse the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life.”

And yet, we know it was not originally so. God did not make man for work. He made man for work. So what we hope for with each vacation, what our spirits long for, is a little taste of that Eden-like paradise. Ultimately, it is a longing for the vacation that never ends.

God’s grandeur comes home to us in a special way through nature on vacations. Whether looking up at the majestic snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains, of sunsets over our favorite beach on the Atlantic, or a sunset over the Pacific, we feel lifted up. In the gentle peace of a morning in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee or the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, or simply the fresh, dewy, woody smell of our favorite campground, we have a sense of the profundity of God, which in turn makes us more serene. All these give but a small, fleeting glimpse of Him Who is Beauty itself. But it is not an unimportant glimpse. For in this glimpse, we become, perhaps, just a bit more disposed to His grace.

The picnics, the weddings, the neighborhood block parties and family reunions, with their attendant delicious tastes, inviting aromas, bonds of family and friendship, and joy and laughter are a precursor to the heavenly banquet. As we run the current race, vacations help us to look forward on our earthly pilgrimage to that land of eternal communion, joy, laughter and love with God, Our Lady and the saints, and to the great coming-home reunion with our loved ones.

I hope you get some vacation time this summer. God bless you! (Jim Gontis is the Director of the Diocesan Department for Religious Education.)
Hurricane Agnes battered Pennsylvania in June of 1972, causing flooding that spelled disaster for many in the Keystone State. At the time, Agnes was the costliest hurricane to hit the United States.

With rainfall exceeding 10 inches in the central part of the state and 19 inches in the western portions of Schuylkill County, Agnes is listed as the wettest tropical cyclone on record for the state. More than 100,000 people were forced to leave their homes, with nearly 44,000 structures destroyed or significantly damaged in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

As The Catholic Witness’ banner headline read in the June 29, 1972, edition, there was, amid disaster, “A Flood of Good Samaritanism.” Surely, the dreadful images of the recent flash floods in West Virginia have brought back memories of Agnes for those who experienced the heartbreak and yet the subsequent humanity of the disaster.

Photos by Charlie Blahusch and an article by Judy Andrews kept readers informed of how churches and schools were faring, as phone lines were down and roads closed. They reported on the hundreds of evacuees being housed or fed at Assisi Hall, on the volunteers who staffed the relief kitchen at St. Francis in Harrisburg, on the teenagers who helped to clean mud from the streets, and on the neighboring parishes and schools that collected relief supplies for those who had lost everything.

The photo at top left shows the Susquehanna River washing over the west end of the Market Street bridge, with the Dauphin County Courthouse in the background. In the photo at top right, Anna DiMartile of Our Lady’s Parish in Harrisburg, stands at the church door, the parish parking lot and school bus submerged across the street.

Bishop George Leech offered his prayers and sympathy to the victims, especially to those who lost loved ones or livelihoods because of the disaster. “I am grateful to all our priests, sisters and people who have in Christian charity given of themselves, their homes and their belongings to those who were evacuated. The disaster actually brought us all closer to each other. I was deeply edified by people, young and old, whom I met and who expressed their genuine concern and their desire to be of assistance in any way possible,” he said.

“The cooperation of all was heartwarming to behold and undoubtedly prevented much greater personal tragedy,” Bishop Leech said. “God’s ways are strange to us but in His Providence He will provide for us.”

I love to cook for my family and friends. I picked dough ball stew because my dear friend Candy would make this for me and my daughter on Sunday afternoons, and when my daughter went away to college, this became her comfort food.

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Dough Ball Stew

Ingredients:
- Add your own seasonings
- 1 1/2 lbs hamburger
- 1 large can tomato sauce
- 1 can water
- 4-5 potatoes, diced
- 2 cans refrigerated biscuits (tear in small pieces)

Directions:
- Brown hamburger and drain
- add other ingredients except the biscuits
- cook potatoes until soft
- add the biscuits and potatoes and simmer on medium for 15-20 minutes

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Send Us Your Recipes and Stories!

With our “Feeding the Faith” series, The Catholic Witness is looking to support family meal time by sharing family recipes in upcoming editions, as well as scripture and “food for thought.” Do you have a significant dish and memory to share with us? You may mail a copy of the recipe and your thoughts to 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or email it to witness@hbdiocese.org.
“Quo Vadis Days makes discernment real,” he said. “When I first began to think about the priesthood, I had no idea where I was going, how this was going to work, what the process was like. I knew what seminaries were, of course, but I didn’t really know what life was like there, and at that point I hadn’t even met a seminarian.”

Quo Vadis Days revealed for him, as a retreatant, that seminarians and priests are normal men seeking to serve the Lord, and explained the path to priesthood.

“As a retreatant, knowing more about the process makes it less intimidating,” Father Kuchinski observed.

Father Steven Arena, parochial vicar at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, concurred.

“Quo Vadis Days was the first time that I was able to really enter into prayer more deeply, having daily Adoration and hearing what the priesthood is really about,” he said.

He first attended Quo Vadis Days in its second year, 2006, the summer after high school graduation.

And at the time, he had already been accepted to Duquesne University.

“I really wasn’t certain what I should do. I was at the point in my life where I needed to make a decision about my life,” Father Arena said. “I had my own plans to go to Duquesne University and a draw to the priesthood [that] kept pulling on me. So I thought, ‘Let’s go to Quo Vadis Days to figure things out.’ And it proved to be a time where God could pull me into the silence and quiet so that I could hear him a lot more clearly.”

