Parishioners Heartened to Share the Good News

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Returning to the Diocese of Harrisburg to celebrate the Rite of Dedication of the new Holy Infant Church, where he had served as pastor for 11 years before his ordination and installation as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg last July, Bishop Edward Malesic told the joyful congregation gathered for the solemn and rich Mass that family is what makes a building a home.

“It truly is great to be back with all of you and to see so many familiar faces,” he told the several hundred parishioners during the magnificent occasion. “You have all worked so hard, and it is now right and good to dedicate this church to God. It is the fruit of your labor and a result of God’s blessing…. Today, I would want to be nowhere else.”

The dedication, celebrated on a sunny June 19, began on the church’s grounds along Conewago Creek Road in Manchester, York County, as Bishop Malesic, Bishop Ronald Gainer, Father Mark Weiss, other clergy members and the choir led the congregation in procession and song to the church doors. Bishop Malesic handed the church keys to Father Weiss, who led an expectant congregation into the spacious and sun-lit church.

An overflow crowd took seats in the spacious narthex, colored by the hues of light shining through the stained-glass window of the Ascension, a piece obtained from a closed church in the Diocese of Allentown. The parish’s statue of the Infant of Prague enjoys a prominent space along the glass doors that lead into the church.

Inside the church, parishioners filled the spacious pews that seat up to 310 worshipers, and were welcomed by familiar pieces from the former church several miles away in York Haven, including the crucifix and altar, and statues of Mary and the Infant Jesus, St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary from the Saginaw chapel, where Holy Infant traces its roots.

Bishop Malesic then processed through the church and narthex, sprinkling the church and the congregation with holy water.
**Giving All to God**

Growth of Carmelite Community Prompts Groundbreaking in Fairfield for New Monastery

Shielded by the habit of their foundress St. Teresa of Avila, six Discalced Carmelite nuns trampled a plot of farmland in Fairfield, looking across the vista above southern Adams County and pondered what the future will bring for the verdant grounds.

Here, just a stone’s throw from Immaculate Conception Church, the Carmelite community – enclosed in the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg since 2009 – rejoiced in a ceremony June 13 to break ground for a new Carmel.

When the community arrived in the diocese seven years ago, 11 nuns had come to the monastery in Elysburg because they had more numbers than their Carmel in Lincoln, Neb., could accommodate.

Since that time, their numbers have more than doubled in Elysburg, with 24 in the monastery there; ten solemnly professed, 12 novices and two postulants.

Six of the solemnly professed nuns – including Mother Stella-Marie, prioress – normally hidden from the world, stood before a crowd of clergy and supporters for the groundbreaking, chanting Psalms and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Latin during the ceremony.

“Clearly, the Lord is smiling and shining on our gathering this Monday morning, as we ask God’s blessing now and always on this land, on the building we pray soon to be begun and completed, and on the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph who will be enclosed in the proposed building here,” Bishop Gainer remarked to onlookers, many of them members of the Friends of Carmel.

“I thank God for the presence of the Carmelite community in our diocese, a true powerhouse of prayer,” he said. “It is absolutely impossible to even try to calculate the graces and the favors they have offered us, priests and lay people, each and every day that they have been here.”

“Now, here we find ourselves on this hill, where, please God, many, many years of prayer and sacrifice and loving relationship with the Beloved Master, Jesus, will happen in the lives of generations of Carmelite nuns in the future,” Bishop Waltersheid said.

Mother Stella-Marie joined Bishop Gainer and Bishop Waltersheid in ceremonially piercing shovels into the ground, land owned and donated by a benefactor.

The Discalced Carmelites are one of three contemplative communities in the Diocese of Harrisburg, the others being the Carmelites in Danville, who formerly lived in the monastery in Elysburg, and the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary in Lancaster.

At the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the nuns give themselves totally to God. Their days are scheduled to prayer, mortification and sacrifice.

When members of the general public are welcome to attend Mass in the monastery chapel, the nuns are hidden from view behind a full metal grille. Visits from family members are limited, and take place in a "speakroom."

“They work behind cloistered walls. They go away; going away not to get away, but to immerse even more deeply into the pain and the suffering and the evil of the time,” said Father John Szada, chaplain to the community. “By closing off the world, they are able to see it much more clearly, much more deeply, and understand it more in depth. It is to that that they dedicate their lives to prayer, mortification and sacrifice.”

**Offer Your Assistance to Carmel**

“Friends of Carmel JMJ” is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg. To learn how you can donate financially to the new monastery, volunteer your services to the nuns, or make a prayer request, contact: Friends of Carmel JMJ 508-367-3201 www.FriendsofCarmelJMJ.org

Clergy gather for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Fairfield June 13. From left are Father John Szada, chaplain of the Discalced Carmelite nuns; Msgr. Timothy Thorburn, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, from where the nuns in the Elysburg monastery came in 2009; Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid of Pittsburgh, former Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Harrisburg; and Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

A blue sky blankets farmland in Fairfield, as six Discalced Carmelite nuns from the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg turn towards a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Carmel to accommodate their rising numbers. The nuns are prohibited from being identified in photographs.

Carmelite community in our diocese, members of the Friends of Carmel.” It is absolutely impossible to even try to calculate the graces and the favors the Carmelite community – enclosed in the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg and was instrumental in joining then-Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in bringing the Discalced Carmelites to Elysburg.

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Three bishops, pictured from left, the Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, the Rev. James S. Dunlop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod (ELCA) and the Rev. Robert L. Driesen of the Upper Susquehanna Synod (ELCA), sign a pastoral letter June 7 calling on Roman Catholic and Lutheran clergy and laity to explore the joint statement Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist "in their preaching, teaching, and parish planning."

For local Catholic and Lutheran clergy to gather regularly for common prayer and study.

For local Catholic and Lutheran religious educators to develop together materials that inform their students about the most important aspects of our communities.

For Catholics and Lutherans to work together to care for those with spiritual, emotional and physical needs in their community.

The Declaration further addresses 15 topics of dialogue about which there are varying degrees of doctrinal difference, sketching some possible ways forward. With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on the horizon in 2017, Declaration on the Way affirms how far Lutherans and Catholics have come toward visible Christian unity and offers encouragement to continue in faith and hope "on the way" to healing differences and to a growing partnership in witness, service, and fellowship. The Declaration reminds that the starting point is a common faith, a shared Creed, and a deeply held desire for unity in the spirit of Jesus’ prayer “That all may be one” (John 17:21).

The bishops’ pastoral letter sets an encouraging tone for education and continued dialogue. “As Lutherans and Catholics continue to walk the way toward communion, we hope that the mighty works of the Lord will be proclaimed by our charity toward one another, which is at the heart of the Gospel of Mercy,” the letter states.