Quo Vadis Days revealed to him the idea that Jesus Christ is the priest victim which priests are to emulate.

“When you hear of priests sacrificing, that sounds pretty epic to a young man,” he said. “The priesthood became a lot more attractive to me, and as I was spending those days in Adoration, I felt it was where I needed to be, and that I should enter seminary.”

Of course, not all men are called to be priests. Others may be called to be husbands and fathers or to the single life.

For those young men, the Quo Vadis Days retreat is just as valuable.

Father Dubois recalled one particular experience when, as a seminarian, a retreatant asked to speak with him.

The young man expressed that he didn’t feel like he was being called to the priesthood, but rather to married life, and wondered whether he should finish the week’s retreat.

“In a sense, he felt bad about not
Quo Vadis

Continued from 6

being called to the priesthood and was wondering if he was wasting his time at Quo Vadis Days,” Father Dubois said. “I told him, ‘It’s a good thing if you feel called to the married life because we need good husbands and fathers. It’s good that you’re just open to God’s will in your life.’

“For the guys who come especially for the first time and have no idea what to expect, it’s especially important for us as seminarians and priests to be patient, because you never know where they’re coming from with their own faith background,” he continued. “We need to help them discern where God is calling them, because, no matter where they go in life, we need them to live as holy men.”

Quo Vadis Days has maintained a relatively similar program balanced with prayer, discussion and camaraderie over its 12 years, and there is a great gift to be found in that composition of activities and familiarity, Father Kuchinski pointed out.

“Sometimes you just need that one week once a year that Quo Vadis Days provides. It almost recharges the batteries, it gives you strength again and a new zeal to continue discerning and trying to live a holy life,” he said.

“Over the years and being there as a seminarian, I’ve always been impressed by the genuine search that these young men have,” Father Kuchinski continued. “Some of them are even 14 and 15 years old. They have a sincere desire to be good Catholic men, a sincere desire to give the Lord everything, and they want to discern – and discern well – where God is calling them in life.”
The Missionary Childhood
“Children Helping Children”

Children Pray for the Missions: The World Mission Rosary

The World Mission Rosary, created by Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951, calls to mind the great needs of our mission family in each part of the world, as well as offering prayers for the missionaries who offer practical help and the hope and love of Our Lord.

To date, generous volunteers from the diocese have made more than 12,000 World Mission Rosaries. Nearly 9,000 have been distributed this year to children in our diocesan schools, religious education programs, home-school families, and campus ministries; and more will be offered when the new school year begins. The Missions Office gives a heartfelt “thank you” to the volunteers who spent hours upon hours stringing and knotting these rosaries. Teachers and catechists, as they need more rosaries, may contact the Missions Office.

St. John the Baptist Contest Collects for Missions

St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom raised money for the missions from a “decorate a pumpkin” contest, and students joined with leaders like Father Anthony Dill in counting the donations.

Our Lady of Lourdes School Turns out for the Missions

Schools and parishes come up with creative ways to raise donations. In Coal Township, twice a year students at Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School save their coins in MCA mite boxes. At the end of the sacrificial period, the school conducts a “Mission March.” In the morning, sixth grade students, dressed in biblical costumes, conduct a “Mission March.” In the morning, sixth grade students, dressed in biblical costumes, conducted a “Mission March.” In the morning, sixth grade students, dressed in biblical costumes, conducted a “Mission March.” In the morning, sixth grade students, dressed in biblical costumes, conducted a “Mission March.”

St. Anne’s Prays for the Missions

On the Friday after World Mission Sunday in October, students from St. Anne School in Lancaster conducted a living World Mission Rosary. All students in grades K-8 participated. The classes sat around the outside, while students in grades 2-7 represented the beads and eighth graders stood and prayed each bead. A person in the center with a candle moved around to each bead as the Rosary was prayed.
Annual MCA Christmas Artwork Contest Winner

Morgan Ney, from Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster, was one of 24 winners out of thousands of entries nationally and received an award from Father Andrew Small, the national director of the Pontifical Missions Societies, in December 2015. Her artwork was displayed over the Advent/Christmas season in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Watch for two more winners from our diocese who will enjoy the same recognition this coming Christmas!

Candygrams for MCA

Students at St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg delivered Candygrams to the classrooms for Valentine’s Day. Donations went to the Missionary Childhood Association. The school also featured a World Mission Rosary bulletin board.

Shippenburg Distributes Rosaries to College Students

World Mission Rosaries also found their way to college campuses. As a tie-in to an Earth Day event, Shippenburg University’s Catholic Campus Ministry made Rosaries available to college students.

The Missionary Childhood Association is one of the Pope’s Mission Societies that garner basic support for more than 1,111 mission territories around the world. MCA produces mission education programs designed to encourage an awareness of our missionary vocation, prayer, and sacrifice for the missions. It is through the MCA that “children help children” in mission lands and give witness to the power of the Gospel. Many lives are touched and changed by the active charity and tremendous generosity of America’s students.

Can a child be a missionary? Yes! Children are sensitive to the needs of other children and question why children of the same age in other countries do not have the basic necessities: shelter, sanitation, water, food, clothing, school books and love. Children have big hearts that see where there is need and show the desire to act accordingly. Children have generous spirits, are willing to share, and are able to overcome the prejudices of culture, race or religion.

For more information on the work of the Missionary Childhood Association, or to request MCA materials, please contact The Missions Office, Diocese of Harrisburg 4800 Union Deposit Road Harrisburg PA 17111-3710 (717) 657-4804, ext. 240 missions@hbgdiocese.org www.hbgdiocese.org/MCA Diocesan Director: Reverend Robert F. Sharman
Golden Apple Teachers

Now in its 11th year in the Diocese of Harrisburg, the annual Golden Apple Awards are presented to Catholic school educators who demonstrate professional excellence, leadership, commitment to Catholic values and devotion to teaching.

The Catholic Witness concludes its features of this year’s award recipients in the schools in which they teach, combined with portions of the essay they wrote as part of their nomination.

Find out more about Catholic school education in the Diocese of Harrisburg at: www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/

Helen Remington

Computer Technology and Physical Education Teacher
St. Joan of Arc School, Hershey

“Pope Francis’ words, ‘Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life’ well describes my experience teaching in Catholic schools. Christ, the source of all love and life, is the model which permeates the Catholic school community. School leadership works diligently to create and support an environment rich in faith, liturgy, prayer, service, love, respect, mercy, innovation and high academic standards. Teaching, collaborating and serving in this environment is a joy and a privilege.

Catholic schools recognize, respect and value each individual as a precious, unique child of God. It is in this faith community that I have seen students’ talents and gifts bloom. Many teachable and rewarding experiences I have worked to facilitate would only happen in the unique environment of a Catholic school.

Maureen Mahnken

Middle School Math Teacher
Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School

“Teaching for me is a way of life. You can’t separate the teacher from the individual. I am Christ’s representative in the classroom, on the playground, in the lunchroom, or on bus duty. There are days you need to dig deep into your soul and come up with the best solution for that given moment. Patience, tolerance, forgiveness, love, enthusiasm and a sense of humor are necessary in this profession. They need to see you are human, and you can make mistakes. You need to be willing to forgive and ask for their forgiveness when the need arises – and there are times that it occurs. … I enjoy what I do and I like the freedom of being who I am. I always tell my students that if I am teaching a concept in Religion, rest assured I am practicing it in my life. Teaching and living go hand in hand – you can’t turn it off when you walk out of the classroom at the end of the day. Several years ago, one of my students asked me what do I say when I come here – do I say I’m going to work? No, I say I’m going to school!”
Sacred Heart in Lewisburg Solidifies Relationship with Sister Parish in Haiti

By Nate Gulya
Special to The Witness

After discussing, for a number of years, how our parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lewisburg might best reach out to our brothers and sisters in Haiti, the Parish Council decided to establish a partnership with a parish in Haiti. From that decision, a Sister Parish Committee was formed and the two parishes – Sacred Heart Parish in Lewisburg and Immaculate Conception Parish in LaLouere, Haiti – formed a partnership in July of 2015.

A delegation visited their parish last January and received a warm welcome and was touched by the impact the people of the Immaculate Conception placed on the friendship that was being formed. While at their parish in January, the committee was also struck by the needs of the parish and the children. Their faith and living a joyful life despite a difficult condition was inspiring to us.

LaLouere is located in a mountainous region and is an area without electricity or clean water. The population relies on agriculture for its economy. Unfortunately, due to extremes in weather conditions, periods of dry spells or intense rain, many crops are lost. The economy, as a result, is weak.

Immaculate Conception began as a mission church, but was made a parish on December 8, 2012. There are two mission churches associated with Immaculate Conception. As pastor, Father Junior Destilus is determined to bring the Catholic faith to children and providing an opportunity for their education. When he began at Immaculate Conception, there were no classrooms and he began a school, which now has 92 students, ages 3 through 7, in four classrooms. Two classes are held in the church, while two are held in outdoor classrooms. The rectory thus far was begun, but not completed. Both projects are incomplete due to lack of funds. The church is also without electricity.

Despite the crude outline of the church and school, parishioners travel by foot to 6:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, some walking an hour and half. Children come to school for the Department of Defense School System while staff might be in Creason’s future.

Creason said she’s ready to take things on at a slower pace and maybe enjoy her four grown children and nine grandchildren.

“Mrs. Creason is one of the spiritual leaders of this school,” Kane said. “It’s hard to think back all the way to second grade, but when you have a teacher like Mrs. Creason, it makes it a little easier,” she said. “The fact that I am now working as one of Mrs. Creason’s colleagues amazes me,” Kane said. “She inspired me in my faith as a student, but continues to inspire me in my faith as a teacher.”

Kane said Creason once told her that the decision to be a Catholic school teacher was not just a job choice, but a calling. “If you do it to be ‘,” she said. “That ‘aha’ moment – when they get it – that’s what you live for,” Creason said. “Otherwise you wouldn’t do this.”

“Kids love limits.”

said Creason. “There’s no way to get bored when you teach children. You said something and she tells you you’re not going to repeat that beyond reach. “If the student really understands that the teacher is on their side...and cares about them...then eventually they’re going to be successful.”

As a member of Sacred Heart Parish said, “Our partnership to Haiti helped open our eyes to the awful poverty in Haiti.”

Parishioners of Sacred Heart were blessed to have Father Junior on behalf of Immaculate Conception with a check to complete the drilling of a well and to add a classroom. The Knights of Columbus and the Council of Catholic Women also gave formal gifts. A gift from Father Junior’s Immaculate Conception Parish members – a hand-stitched cloth for the offering received much despite a language difference. Debbie Gillott, who serves as his translator, and Maria Henry, Director of Sacred Heart’s Sister Parish Committee, was touched by the impact the people of the Immaculate Conception placed on the friendship that was being formed.