World Youth Day Stateside Update

The planned diocesan celebration of World Youth Day-Stateside for July 30–31 has been canceled. The first of its kind event for the diocese scheduled to be held in Lancaster would have offered a local version of the experience had by those World Youth Day pilgrims traveling to Krakow, Poland. The diocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Poland is not affected by this decision. Low registration was cited as the reason for the cancelation of the stateside event. Refunds will be provided. Questions can be directed to 717-657-4804, ext. 321.
Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist
Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Instruct the Ignorant

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

June 24, 2016

Some time ago, I was invited to attend an opening of an art show in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The show consisted of pieces from the Sieneuse School of Art. This “school” flourished in Siena, Italy, during the 13th to the 15th centuries and focused on miraculous events, which are represented within the Catholic Church. Many of the pieces in the show were never seen within the United States. Several of them only knew from seeing pictures. So, I was very excited to see them first-hand.

Upon entrance to the museum, I was surprised to see such a great number of individuals. I soon became aware that many of those present were not Catholic, nor were they aware of the religious teachings represented within the pieces. As I gazed on The Creation of the World and the Expulsion from Paradise, I was very excited to see them first-hand. The trick is, share it! The trick is, look within the painting of your life and ask questions about art history as well as theology. For me, it was an amazing moment of evangelization about teachings of the Catholic Church found within art! Most of what I shared with my inexperienced “class” left them awed in the ability of these unknown artists to graphically express their faith in ways that still had meaning.

I could not help thinking of this as I began writing about the spiritual work of mercy, Instruct the Ignorant.

Most people think official “instruction” of the Church is left to the bishops, priests and deacons as well as the sisters. Yes, it is true that the pope and the bishops compose theologians: the official teachers of the Catholic Church, while the ordained clergy, the priests and deacons, assist the bishop in his teaching. All of the faithful are called by God to teach, “to instruct the ignorant.” Let me explain.

At first glance, to call someone “ignorant” might seem offensive to that individual. Look at it this way. The “ignorant” are individuals that are inexperienced or unaware of something. When you “spoon” instructing the ignorant in this manner, it seems a bit more reasonable—at least to me.

This type of teaching requires the simple sharing of an individual faith story. How did you come to believe in Jesus and why do you continue belief? Do you pray? Do you read the Bible? Do you sin? Do you experience God’s joy of what Jesus has done in one’s life. It can be boiled down to, “How have you seen divine love incarnated within your story?” Think about that for a moment.

Remember the moment you said, “Yes!” to a marriage proposal. Or, the moment in which you said, “I do!” Or, the moment in which you held your child for the first time and thought about her/his complete dependence upon you. Or, the moment in which you publicly proclaimed, “I vow to Almighty God…”

This notion about how many degrees you possess or how much philosophy you have is about an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus that you do have. It’s about the wisdom of the Church and the faith that you live every day. It’s about the gifts that you have and the personality that you were born with being used as a modern-day instrument for God’s amazing love!

The trick is, share it! The trick is, look within the painting of your life and see the strokes of grace within it! http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/images/h/h/1975_1.31.jpg (Sister of Christian Charity, Evelyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocese. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

St. Joseph: Model for Husbands and Fathers

By Jim Gontis

Special to The Witness

June 24, 2016

Have you ever been watching or reading the news and wondered or said aloud, “What is going on in the world?” What used to be recognized as absurd has become the new normal. St. Thomas More, patron saint of statesmen and politicians, and an outstanding husband and father said, “The times are never so bad but that a good man can live in them.” But he did not say that all times and places are equal.

There is a crisis in the family and a crisis of fatherhood. This is not breaking news. As the family goes, so goes society. The renewal of authentic fatherhood is crucial to the renewal of the family, which, in turn, is key to the renewal of the culture, the Church, and the world.

I have been blessed with a good father and mother, for which I am grateful to God. They took care of us, sacrificed, raised us in the faith, and were strong in natural virtues. I realize not everyone is so fortunate. But God the Father is the perfect Father and model for all fatherhood. St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus, is an icon of God and the Father.

Years ago, a priest-friend of mine, Father Frederick Miller, suggested I pray the Litany of St. Joseph for various intentions that I mentioned to him, especially for my family intentions. I have been praying this prayer several times. While it is possible for me in this article to cover all titles and attributes of Joseph mentioned in the litany, I would like to focus on a few. The litany can serve both as a prayer asking Joseph’s intercession and as a kind of examination of conscience for us husbands and fathers. Here we go.

* St. Joseph, Zealous Defender of Christ, pray for us!

Do I love Christ and his Church? Do I live a sacramental life? Do I make sure that my kids also go every week to Mass? Do I realize that Jesus founded the Catholic Church? While Jesus and his Church are inseparable both now and for eternity? Am I a defender of Christ and his Church or, like Saul before his conversion, do I persecute Christ’s holy, Catholic Church?

* St. Joseph, help me be a holy family and to love Jesus and His Church and to be good witnesses to the faith in word and deed.

* St. Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us!

I am certainly not the spouse of Mary. Neither are you. But we should be devoted children of hers. Do I practice devotion to Mary and reach my children to do? Do I pray my Rosary? Do I pray it with my wife and kids?

* St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us!

Am I a loving, self-sacrificing servant of my wife and children? Do I lead by example, or sometimes (or often) expect more from my wife and kids than I do of myself?

* St. Joseph, help me to be consistent in loving and self-sacrificial service to my wife and children.

* St. Joseph, Most Chaste, Guardian of Virgins, Mainstay of Families, pray for us!

Do I practice modesty in language and dress? Am I chaste in my actions and seek to form my children in the virtue of chastity? Do I avoid all forms of pornography and monitor what my children view and hear via computer, television, movies, and music? If I won’t let my 12-year-old watch or listen to something, should I be watching it? Do I protect my wife and reverence she deserves as a beloved daughter of the Father? Do I realize that to do so is one of the greatest gifts I can give my children? Concerning the marital embrace, are my wife and I open in each instance to the possibility of children, or do we contracept? Am I faithful? Am I ego-driven or narcissistic, or am I seeking after humility and obedience to the will of God?

“St. Joseph, Jesus taught that unless we become like little children in innocence, we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Help me to be chaste in what I look at, in my speech, and in my actions. Help me to honor my wife and protect the innocence of my children. Help me be dependable, present, and consistent.”

* St. Joseph, Mirror of Patience, pray for us!

Patience involves suffering, financing, and a heart filled with love. At Simon’s words to Mary at the Presentation, in the flight into Egypt to avoid Herod’s wrath, when he and Mary lost Jesus at the Jerusalem Temple for three days, and certainly many other times, too. But we do not hear Him complain. In fact, we never hear Him utter a single word in the Bible. Joseph was the just and patient man. He, like Mary, must have pondered many things in his heart.

“St. Joseph, when I experience difficult times with family, at work, and in sufferings and trials of every kind, help me be patient and gentle.”

* St. Joseph, Lover of Poverty and Model of Workmen, pray for us!