The thing she will miss most, of course, is the students – and the reward of seeing a student grow. Kane said Creason once told her that the decision to be a Catholic school teacher was not just a job choice, but a calling. "If you do it to be ‘,” she said. "That ‘aha’ moment – when they get it – that’s what you live for,” Creason said. “Otherwise you wouldn’t do this.”

“I remember, but Mrs. Creason can tell you exactly where I sat when I had her.”

Creason grew up in Omaha, Neb., where she attended Catholic schools and then Creighton University.

Creason said her favorite thing about teaching second grade is that the children come in with concrete thinking and leave with the ability to manage the abstract. Coming from first grade, students have a lot of concrete thinking. Creason finds second grade to be the time when teachers can really help them “fill in the holes.”

Creason also loves the process of preparing and guiding children through the sacraments. “It’s a unique combination,” she said. “It’s an honor to be the one who helps them understand what it means to be welcomed and forgiven by God, despite their sins.”

More information about the Partnership Parishes can be found on the parish website at http://www.sacredheart Lewisburg.org or by contacting Maria Henry, the Director of Sister Parish Ministry, at mhr9215@gmail.com or 570-523-9153.

(Courtesy of Nate Gulya, Sacred Heart Parish, Lewisburg)

Veteran Second-Grade Teacher at St. Patrick School in Carlisle Retires after 27 Years

By Lisa Maddux
Special to The Witness

After 27 years of teaching second grade at St. Patrick School in Carlisle – all in the same room, no less – Toni Creason retired at the end of this school year.

Although she’ll miss the students, faculty and staff, Creason said she’s ready to take things on at a slower pace and maybe enjoy her four grown children and nine grandchildren.

“Mrs. Creason is one of the spiritual leaders of this school,” Kane said. “It’s hard to think back all the way to second grade, but when you have a teacher like Mrs. Creason, it makes it a little easier,” she said. “The fact that I am now working as one of Mrs. Creason’s colleagues amazes me,” Kane said. “She inspired me in my faith as a student, but continues to inspire me in my faith as a teacher.”

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(Courtesy of Lisa Maddux, Sacred Heart Parish, Lewisburg)
By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

Just after 10 a.m. East Coast time June 27 in Washington, Kristan Hawkins, director of Students for Life, made an announcement to her small rally in front of the Supreme Court:

“Women across America just lost!”

Her comments followed the high court issuing its 5-3 decision in Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt. The court struck down restrictions on Texas abortion clinics that required them to comply with standards of ambulatory surgical centers and required their doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

The case challenged a 2013 state law, H.B. 2, placing the requirements on the state’s abortion clinics. Opponents of the law claimed the requirements were aimed at closing abortion clinics. But the state and many pro-life advocates maintained that the law protected women’s health.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer wrote the majority opinion, joined by Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. The same five had issued an earlier ruling allowing abortion clinics in Texas to remain operational until a final decision was handed down in the case.

The ruling was met with a sense of resignation by the few who were able to make speeches to barely 100 at Hawkins’ pro-life rally before being drowned out by the adjacent rally. Numbering more than 2,000 in support of abortion rights, the rally was adjacent to an anti-abortion demonstration.

“As of this day, women and women’s health are the real losers. Because of this decision today, beauty parlors, public hospitals, and women’s health centers will comply with standards of ambulatory surgical centers and required their doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals,” Hawkins, president of the Center for Medical Progress, said in a statement.

“Today, women and women’s health are the real losers. Because of this decision today, beauty parlors, public hospitals, and veterinary clinics will have high health standards other than abortion clinics.”

By Colleen Rowan
Catholic News Service

Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston asked for prayers for those affected by the devastating floods in West Virginia that have left 26 people dead, including a 4-year-old and an 8-year-old.

As of June 27, almost 500,000 were without power and 44 counties were under a state of emergency.

“We pray for those affected by this natural disaster, including those who have lost their homes and livelihoods; those who do not have electricity, food or clean water and, most importantly, for those who are injured or in need of medical attention,” Bransfield said. “Let us prayerfully remember those who died.”

“As floodwaters rise and recede, I ask you to please join me in praying for the protection of the brave men and women who are working to bring relief to our parishes,” the bishop added.

Damage from the flooding was widespread, with the southeastern region of the state being hit the hardest. Walls of water came crashing into towns and small communities leaving ruin and heartbreak in their wake.

“It’s pretty devastating,” said Father Charles Engel, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs. “It was the most significant rain event I’ve ever experienced. … The main water that goes through the valley of White Sulphur completely flooded its banks and took with it many houses.”

Storms brought 10 inches of rain in just four hours in White Sulphur Springs. A home ripped off its foundation and engulfed in flames floated down Howard Street. There were many rescues of people in the area trapped by flood waters, Father Engel said, and residents took shelter at the former White Sulphur High School building in town.

At the Greenbrier Resort located across the street from the church, Father Engel said, there was “a raging river through the golf course.”

In Richwood, 7 inches of rain fell in just three hours. Flash flooding caused the Cherry River to overflow its banks, devastating the small town of roughly 2,000 residents. “It’s unbelievable,” Father Gary Dang said, surveying the damage in the town the day after the flood. A priest of the Society of the Divine Word, he is administrator of Holy Family Parish in Richwood.

“The water is receding, but the damage is severe,” he told The Catholic Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Unable to reach his parishioners by phone because of power outages that phone lines because of power outages that left many without power, Father Dang said, “We are the Champions.”