Joseph was a diligent craftsman in his carpentry shop, providing for his family. He did so in a spirit of simplicity. Am I a hard worker, seeking to provide for my family, all the while striving to be the best man I can be? Can I be better than others because of wealth or position? On the other hand, am I envious of the wealth or position of others?

“St. Joseph, have me to truly keep my family first, while at the same time being diligent at work. Help me provide for my family without being either haughty or envious.”

To All Fathers, I wish you a happy belated Father’s Day. May St. Joseph pray for us. (Jim Gontis is the Director of the Diocesan Department of Religious Education.)
The Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee hosted a hearing the week of June 13 regarding the legality and constitutionality of House Bill 1947. The measure, passed the Pennsylvania House of Represen-tatives in March by a large margin, criminal statute of limitations (SoL) for childhood sexual abuse and raise the civil SoL from age 30 to 50 moving forward. It also retroactively opens the civil SoL from survivor’s age 30 to age 50.

Experts on Pennsylvania’s constitution presented their opinions to Judiciary Committee members with a particular focus on the retroactive provision of the bill. “The purpose of today’s hearing is not to hear about those facts [that child abuse occurred]” emphasized committee member Jeremy Miller (R-Cortland, Lebanon) during a videoconference. “These matters are highly complex and I expect that this committee will require ample time to carefully consider today’s testimony and weigh each side.”

A video of the hearing and links to the testimony are available on Sen. Greenleaf’s website, http://www.senatorgreenleaf.com/audiovideo.

Bruce Castor, Solicitor General in the Office of Attorney General, argued “the retroactivity provisions of House Bill 1947 would violate the Remedies Clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution.” He explained that he reviewed the opinions of various legal scholars on both sides of the question in reaching this conclusion. Should the bill become law and face a court challenge on the issue, the Office of Attorney General would be charged with defending the question of constitutionality on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Almost all of the testifiers agreed with Castor, citing many of the same Pennsylvania court cases. Bruce Antkowiak, Professor of Law at Saint Vincent College, concluded, “Unless the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania abandons a line of precedent reaching back to a time before the Civil War,” the sections that revive time-barred claims will fall under constitutional challenge.

“My conclusion is that over 150 years of Pennsylvania law is consistent and unequivocal on this point: reviving a civil claim for which the statute of limitations has run impermissibly interferes with a vested right of citizens and violates the Remedies Clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution,” said attorney Gary Silverman. He further noted that the Pennsylvania Constitution in Article I, Section 11, contains a provision known as the Remedies Clause. The provision does not permit the General Assembly to eliminate certain fixed rights, including the right to bring an accrued claim or the right to assert an established defense.

Silverman, a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP law firm and an adjunct professor at Temple University Law School, was asked by the Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference to closely examine the issue. Marci Hamilton, a strong proponent of retroactive revivals of civil statutes of limitation, disagreed. She testified that in her opinion, statutes of limitation are procedural and not substantive and therefore would be considered by the courts to be constitutional. Hamilton is also a plaintiff’s attorney who has represented many sexual abuse victims in cases against the Catholic Church around the country and here in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

Op-Ed

Removing the Statute of Limitations Would Have a Devastating Effect in Pennsylvania

By Stephen E. Jenkins Special to The Witness

Pennsylvania House Bill 1947, which has now been sent to the Pennsylvania Senate, would largely eliminate the statute of limitations relating to allegations of child sexual abuse by private parties. Among other things, it would allow civil claims for abuse to be brought at any time until a victim is 50 years old. In addition, some—but not most—victims will be allowed to bring civil claims for abuse that already happened.

Many politicians and plaintiffs’ lawyers say that this represents long-needed “reform” and “justice.” I have a very different perspective. I was the volunteer attorney for a majority of Catholic institutions in Delaware after a similar bill was passed, and similarly celebrated for the “justice” it would bring. Far from justice and reform, I saw the devastation it caused and the unfairness it created.

Supporters of HB 1947 claim in media reports that not one school, church or charitable activity has been closed down in states that have passed of similar legislation. That claim is wrong.

In Delaware, for example, one excellent inner-city school, Saint Paul’s, which served a primarily Hispanic population, was forced to shutter its doors because the money it needed to operate went instead to settle the lawsuits. Another school, Pope John Paul II, closed only months after the settlement because it had a sudden financial emergency and the money for such emergencies had been taken for the settlement. At least one other school suffered a similar fate.

Nor did the cuts end there. Ten percent of the diocesan employees were laid off, and Catholic Charities, Catholic Cemeteries and many parishes were required to chip in millions of their badly needed dollars to settle the cases. These payments reduced the ability of all of them to carry out their ministries.

And where did the money come from? Not from the abusers or wrongdoers who didn’t pay anything. Instead, every dime originally came from members of the Church who donated it to help the Church carry out its ministries. In the end probably almost half of the amount paid in settlement went to lawyers and legal costs.

To make matters worse, the Delaware bill was discriminatory. It allowed suits against private institutions and churches by victims but prevented most victims of government employees from suing for past abuse. HB 1947 does the same thing. It does not permit victims of government employees to sue for past sexual abuse. It also requires a victim of future sexual abuse to prove that a state institution was “grossly negligent,” a much higher standard than private institutions.

Why this double standard? Why are victims of sexual abuse in a public school any less deserving or important than private-school victims? If justice demands that private-school victims be given a chance to sue for past injuries what kind of justice is it that says that public-school victims have no such rights?

Why are victims of sexual abuse in a public school any less deserving or important than private-school victims? If justice demands that private-school victims be given a chance to sue for past injuries what kind of justice is it that says that public-school victims have no such rights?

Child sexual abuse is evil, and the abusers deserve to be punished for their terrible crimes. But HB 1947 isn’t going to punish a single abuser. Instead, it will almost certainly result in closed schools and reduced ministries, thus hurting the innocent—particularly children and the poor. Meanwhile victims who suffered precisely the same horrifying abuse in public schools will get nothing merely because the abuse was committed by a government employee.

How can anyone say that such a bill represents “reform,” much less justice? (Stephen E. Jenkins is a lawyer in Wilmington, Delaware.)

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline at:
1-800-334-7700.

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline at:
1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect

Contact Your Legislator

It is expected that the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider HB 1947 for a vote in the coming weeks. Visit www.pacatholic.org for more details about the Church’s serious concerns about this legislation and how to contact your state Senator through the Catholic Advocacy Network.
By Christine Young and Teresa Peterson

Catholic News Service

In Orlando and major cities around the nation and the world, people gathered June 13 to pray and grieve and to comfort the people injured in the shooting rampage in Orlando the previous day. About 700 people also gathered to pray for those killed and for peace in the world at St. James Cathedral, less than two miles up the street from where the shootings took place at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando.

The interfaith prayer service was led by Orlando Bishop John G. Noonan, who was joined on the altar by Imam Tariq Rashid, of the Islamic Center of Orlando; Bishop Greg Brewer, of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida; Deacon Michael Matheny, of St. Luke Episcopal Cathedral; Harry Pok, the Atlantic Institute-Central Florida; the Rev. Tom McConkey, of First United Methodist Church in Orlando; and the Revs. John Harris, Downtown Baptist Church, and the Rev. Robert Sposato, of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

“We come not as different religions but one in the Lord,” Bishop Noonan noted that he was familiar with violence in his home country of Ireland and stressed that people will only find peace when they recognize the dignity of all people as children of God.

The half-hour service — with readings about love and peace and songs echoing that message — was a somber one. The prayers were focused on peace, how God alone is lasting love and peace and songs echoing that message, and the glimmering light filled the church. The congregation exited quietly after singing “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

When he invited the local community to attend the service, Bishop Noonan said he hoped it would provide an opportunity for all to join one another in prayer that would “bring about an outpouring of the mercy of God within the heart of our community.”

He urged people to pray “for healing from this vicious assault on human life,” for comfort for the families of the victims and for a “true and honest version of heart for all who perpetrate acts of terror in our world.”

Natalia Gil, a 52-year-old parishioner of St. Isaac Jogues in Orlando, attended the prayer service with 10 others from her parish. “We’re all one big family. We’re here in the name of Jesus,” she told the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Orlando.

“We are serving in the background. We are the mortar that connects the bricks to help people put their lives back together,” she said. “We are serving in the background to help victims, survivors and family members in whatever way possible.”

Just hours after the shooting at a gay nightclub called the Pulse in Orlando that left 50 dead (including the gunman) and more than 50 wounded, six bilingual staffers from Catholic Charities arrived at the Hampton Inn in downtown Orlando, a meeting place for family and friends of the victims.

Deacon David Gray of the Diocese of Orlando was coordinating a pastoral response to the crisis and spread the word about the need for Spanish-speaking translators. The team of six didn’t think twice about going where they were needed.

Pamela Maldonado of Orlando was an accredited representative for Comprehensive Refugee Services at Catholic Charities of Central Florida. She was on the scene as families arrived to find out if their loved ones had survived or had been killed after the gunman opened fire at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Torres was on hand to help translate for Spanish speakers and offer support and consolation to victims’ families.

“I consider this my city and the city of my children. I feel the same sentiments. This is the time when the local community from different religions should come together and show to the world that no matter how much evil they do, they cannot break our unity or break our strength,” he said.

Maria Torres, an accredited representative for Comprehensive Refugee Services at Catholic Charities of Central Florida, attended the prayer service to help translate for Spanish speakers and offer support and consolation to victims’ families.

“Pope Francis joins the families of the victims as well as all of us who have someone in common with us,” the statement concluded.

“In the midst of tragedy, the Catholic Charities office has been working in the background to help victims, survivors and family members in whatever way possible. Just hours after the shooting at a gay nightclub called the Pulse in Orlando that left 50 dead (including the gunman) and more than 50 wounded, six bilingual staffers from Catholic Charities arrived at the Hampton Inn in downtown Orlando, a meeting place for family and friends of the victims.”

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“Nothing is permanent except love and peace and songs echoing that message, and the glimmering light filled the church. The congregation exited quietly after singing “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

When he invited the local community to attend the service, Bishop Noonan said he hoped it would provide an opportunity for all to join one another in prayer that would “bring about an outpouring of the mercy of God within the heart of our community.”

He urged people to pray “for healing from this vicious assault on human life,” for comfort for the families of the victims and for a “true and honest version of heart for all who perpetrate acts of terror in our world.”

Natalia Gil, a 52-year-old parishioner of St. Isaac Jogues in Orlando, attended the prayer service with 10 others from her parish. “We’re all one big family. We’re here in the name of Jesus,” she told the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Orlando.
A Legacy of Compassion and Charity in Leadership

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Christian Charity Sister Romaine Niemeyer peers out of the full-length window at the Holy Spirit Hospital Convent in Camp Hill, overlooking a courtyard verdant with spring’s unfolding beauty. Her retirement as Chief Administrative Officer of Holy Spirit–A Geisinger Affiliate is on the horizon, just as the morning sun that illuminates the stained-glass windows in the hospital chapel nearby.

“I’ve been blessed to be here all these years,” Sister Romaine reflects. She has given more than 46 years of ministry to the Catholic hospital – 25 as President and CEO of Holy Spirit Health System, and then as Chief Administrative Officer of Holy Spirit–A Geisinger Affiliate following the affiliation in 2014. Prior to that, she spent 20 years in senior administration under the direction of Christian Charity Sister Ursula Frei, the hospital’s first administrator.

Sister Romaine will retire on June 30 of this year.

“The heart of our mission is to touch people’s lives through wellness, healing, compassion and God’s unconditional love,” Sister Romaine said.

“I have loved the variety of working with our religious congregation, as well as the board, the medical staff who are the heroes caring for our patients,” she told The Catholic Witness, “Everybody who is a part of Holy Spirit Health System has gifts that they bring to the team. They are knowledgeable, creative and stay the course through change. They are beautiful people, attracted to the same values.”

“God Spoiled Me”

Sister Romaine, born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., felt the call to religious life even before she entered first grade.

“It was imprinted on my heart when I was a very young child,” she said.

She recalls childhood visits to the Blessed Sacrament when her grade school dismissed its students to go home for lunch, novenas for the safety of servicemen during World War II, and the honor of crowning a statue of the Blessed Mother as an eighth-grader.

“One of the Sisters of Mercy at my school told me during that ceremony, ‘Whatever you ask Our Lady, she will obtain for you.’ So I knelt in the middle aisle of the church and I said, ‘If it is God’s will that I become a religious, then that is what I ask.’”

She went on to St. Nicholas High School, where she was taught by the Sisters of Christian Charity, until the completion of her junior year, when the Niemeyer family moved to Rhode Island.

The April before her high school graduation in Rhode Island, Romaine’s aunt died, and so the family returned to Wilkes-Barre for the funeral and a visit. During the stay, Romaine stopped in to St. Nicholas High School to see her former classmates. The Sisters of Christian Charity she had known so well asked whether she was still considering a vocation to religious life.

She told them, “I’ve always felt that I wanted to, and if I don’t enter now, I’ll never be sure.”

The Sisters whisked her away that day. “They measured me for a postulant’s habit, and I wrote my letter to request entry,” she recalls. “I had never even seen Mendham,” the location of the congregation’s motherhouse in New Jersey. She entered the convent on Sept. 5, 1954.

“God spoiled me from the beginning of my life, especially with a family of faith,” Sister Romaine reflected, “and I always desired to give my life to Him.”

Carrying the Spirit

Sister Romaine spent the first ten years of her life as a religious teaching in grade schools, until she was contacted by her provincial, who asked her to attend St. Louis University in Missouri for a master’s degree in Hospital Administration.