“The reasonable people know that Texas law H.B. 2 was in the best interest of women’s health,” said Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

“Women will be preyed on and injured,” said Everette, whose nonprofit organization counsels post-abortive women and men and works with a nationwide network of pregnancy resource centers.

“Our responsibility is to help these women make good choices. Obviously we would help them choose life, but if they are going to walk to the door of an abortion clinic, we have the right to offer them help,” she added.

“The pro-life movement once again has been the one to stand at the front line standing there to protect the health of women.”

(Congrunt, to this story was Ana Franco-Guzman.)
Impressions of a First-Time Kirchenwald Counselor

By Bernard Clarke

If you are considering being a counselor at Camp Kirchenwald, I am writing to share impressions from 2015, my rookie year.

My motivation was simple, I wanted to “give back,” and I am an experienced fishing instructor. Kirchenwald offered the opportunity to do both. The first folks you will meet are the diocesan organizers. They are ambitious recruiters and, you will learn, they do a marvelous job providing the volunteers with a well-planned and very apprehensive as a rookie counselor. I know how to fish, but I don’t know anything about special needs campers. No worries. The organizers run a training session (two hours, in advance of the camp) that will explain the special needs and how the program, staff and counselors can meet those needs. You will quickly learn that there is a well-designed staff that includes medical professionals and long-term counselors who can answer any question you may have. More to the point, the organizers, staff and long-term counselors are some of the nicest, most patient, supportive people you will meet. Note: You must get your background clearances. Camper safety comes first.

Camp Kirchenwald and its staff take care of all the routine camp duties, shelter, food, pool and the like. The sleeping arrangements for women are decent, for the guys, it is a bit more primitive. The food will get you by. All the activities are planned. You arrive to a whirlwind of activity, and it doesn’t really stop for the week.

You will meet the campers. Kirchenwald is an adult camp for those in low 20s to 65ish. About 60 percent are 40 percent are adults. Most of the campers have been attending for years, so it’s like a homecoming for them. For me, even after the training, I still did not know what to expect from a special needs camper in a one-on-one situation. I was apprehensive, but for no reason. I found the campers to be fun, funny, smart, unique, self-confident, wonderful people. I began to finally understand why one would dedicate a career to helping other humans. That sense is really the pay-off to the volunteer counselor.

Two counselors are assigned to a group of about five campers. If you are a rookie counselor, you will likely be assigned to an “easy” group. There are no real “hard” groups. Campers can dress and maintain themselves, for the most part. It’s just that some of the campers require a lot of patience from the counselors. Mostly you provide direction and some focus to the activity at hand.

I believe that true happiness comes from doing for others. If you are or could be, then specialist counselors at Kirchenwald, do it. I bet that you are not sorry, and I guarantee that you won’t forget it!

See you there!

Bernard Clarke is a member of St. Peter Parish in Elizabethstown.

Keep Calm and Camp On at Kirchenwald!

The Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald, a camp for adults with intellectual disabilities, is seeking volunteers who would be willing to assist its residential camp during the week of August 14-19, 2016. The camp takes place in Lebanon County and serves the needs of approximately 50 adults each year. Anyone 16 and older is welcome to volunteer. Volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearances process and attend training prior to helping at camp. For more information, please contact Ginny Duncan at 717-657-4084 ext. 322 or vduncan@hbgdiocese.org.

Would you like to sponsor a campership for a person with a disability who might not otherwise be able to afford camp? The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking donations to defray the cost for campers. A full week of camp costs $550, but donations in any amount will be welcomed. They can be sent to the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Parish Festivals

(See a listing of parish festivals also at www.hbgdiocese.org. Parish festival information can be submitted via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org for publication.)

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown will host its 14th annual community picnic on July 7, 8 and 9 from 6-10 p.m. Fried chicken, smoked barbecue, pulled pork, and more will be served. Come join us to enjoy a family picnic where there will be games, contests, music and much more! The proceeds from this event will go to support the 2017 Holy Land Pilgrimage. The festival runs Friday from 6-10 p.m., Saturday from 5-10 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, please contact St. Ignatius Loyola Church at 717-877-8012.

The Annual Family Picnic of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Stiltewart (near Ideal Park) will be held on the church grounds from Friday, August 5 from 6-11 p.m. and Saturday, August 6 from 6-11 p.m. Two popular bands will play throughout the picnic: “Kartune” (classic rock band), Friday evening. “The ‘60’s Boys” (with some former Mudflap members), Saturday evening. There will be delicious food, fun and music and dancing. Come early and stay late.

Join us for our Annual Buchanan Valley Picnic, on Saturday, August 27 from noon until dusk, rain or shine. Homecooked Family-Style Ham and Chicken dinners will be served at half price. $10 for adults, $5 for children ages 6 to 12, and ages 5 and under are free. To be held at the picnic grove at the St. Ignatius Loyola Church at 1085 Church Road, Ortanna, the picnic has been a tradition for over 175 years. Nestled in the quaint and beautiful hills of Buchanan Valley, historically known for the capture of Mary Jemison in 1758 by the Shawnee. It is an old-fashioned picnic with games for the children, bingos, music, and good food. For more information, contact St. Ignatius Loyola Church at 717-877-8012.

St. Patrick Parish, Trevorton, will hold its 19th annual summer festival on Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. nightly. Free live music, delicious ethnic foods, variety of games for young & not so young, basket tent, cake and treats raffle, money raffles and of course lots of fun and friendship.

Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cornwell summer festival will run July 7 through July 9 from 5:30-10 p.m. Dance starts at 7 p.m. on all 3 days. A new feature of the Sacred Heart of Jesus festival which includes the Friday night and Saturday is Southern-Style Pork Dinner. The Bands are Thursday, July 7 Quick Draw, Friday, July 8 Bryan Stevenson and Red Beard Soul, and Saturday, July 9, Gabrialth, Broddy and Friends. The festival includes a Beer Garden, fum call, corn hole tournaments, kids games, a 50/50 raffle and a kid’s section open until 10 p.m.

The Serra Club of Lancaster will host its annual picnic dinner for priests and religious of the diocese on Saturday, August 4 at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia.

There will be an Italian theme for this year’s event.

Come and party Slavic Style at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church’s annual Slavic Fest on Sunday, July 17th from noon until 9 p.m. Many great homemade Eastern European foods to eat in or take out. Dance to The Polka WHOODO and The Polka Quads. Take a Church tour. See world class iconography, chanting & singing demonstrations, Shop in the Eastern European Market, Play games for young and old. Win at the Hugg Kettle, basket and cash raffles. Free admission and parking. Call 717-652-1415 or visit www.stannbyz.org. No one leaves hungry!

Basilica of Sacred Heart will host a good old fashioned Church Picnic, Saturday July 16 from 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Conewago Picnic Woods, 3113 Centennial Rd. Hanover. Basilica of Sacred Heart Basilica has one of the longest running Picnics in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Chicken Corn Soup is made in kettle over a fire, there will be a Bake sale, the family style Chicken dinner begins at 3:00 p.m. Live entertainment, games, raffles, Bingo and much more! Stop by and enjoy a day filled with food, fun and entertainment!

The annual St. Benedict the Abbot Summer Festival will be held August 5, 6 and 7. The fun begins Friday, July 8 from 5-10 p.m. and continues on Saturday from 5-10 p.m. and Sunday from 7-10 p.m. entertainment by “Cheyenne.” Saturday 7-10 p.m. entertainment by “Burning House” and on Sunday from 3:30-5 p.m. entertainment by DJ Featuring Spanish tunes followed from 5-9 p.m. by Gabrailth, Broddy and Friends. Enjoy bingo, basket raffle, kider komes games, inflatables, beer tent and much more. Come out for the hot dogs, burgers, fries, pierogi, halushki, tacos, and Saturday is Southern-Style Pork Dinner. The Bands are Thursday, July 7 Quick Draw, Friday, July 8 Bryan Stevenson and Red Beard Soul, and Saturday, July 9, Gabrialth, Broddy and Friends.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbottstown will hold its annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, July 31, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Prince of Peace Parish in Shetelon will hold its annual church picnic Sunday, July 10, from noon until 8 p.m. at Clrott Park, Penn and Center Streets in Bresluer. Delicious food including roasted lamb and more will be available plus a small craft fair, wine, beer and soda and much more. Everyone is welcome to come to this fun event.

The annual St. Joseph Parish in Berwick will host its Italian Festival August 5, 6 and 7 on the church grounds. Hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. Sunday. Porkette, fireballs, meatball, sausage, halushki, chicken parmeasen, eggplant parmasean, potato pancakes, chicken fingers, French fries, hamburgers, hotdogs, free soft drinks and ice cream. There will be a pasta dinner on Sunday and an adult beverage pavilion. Entertainment by the Shoreline on Saturday, Legends on Polka Punch on Sunday, as well as a money raffle, lots of games, bingo and more.

Holy Redeemer Parish in Kulm will host its parish picnic Friday, August 5 from 5 p.m. midnight, Saturday, August 6, from 4 p.m. - midnight. Fantastic menu, games, basket bonanza, bake sale and a yard sale. Entertainment by Keystone Killers Stamakers on Friday from 6-7 p.m., and Richie Molinaro on Lou from Friday from 7-11 p.m. The Shoreline entertain on Saturday from 7-11 p.m. Fireworks display Saturday at 10 p.m. $3,000 in cash prizes.

Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Berwick will hold its annual picnic July 10 from 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. There will be a Cruise-in antique hot rod and custom car show, and music by The Shoreline- ers. Foods include halupki, potato pancakes, pierogi, halushki, hot sausage with peppers and onions, fireballs, pizza, French Fries, hotdogs, potkkee, Hispanic food, beer, soda and water.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their families. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ABBOTTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: John Anderson.

BERWICK – Immaculate Conception CVM: Crucita Andrades, Rose Bush, Jean Gudyash.

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columba: Joseph McGinley.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Bea Berube, Joseph J. Mack, Mary Kate Murray, Mary Ann Pignatella.


HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Martha Pringleis, Pauline Zur, St. Francis of Assisi: Jeannie Arias, Lisa Rodriguez, Khahn Tran.


LEBANON – Assumption BVM: John Gredensky, Joseph Marciniak.

LITTLESTOWN – St. Aloysius: Alexander Keeney, Jr.

MCSHERYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: Martha Sunbury.

MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Pau Salazar.

MILLSERVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Clyde Neal, Ann Pellenigrin.

MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: John J. Dascani.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist.

NEW HOLLAND – Our Lady of Lourdes: Therese Androwsie, Irene Hutton, James Riale.

ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Cecilia Cantion.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Ambrose Dascani, Dorothy Dek, John Magaska, Sara Thompson.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Carol L. Woerner.

SUNBURY – St. Monica: Mary B. Young.

WANESSBOE – St. Andrew: Lena Hahn.

YORK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Gerald Smith, Janet Zutell; St. Joseph: Giovanni John Argento, Maureen Quinn Chambers, Rosalyn Kuniega, Patrick: Ronald Cohen; St. Rose of Lima: Abe Salinger, Margaret Eek.

Sister Margaret Moore
St. Joseph Sister: Margaret Moore, known earlier in religious life as Sister James Letitia, died at St. Joseph Villa in Flourtown on June 11. She was 77.
Born in St. Clair, Pa., she was a graduate of Nativity BVM High School in Pottsville and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1958. Sister Margaret spent most of her religious life serving in the Diocese of Harrisburg, including 38 years at Parish School for Boys in Abbottstown, where she was a health care aide. She also served as a Eucharistic Minister in Minersville, visiting the sick in St. Clair.
Sister Margaret suffered from recurring bouts of cancer, and was a resident at the Villa in Flourtown for just one year. The funeral Mass was celebrated on June 16.

Sister Theresa Mary Mich
Franciscan Sister: Theresa Mary Mich died in Assisi House in Aston, Pa., on June 8. She was 90.
Born Theresa Catalda Mich in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis there in 1948. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Villanova University and a master’s in Theology from St. Charles Seminary. During her decade of ministry in the Diocese of Harrisburg, Sister Theresa Mary taught at St. Joseph School in Dallastown and St. Joseph School in Lancaster. She also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 43 years and in the Diocese of Trenton for 11 years.
Sister Theresa Mary retired from teaching in 2001 and moved to Our Lady of Angels Convent in Aston. In 2010, she moved to Assisi House, the congregation’s retirement residence.
Sister Theresa Mary was predeceased in death by her sister, Sister Rita Mary Mich.

The funeral Mass was celebrated June 14 in Assisi House. Burial was in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.

Sister Celeste Marie Kenny
St. Cyril and Methodius: Sister Celeste Marie Kenny died June 3 at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. She was 85.
Born Helen Louise Kenny in Charleston, S.C., she attended schools in the town, and went on to earn a bach- elor’s degree from Marywood University in Scranton, Pa. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius in Danville in 1954.
During her years in education ministry, Sister Celeste Marie served in parochial schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg (in Berwick and Danville), as well as in schools in Connecticut, Iowa, New York and South Carolina. She served as a local coordinator, principal, assistant to the principal and administrative assistant. From 1998-2001, she was administrator at Maria Hall in Danville. She moved to Maria Hall in Danville in 2005.
The funeral Mass was celebrated June 8 in Maria Hall.

Sister Elsa Vazquez
Franciscan Sister: Elsa Vazquez, formerly Sister Maria Angelica, died in Assisi House in Aston, Pa., on June 23. She was 82.
Born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1953. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Neumann University.
During her years in ministry, she taught at St. Joseph School in Lancaster, as well as in the Diocese of Allen- town, and in Delaware. In her native Puerto Rico, Sister Elsa served in religious education, school administration, adult education, ministry to people with AIDS and prison ministry.
In 2006, Sister Elsa moved to Our Lady of Angels Convent and volunteered at Assisi House, before moving there in 2010.
The funeral Mass was celebrated June 27 in Assisi House. Burial was in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston.

Scout’s Lead of Handicap Ramp Construction Earns Him Rank of Eagle
Alex R. Spangler, 16, of Boy Scout Troop 192 of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout after the successful completion of his Eagle Scap ramp that he is building for a gentleman in New Cumberland. The man’s wife had come to St. Theresa’s Church for help and asked the troop if they could help. As the wife was having trouble getting her husband out of the house in case of an emergency, the troop set to work.
Alex had to plan, by having plans drawn up, submitting for permits and securing funding from various businesses to pay for the project. He then enlisted the help of family, friends, Scouts and other organizations such as the Knights of Columbus to help him construct the ramp over a two-day weekend.
In addition, Alex also created a walkway from the steps around the side of the house from the end of the ramp to help make the wheelchair easy to move. The homeowners are very thankful for the ramp, as they use often.

York Catholic Announces New Dean of Student Affairs and Athletic Director
Kevin Bankos has been named the new Dean of Student Affairs and Athletic Director at York Catho- lic High School.
In addition to more than 30 years of coaching experience within the PIAA, Diocese of Harrisburg, Recreation, and AAU circles of York County, Bankos brings almost 30 years of management experience with him, having worked most recently as the Presi- dent of Ballyhoos Academy. Prior to his time with Ballyhoos, he spent 20 years as a manager in the manufacturing industry, serving as lead plant man- ager of a well known national organization where he supervised over 200 employees daily.
York Catholic Principal, Katie Seufert, said in addition to his managerial and coaching experience, the characteristics Bankos possesses are a blueprint for a successful candidate for the position. “The commonality in Kevin’s work is leading by example, positively motivating, and respecting organizational culture. We look forward to having him on board in this expanded role among the YC family,” said Bankos.
Bankos’ responsibilities as Dean of Student Affairs include administering policy and overseeing extra- curricular and student activities. As Athletic Director, he will work alongside Emeritus Athletic Director, Rick Luckman, as Luckman transitions to retirement. Bankos will oversee 44 teams at York Catholic, man- age the scheduling and budgeting within the department, and guide the coaching staff. He will also retain his position as the Girls’ Basketball Coach. Bankos will begin his new duties the week of July 11.
Spiritual Offerings

Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated July 17 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. Confessions are heard July 21 after 6 p.m. Mass.