When she arrived at Holy Spirit Hospital after graduation, Sister Romaine was under the tutelage of Sister Ursula Frei, the hospital’s first administrator, who had worked with Father Martin Lohmuller, (who would later become a bishop) to bring forth the hospital 53 years ago. Sister Ursula died in July of 2014.

“I loved her, and I still love her,” Sister Romaine said of her predecessor. “Even though she went to Heaven, I’m sure she is praying for us, because she was a beautiful model of integrating the business with our religious life.”

Above: Sister Romaine Niemeyer kneels in prayer following the reception of the Holy Eucharist during a special Mass at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on the occasion of her retirement from Holy Spirit Health System. “I thank the Church for the wonderful support of our mission in health care,” she said. “From day one with Father Lohmuller until now with Bishop Gainer, we have been blessed with a wonderful relationship with this diocese.”

Left: Bishop Ronald Gainer congratulates Sister Romaine Niemeyer on her retirement from Holy Spirit–A Geisinger Affiliate during a special Mass at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill June 5. “I want to express my gratitude and that of the Diocese of Harrisburg to Sister Romaine as she announces her plan to retire as CEO of Holy Spirit Hospital,” Bishop Gainer said. “Throughout her years of dedicated leadership to the hospital and its mission, she has vigorously and unfailingly guided Holy Spirit as a model institution of Catholic health care. I wish her every blessing during her time of transition.”
In his homily, he told stories of growing up in his childhood home in Enhaut, recounting those memories as a metaphor for the parish’s move into a new house of worship.

The house that his father and grandfather built, he said, “was a great home that met the needs of the time,” but times eventually changed as he grew up, moved away, and his parents moved to another home that better suited their needs.

“Every time I drive through Enhaut and I pass by the house I grew up in, I am sure to slow down. I remember years gone by, my mom playing the piano, the smell of sauerkraut, hitting my head on the ceiling that led to the second floor,” Bishop Malesic said. “But after I pass it by, I move on, because it is no longer my home. A house becomes a home only when there is a family inside of it. That’s when a building takes on its meaning.”

“The building has changed, but the family has not,” he said of the new Holy Infant Church. “Do the same things here that you have always done as a family of God. Keep on loving God here. Keep on loving each other here. Keep on telling the Good News to a world that needs to hear it, because the world needs this church as much as we do. Keep on serving those in need from here. This is not something to be kept to ourselves.”

“This place will be as much of a home as the last church was in York Haven. And when you drive by that church in York Haven, slow down and remember what happened there, as a testament and as a witness to all the good people that built it and sustained it,” Bishop Malesic told the congregation.

During the Rite of Dedication, the congregation chanted the Litany of the Saints, asking for their intercession. Bishop Malesic then deposited five relics into the altar: St. John Neumann, bishop of Philadelphia from 1852-1860 who ministered to people in the area that is now the Diocese of Harrisburg; Blessed Pope Paul VI, pope from 1963-1978 and instrumental in overseeing the reforms of the Second Vatican Council; St. Louis Guanella, Italian priest at the turn of the 20th century who founded a number of religious institutes focusing on the poor; St. Victoria, martyred in 304 for refusing to sacrifice to pagan Gods; and St. Laura of Cordoba, martyred in 864 as a Spanish Christian.

Bishop Malesic then dedicated the altar and anointed it with Sacred Chrism. Incense burning on the altar signified Christ’s sacrifice on the altar and the prayers of the people rising to the throne of God. The walls of the Church were also anointed.

Members of the parish then cleaned the altar, and brought forth linens, candles and flowers to light and decorate it.

The church was then entirely lit, revealing it as a house of worship.

Bishop Malesic, in his homily, stressed how much the faithful need to hear that Jesus wants to be with them.
June 24, 2016 • The Catholic Witness

Sacred Chrism is poured onto the altar for its dedication. The altar, which came from the former Holy Infant Church in York Haven, was refurbished so that it could be shortened.

Assistant at the altar by Deacon Tom Boucek and Deacon Michael Grella, Bishop Edward Malesic places into the altar the relics of St. John Neumann, Blessed Pope Paul VI, St. Louis Guanella, St. Victoria and St. Laura of Cordoba.

Incense rises from the altar, covered in the Sacred Chrism. The incense signifies Christ’s sacrifice on the altar and the prayers of the people rising to the throne of God.

Holy Infant Church

“Jim will be present with us in the Eucharist whenever it is celebrated, and he will be present in the reserved Sacrament in the tabernacle,” he said.

“Even when no one else is here, he will watch over this place. He will be present in all of you, the living Church.”

“Every church building is a reflection of those who use it. This church is a reflection of you,” he told the congregation. “This sacred building is a sign of who we are as the living Church. … This church will tell our neighborhood that we believe in something greater than ourselves.”

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Gainer congratulated the members of Holy Infant Parish, Bishop Malesic and Father Weiss on their work, prayers and sacrifices to build the new church.

“Every church building is a reflection of those who use it. This church is a reflection of you,” he told the congregation.

“You and the Lord have certainly done a good work here,” Bishop Gainer said. “Continue to receive all of his gifts and graces. Let him shower them upon you. Be grateful for them, but then work with them. Work diligently, sacrificially to spread the mission of our Church, our faith, our service to those in need in this local community and show everyone that we truly are the Body of Christ.”

When Mass ended, most of the several hundred faithful waited in line to greet Bishop Malesic, their former pastor, Bishop Gainer and Father Weiss, while others ambled through the church, marveling at its beauty.

Maxine Wills, a member of the parish for 45 years, sat in a pew in the middle of the church and gratefully sighed, “We did it!”

A former secretary for then-Father Malesic and a first-grade teacher in the parish’s religious education program, Mrs. Wills remembers attending Holy Infant when it was still a chapel, before Bishop Joseph Daley established it as a parish in 1972.

Bishop Ronald Gainer anoints one of the walls of the church during the Rite of Dedication. In the background is the statue of Mary and the Infant Jesus, one of several statues incorporated from the former church into the new one.

Holy Infant,” she said. “We have lots of beautiful memories at the old church, though it wasn’t difficult for me personally to leave the church in York Haven. I’m thrilled to see this new church includes elements from the old one. It’s a gorgeous house of worship, and I’m eager for its future.”

The entire project, built at a cost of $3.6 million, includes a number of individual rooms and a large social hall that can be expanded or divided with partitioned walls, large office space, a large conference room and a kitchen area. The entire facility is accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

The parish will look to sell the former church, noted Father Weiss, who was appointed pastor there last year.

“This is a very exciting moment for our parish family, and I’m thankful to all who have contributed their hard work, their time, their talents, their efforts and certainly their monetary donations,” he said. “We still have work to do, even as this new place is finished, with our capital campaign, and we are all very thankful to God that our parish is moving forward.”

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Mrs. Wills’ son Michael was the first child baptized after Holy Infant became a parish. Her youngest grandson will soon make his first Holy Communion in the new church.