Recitation of the Rosary for Marriage will take place Saturday, July 23 in the square of Middletown at noon. Any questions, or for carpooling information, contact Jeanine Mesarick at jmesarick@gmail.com or call 717-433-7384, and thank you for your support of our ministry.

Pilgrimage and Retreats

St. Joseph’s Women’s Club is sponsoring a trip to Canterbury in England on Oct. 17-23, 2016. All interested women ages 18 and over are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Mary Anne Simko at 717-396-0635 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. or 717-572-6025 or email maryann137@gmail.com.

The annual novena in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held from July 10 through 17 at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Augustus from 6-4. The novena consists of the Rosary and special novena prayers. It lasts about 30 minutes. It will be held each evening at 7 p.m. in Mary’s church, except on Saturday when it will follow the 5 p.m. Mass.

A Pro-Life Mass is celebrated on the first Saturday of every month at St. Patrick Church in New Cumberland. Mass is at 9 a.m. and includes a Holy Hour to pray for the conversion of hearts and for the protection of life. The group will meet at 8 a.m. for a rosary, and then gather for breakfast at the parish hall. In confirmation, all are asked to bring a picnic. For more information, call Clay Keefer at keeferjmj1@verizon.net.

St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women in Hershey will hold a rummage sale and tea market on August 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and August 6 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the school cafeteria. Located at 1725 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. There will be gift baskets, groceries, clothing, household items, jewelry, books, games, puzzles, toys, brake and manual items. There will be a table of Good Luck items for your loved ones. Items can be brought on Saturday and picked up on Sunday.

Monday Night at the Movies: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (2011), 3rd St. in Harrisburg. This will be introduced with the films of this pope who is now deceased. The program introduces the characteristics of hope, light, courage, love and sacrifice. The film is free, but a donation of $5 is welcomed. Refreshments are available for purchase. The film is followed by a discussion of the film. For more information, please call 717-452-6484. You can also contact John Wilk at 717-648-0677 or john.wilk@stlousa.org.

St. Joseph Parish in Hanover is offering a singles ministry, Singles Alive in Christ. The ministry will run twice-weekly beginning July 6 and continuing on July 22, 85, 819, etc. from 6:30-8 p.m. If you are a single adult age 30-50 whether married, divorced or widowed, you are invited to join. Singles Alive in Christ provides companionship on a social and spiritual level. It is a faith filled group of men and women who want to build our relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ from a biblical and sacramental perspective. Our hope is to bring together singles from like minds and provide us with a resource to follow-ship, faith, and mutual support. Please feel free to ask any questions to Tanja Swartz at 717-263-3674. For more information please call St. Joseph Catholic Church 5055 Grandview Road, Hanover, PA 17331.

Charismatic Conference on Mercy & Healing will be held on Saturday, Aug. 27 at 9 a.m. at Valley Green Golf Club in Landisville with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The Rosary and special novena prayers. For more information, call 717-692-5420 or email info@hersheyrosary.org.

The Bishop McDevitt Class of 1986 will be holding its 30th Class Reunion the weekend of October 21 and 22, 2016. For more information, call 717-814-2717 or email terry@Schuyler.rr.com. The Bishop McDevitt Class of 1986 will be holding its 30th Class Reunion the weekend of October 21 and 22, 2016. For more information, call 717-814-2717 or email terry@Schuyler.rr.com.
CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS


"Integrity is the struggle to be just one person rather than two or three. Integrity makes a person a unity rather than a duplicit. Integrity is genuine wholeness of life. It is no accident that our English word 'wholeness' is so closely related to the word 'holiness.' Authentic holiness is to live as one person – to be a unity in our relationship with God and our relationships with all others. It is for this integrity, this holiness, that we honor our patron, St. Thomas More, and his fellow martyr Bishop John Fisher today on their feast."

~ Bishop Ronald Gainer

Homily for the Feast of St. Thomas More

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

From May through October of 1917, the Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, on the 13th day of each month. The message she gave to Lucia dos Santos, age 10, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, ages eight and seven, is now known as the Peace Plan from Heaven:

"...God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

Upon the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is on a nationwide tour, calling for prayer and penance for peace in our nation and conversion of heart.

The churches and monasteries offered various services and opportunities for the faithful to gaze upon the luminous statue, accompanied by a sign inscribed with the message, “Do not touch her; she will touch you.”

The celebration of Holy Mass, processions, recitation of the Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and presentations of the Fatima message offered by the statue’s custodian accompanied veneration of Pilgrim Virgin Statue.

The goal of the Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace is to allow Our Lady of Fatima to claim her dominion over America through her Immaculate Heart, and to bring the urgent Message of Fatima – the Peace Plan from Heaven – to a world in need. It also encourages devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which was the mission given to Lucia, the seer at Fatima, by Our Lady and Our Lord. Jesus relayed to Sister Lucia in 1936 that he wished to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart in the Church next to His Sacred Heart, and that He had placed the peace in the world in her Immaculate Heart.

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima was sculpted in 1947 by José Thedim upon the precise instructions of Sister Lucia. On October 13, 1947, the statue was blessed by the Bishop of Fatima and commissioned to serve as the Pilgrim Virgin that would carry the blessings of Fatima throughout the world.

Additional information about the Pilgrim Virgin Statue and the message of Fatima can be found at www.fatimatourforpeace.com.

‘Model of Integrity’

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