“Sitting here and thinking about my life in this parish, I can see how things have come full circle as we continue to worship as members of Holy Infant,” she said. “We have lots of beautiful memories at the old church, though it wasn’t difficult for me personally to leave the church in York Haven. I’m thrilled to see this new church includes elements from the old one. It’s a gorgeous house of worship, and I’m eager for its future.”

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“Yes, it is a little bit sad leaving the old location. So many have memories of the York Haven church, but they are excited too about this new phase and new chapter in the life of our parish family,” he told The Catholic Witness.

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

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To love, in the words of the priest in Hemingway’s ‘A Farewell to Arms,’

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be enlightening as well as practical, but also meticulously perusing each and

every essay, inserting comments to pave the way to an improved piece the next
time around. Sometimes love must be tough, and I am compelled to inform stu-
dents when their work falls short of their abilities. It is my responsibility to push
them in the right direction, assuring them it is never too late to begin again and
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and devotion lead to success.

The environment of a Catholic school has a plethora of benefits, one be-
ing the pleasure of seeing my students as indi-

dividuals, children of God, not numbers from a test score. They need guidance, reassurance and familial affection which I am encouraged to supply. When the world outside becomes too frightening, I can grab the teachable mo-

dent and allow our young people to share their thoughts and concerns in a nonthreatening at-

mosphere. This is especially important for my seniors who are preparing to make that giant leap from the comfort of LCISH to the uncer-

tainty of the global community. Here is where faith plays a major role. Without it, nothing
great can be accomplished. With it, there is no limit to the good one person can do.

Speaking of benevolence, this is the life-giv-
ing part. There is no greater joy than in per-

forming acts which help a fellow human be-
ing. Regardless of the career path they choose, I pray that my students will leave an indelible mark upon the world. They will attempt to use their gifts and talents to leave ‘footprints in the sands of time,’ as Longfellow so eloquently stat-
ed. I strive to encourage this mindset through my words, deeds and participation with them in social justice activities.”

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English Teacher
Lancaster Catholic High School

“To love, in the words of the priest in Hemingway’s ‘A Farewell to Arms,’

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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.

In its upcoming editions, The Catholic Witness is featuring 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.

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Elizabeth Emery

Middle School
Language Arts Teacher
St. Margaret Mary School,
Harrisburg

“Growing up in a school whose patron-
exs is the Blessed Mother, it was made clear to

me that prayer is vital to the life and love in a

Catholic school. At Our Mother of Perpetual

Help, we learned to pray the Rosary before

falling asleep at night and were told that our

guardian angels would finish the prayers if we

could not – a practice I teach my students and

my own children today. We learned the Memo-

rare as a way to ask for the Blessed Mother’s

intercession, and I still pray it with my stu-

dents before each religion class. Teaching in a

Catholic school affords me the opportunity to

share this facet of my faith formation, to im-

part the importance of prayer to my students –

the fact that is the heart and soul, the very life

of Catholic schools. It drives all our words and

actions and permeates our lessons.

All of these lessons are taught with the

values, teachings and morals of our Catholic

faith as their backbone and driving force, and

extend far beyond my religion classes. Even

in language arts, I cannot separate a grammar lesson from a lesson in faith.

Each character we explore and genre we read stems from the values taught in Catholic schools. Middle school is a challenging time for students who are

bombardeed with values of the world that are contrary to the values instilled by

our faith. Teaching language arts allows me to add lessons on morality and

faith while addressing plots and genre in the secular world. Students want to

see how to live out our faith, and we as Catholic school teachers must strive to

love that faith and demonstrate its role in the world today – in our lives, in our

lessons, and by our example. St. Ignatius of Loyola, a champion of education himself, taught about two

important aspects of love. The first being that love is expressed more clearly in

actions than in words, and the second that there is greater love in giving than

receiving. My calling as a Catholic educator echoes this definition, as well as

Pope Francis’ sentiment that it is a life-giving act of love. The example I set for

my students, all that I give to them and for them illustrates my love for the faith

and that Catholic education is an integral, inseparable part of my life.”

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

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Keep Calm and Camp On!
Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald • August 14-19 in Lebanon County

The Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald, a camp for adults with intellectual disabilities, is seeking volunteers who would be willing to assist at 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 Clearance process and attend training prior to helping at camp. For more information, please contact Ginny Duncan at 717-657-4804 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.

Knights Raise Funds for Ultrasound Equipment

By Don Hassenbein
Special to The Witness

In 2015, Patrick Sweeney, Navigator for the Knights of Columbus Assembly 973, met with Steve Kracke, Vice President of Mission Advancement for Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services (SVPS), to discuss the possibility of raising money for needed ultrasound equipment. Sweeney then counseled with Andy Siscaretti, Assembly Comptroller, and Don Hassenbein, Assembly Purser (Treasurer), for discussion at the next meeting. Assembly 973 is comprised of 7 Councils; 2870 in Lebanon, 6693 in Hershey, 9875 in Annville, 10194 in Myerstown, 10502 in Palmyra, 14333 in Lebanon and 15929 in Lebanon.

The official kick-off of the campaign was on September 1, 2015 with a letter from the Navigator to all Sir Knights in the Assembly. In addition to the donations from the Assembly, Sir Knights and the 7 Councils, donations were received from Council 3625 in Steelton and from the parishes of Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra. In addition, a matching grant of $11,750.00 was received from KofC State Treasurer Rick Corriveau of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 973 present a check to Steve Kracke of Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services for the ultrasound equipment.

Representatives of Knights of Columbus Assembly 973 present a check to Steve Kracke of Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services for the ultrasound equipment. Knights, from left, are Don Hassenbein, Assembly Purser; Patrick Sweeney, Assembly Navigator; and Andy Siscaretti, Assembly Comptroller. Following the Mass, a reception was held with a check for $29,100 being presented by Navigator Sweeney, Comptroller Siscaretti and Purser Hassenbein to Mr. Kracke from Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services. Following this, the ultrasound equipment was blessed by Father Dagle and Deacon Wentzel. Mr. Kracke outlined the mission of Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services as upholding the sanctity of human life through sexual integrity education, unplanned pregnancy intervention and post-abortion restoration.

SVPS provided the food and refreshments and had their brochures and fetal models on display and many of the Knights in attendance indicated their interest in having their Council conduct additional ultrasound campaigns in the future.

‘Christ-Fit’ Retreat Offers Reflection for Deaf Catholics

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

One of 14 deaf priests worldwide came to the Diocese of Harrisburg earlier this month to offer connection and inspiration to deaf Catholics in the practice of the faith.

Father Shawn Carey, Director of the Deaf Apostolate for the Archdiocese of Boston, offered a retreat day for Catholics in American Sign Language at St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg June 11, a faith-based opportunity sponsored by the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities.

Some 25 people attended the retreat, which was offered completely in ASL and included two presentations by Father Carey, the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the celebration of Mass in the church, and time for socialization.

The topic of Father Carey’s presentations was “Christ-Fit,” urging the faithful to be spiritually fit to follow Christ, particularly in this Year of Mercy.

Because I’m a deaf priest, the retreat will give the Catholics in this area an opportunity to see other deaf priests and really connect, that’s why I’m here. It’s wonderful to be here,” Father Carey said through interpreter Ginny Duncan, Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities.

The office hopes to make the retreat an annual event.

Father Thomas Rozman is the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, which is home to the diocese’s deaf community. The priest is also influential in American Sign Language.

“The parish is happy to have the deaf community here, and is very welcoming to them,” he said, noting that the 9:45 a.m. Sunday Mass is interpreted for those who are deaf. “This is a very important ministry that the Catholic Church offers.”

JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Father Shawn Carey, Director of the Deaf Apostolate for the Archdiocese of Boston, offers a retreat to deaf Catholics about being “Christ-Fit” in this Year of Mercy. The retreat was held June 11 at St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, which is home to the deaf Catholic community in the Diocese of Harrisburg.
Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries
Pre-Arrangement: An Act of Love
At Harrisburg Diocesan Cemeteries, we encourage families to consider pre-arrangement of their cemetery needs. Just as preparing a will is a kind and responsible act, arranging for your final resting place is equally wise and compassionate. Many of our families are surprised to learn how many advantages pre-arrangement actually provides.

Why Prearrange?
Relieve Your Family of Difficult Decisions, Purchasing Now Locks in Price, Wider Choice of Grave Locations, Enjoy Peace of Mind, and Only You Can Decide What is Best For Your Family

Our Diocesan Cemetery Managers are available to assist you to make an intelligent, unhurried decision, with information that will help your family make a decision right now.

For More Information Visit Our Website www.hbgdiocese.org/cemeteries
A summer of Divine Mercy and children’s adoration prayer will be offered at two new locations this year and will take place at St. Joseph Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 440 St. Joseph Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, every Tuesday from June 27-August 16 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Join Father Glenn’s talks about Divine Mercy at work for our lives. The ministry will run biweekly for 30-40 minutes. It will be held each evening at 7 p.m. in Mary’s chapel, except the final evening at 5:30 p.m. Mass.

St. Georges Intl., Carnegie St., Lancaster (lower church, push silver button) every Tuesday from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. The day will include Adoration, First Holy Communion of children every Tuesday. The process of building and mechanical systems, and property maintenance, work without supervision. Absolute trustworthiness and the ability to work with another maintenance person and must be available on weekends and Sunday mornings. The position requires varying degrees of physical exertion and manual dexterity. Experience in maintenance, bending, climbing stairs and operating cleaning and garden equipment. Also required are organizational skills, adaptability, flexibility, and the ability to work without supervision. Absolute trustworthiness and the willingness to maintain confidentiality. Some knowledge of computers and drivers’ license is required. Applications, to include a cover letter and résumé, should be sent to Potomac Jim Driskell at 47 S. Market St., Mount Carmel, PA, 17851.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg, is seeking applications for a part-time parish administrator for 16-30 hours per week. This individual is responsible for creating and maintaining good order and cleanliness of the church and its property, including maintenance person and must be available on weekends and Sunday mornings. The position requires varying degrees of physical exertion and manual dexterity. Experience in maintenance, bending, climbing stairs and operating cleaning and garden equipment. Also required are organizational skills, adaptability, flexibility, and the ability to work without supervision. Absolute trustworthiness and the willingness to maintain confidentiality. Some knowledge of computers and drivers’ license is required. Applications, to include a cover letter and résumé, should be sent to Potomac Jim Driskell at 47 S. Market St., Mount Carmel, PA, 17851.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg, is seeking a full time parish administrator managing for 30-40 hours per week. This position requires a mature and experienced individual with an understanding of parish operations, building and mechanical systems, and property maintenance, work without supervision. Absolute trustworthiness and the willingness to maintain confidentiality. Some knowledge of computers and drivers’ license is required. Applications, to include a cover letter and résumé, should be sent to Potomac Jim Driskell at 47 S. Market St., Mount Carmel, PA, 17851.

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Parish Festivals

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

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown will host its 14th annual community picnic 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: “Kurtine” (of whom you haven’t heard) on Friday, and Saturday morning, and “Zadnja Stanica and The Happy Slovenes for your dancing and listening pleasure.

The Serra Club of Lancaster will host its annual church picnic on Saturday, August 6 from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Conewago Picnic Woods, 3113 Centennial Rd. Hanover. Festivities include games of fun, skill and chance for kids and adults, car show its 14th annual community festival from July 7, 8 and 9 from 6-10 p.m. at 360 East Water Street, Middletown. Festivities include games of fun, skill and chance for kids and adults, car show its 14th annual community festival from July 7, 8 and 9 from 6-10 p.m. at 360 East Water Street, Middletown. Festivities include games of fun, skill and chance for kids and adults, car show its 14th annual community festival from July 7, 8 and 9 from 6-10 p.m. at 360 East Water Street, Middletown. Festivities include games of fun, skill and chance for kids and adults, car show...
Gordie Howe, Mr. Hockey, ‘Was the Epitome of Humility’

By Mike Stechschulte
Catholic News Service

He was Mr. Hockey, but he was also Mr. Family. That’s what Father J.J. Mech will tell those who met him, friends and fans alike, who now say, and requested the Mass at Detroit’s Cathedral to honor their father’s legacy as an icon of the Motor City. The Mass was open to all, and thousands in attendance.

Though Howe was not Catholic, several of his family members are, Father Mech said, and requested the Mass at Detroit’s cathedral to honor their father’s legacy as an icon of the Motor City. The Mass was not a funeral Mass in the Catholic liturgical sense. For all Howe meant to Detroit and to professional hockey, it was his down-to-earth nature that touched almost everyone who met him, friends and fans alike. Father Mech told The Michigan Catholic, newspaper of the Detroit Archdiocese.

“He was the epitome of humanity,” said the priest, who last fall celebrated the wedding of one of Howe’s grandchildren.

“With all the challenges he’s had in his older years, he really connected and came alive with little kids. And his family attested to this, too. He loved to work with kids and to be the right kind of person for these young people.”

Despite his celebrity as one of the greatest athletes of all time, Howe always made time for the average fan, signing autographs and chatting with them. He loved that, and that’s why I think he was such a class act. The ego was not a part of it.”

Father Mech said he met with Howe’s family the morning of June 13 to prepare details for the memorial Mass. Though cathedral staff had no way of predicting how many people from the Detroit area would turn out to pay tribute to Howe June 15 – the Mass was open to the public – the cathedral seats only about 900 people. About 500 family members and friends attended, along with Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, members of the team-owning Ilitch family and Red Wings past and present, not to mention other big names such as Wayne Gretzky and Bobby Orr – attended. Howe, who scored 801 career goals – second only to Wayne Gretzky – and won five Stanley Cups – is about as close to Detroit royalty as anyone, Father Mech noted.

He was Mr. Hockey, but he was also Mr. Detroit Red Wings’ Gordie Howe is pictured in action against the Toronto Maple Leafs’ Allan Stanley in this undated handout photo. Howe, the man forever known as “Mr. Hockey,” died June 10 at age 88.

Well, forget about the schedule; Dad’s with the fans.” He loved that, and that’s why I think he was such a class act. The ego was not a part of it.”

Holy Cross Family Ministries

When baseball announcer Vin Scully received a Gabriel Award from the Catholic Academy of Communication Professionals, he relayed a story about meeting the Pope that left everyone laughing and crying at the same time. “I’m with them,” he told the audience in a video acceptance speech for the Personal Achievement Award.

Scully, who has been the voice of the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers for an incredible 67 years and is retiring at

end of this season, was honored at the Catholic Media Conference in St. Louis on June 2. He was honored for his pro-

life work and lengthy career in broad- casting, especially for the way helped to uplift the human spirit. The Gabriel Per-

sonal Achievement Award is sponsored by Family Theater Productions of Hol-

lowood and presented in memory of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, also known as the “Rosary Priest.”

We are so proud to present Vin Scully with the Personal Achievement Award,” said Susan Wallace, this year’s Chair of the Gabriel Awards. “He epitomizes what the Gabriel Awards represent: positive, upbeat, soulful, kindhearted and conscien-

cious. For nearly seven decades, Vin Scully has been the reassuring voice of sports broad-

casting, enriching viewers and listeners with his limitless knowledge of baseball and illuminating lessons on life.”

Sponsored by the Catholic Academy of Communication Professionals, the Gabriel Awards were started in 1965 and are the premier awards program for medi-

da that uplifts the spirit. They recognize excellence in film, video, audio and in-

ternet and are presented to top produc-

ers, acknowledging outstanding artistic achievement in media that entertains and enriches with a true vision of humanity.

Scully could not attend Catholic Media Conference to receive his Gabriel Award in person because he was doing his job: providing the play-by-play descriptions and commentary for the Los Angeles Dodgers. In his taped acceptance speech, he thanked the Catholic Academy of Communication Professionals for honor-

ing him with the Personal Achievement Award and told a story that described his spiritual philosophy of life. In 1956, Scully – a devout Catho-

lic – got the opportunity to meet Pope Pius XII. He traveled to Rome with then-Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca and his wife Ann for an audience with the Pontiff. They had been advised not to speak to his Holiness unless spoken to, but Ann couldn’t resist and requested a blessing for her family, which was given. The Pope asked Branca a question, then looked at Scully. “Are you with them?” he queried. Perhaps for the first time in his life, the baseball announcer became tongue-tied. He could only stammer a barely audible “Yes.” The Pope walked away, saying no more and leaving Scully feeling like he blew his chance.

“Now as I’ve gotten older,” Scully con-

cluded, “I’ve realized that those couple of words really sum up why I’m here. I was with them for the thousands of baseball games that I saw, the hun-

dreds and hundreds of home runs to end exciting games, the no-hitters and perfect games. I was with them all along the way, standing on the curb and applauding.”

He ended his speech with a request. He wanted a photo sent to him of all the priests and nuns in attendance at the Ga-

briel Award ceremony. He wants to take it with him on Judgement Day so he can hold it up and say, “I’m with them.”

The prestigious Gabriel Awards are an important component of the Catholic Academy of Communication Professionals’ mission to proclaim the Good News. The Academy rewards media professionals for outstanding work that might other-

wise not be recognized for its enrich-

ment value.
Twenty Years of Adoration:
The Chapel of the Sacred Heart Offers Peace to Dauphin Deanery

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Consider how many days and hours are in a 20-year period.

There are 7,300 days in 20 years, which means that as the Perpetual Adoration Chapel of the Sacred Heart in the Dauphin Deanery celebrates its 20-year anniversary, it has had at least one person present in front of the Blessed Sacrament for 175,200 hours.

Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion where people unite in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament both during the day and throughout the night, ensuring that someone is present before the Lord seven days a week.

The chapel is situated behind St. Margaret Mary School in Harrisburg, and is open to anyone for prayer and meditation at any time.

"Jesus is here, and he wants you to come, he desires you more than you desire him. And if you just come, there is no set way to pray. Don't be afraid," Mrs. Schaedler says in encouraging people to visit the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament there. "If you have the slightest inkling you should be here, that means the Holy Spirit is giving you that thought."

She also said that people can come in or any amount of time; it doesn't have to be an hour your first time. She suggested that people can come to pray for even five minutes.

Adorers come at all times of the day, some while driving home, or others after a tragedy.

In the case of one adorer, Nancy, the reason to stop in to the Sacred Heart Chapel was to seek peace.

Nancy, a graduate of St. Margaret Mary School, hadn't even realized the chapel was there, until 2011, when she needed some peace and a friend urged to go there. She signed up for an hour of adoration, had a prayer partner and has been attending regularly ever since.

"I loved the quiet and peace. I'm here a lot. There are times that when something has happened, this is where I come. On the way home from something, I'll just stop in, even for 15 minutes," said Nancy, who asked that her last name be withheld.

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The chapel has become a special place for Nancy, who needed to find peace as she prepared to go through a difficult time in her life. She made a mistake at her job, she explained, an action that resulted in her serving a year in prison.

"I had such a weight on my heart soul, and I came here to ask for guidance on what to do. This is the only way I got through it. I said, 'Just guide me.' I needed to bring it forward, I needed to be the one, because I couldn't live with the guilt anymore. It was here that I had to give it up, I had to give it up to God and say, 'Get my children through it, because they were very hurt, get my children through it, get my family through it.'"

"It's the way I got through prison," she said of prayer. "I found the Rosary group there in four days. It was my faith…. I missed going to the chapel. It was an aching. I missed the quiet."

The Chapel of the Sacred Heart was also there for Nancy upon her release. "When I came home in February, the best way I can describe it, it was like I was never gone. I just came back into life and I was never gone. But in reality, I still feel that way, like I'm on the outside looking in at a life that I was always a part of, going on around me, but I'm not a part of it. [The chapel] was the only place that I came right back to, it was so welcoming. I was not on the outside looking in, I was there. This was how I got through the very dark times when I finally gave it up, and that was hard, to give it up and say, 'Your will be done.' But I knew He would be there for me, and He was."

Adorers are welcome to come at any time to the chapel, located in the convent by St. Margaret Mary School at 2848 Herr Street in Harrisburg. Those who are interested in becoming a regular adorer with fixed, dedicated hours, can contact Mrs. Schaedler at 717-756-4897 or theways46@hotmail.com. Any hour that works in an individual’s schedule works for the chapel’s schedule.

If you have a few minutes to spare between now and the next 175,200 hours, Mrs. Schaedler suggests to, “just come and sit and let the Holy Spirit and Jesus guide you. And you don’t have to come for a long period of time. He takes us any way he can get us.”