Blessing St. Samuel Center, Bishop Says Service is Important Part of Faith

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Enveloped by mature trees and swathed in suburban environs, Catholic Charities’ newly-acquired St. Samuel Center promises a peaceful, neighborhood abode for its residents: the clients of the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Lourdeshouse and Evergreen House.

The 90-bed facility, formerly a nursing home in Harrisburg’s Lower Paxton Township, also brings three of Catholic Charities’ residential programs together under one roof for increased economic and efficient operation.

On May 30, one day before the center welcomed its first residents – the families of the Interfaith Shelter – Bishop Joseph P. McFadden blessed and dedicated St. Samuel Center, which will offer shelter, care and hope to those who live there.

Surrounded by Catholic Charities employees and volunteers, legislators, business leaders and community supporters, the bishop blessed crucifixes and other religious articles that will be placed throughout the St. Samuel Center, a newly-acquired facility in Harrisburg that will house three of Catholic Charities’ residential programs: The Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Evergreen House and Lourdeshouse.

Philadelphia to Host World Meeting of Families; Pope Opens Possibility of U.S. Visit in 2015

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

When the Archdiocese of Philadelphia hosts the United States’ first World Meeting of Families in 2015, it will need to be a significantly smaller affair than the enormous gatherings seen since its inception in 1994, said the city’s archbishop.

It is only with a reduced number of participants that “we could manage through special gifts and the like that people would be willing to give to support such a gathering,” Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia told Catholic News Service shortly after Pope Benedict XVI’s announcement.

The pope announced the host city of the next world meeting at the Seventh World Meeting of Families’ closing Mass to an estimated 1 million people gathered at Milan’s outdoor Bresso Park June 3.

Established by Blessed John Paul II nearly two decades ago, almost every world meeting has attracted hundreds of thousands to 1 million people to each triennial gathering.

“I send my warm greetings to Archbishop Charles Chaput and to the Catholics of that great city, and look forward to meeting them there along with numerous families from all around the world,” the pope said. He added that, “God willing,” he would take part.

The pope would be 88 in 2015 and it would mark his second trip to the United States – his first to Philadelphia – as pope.

Religious Liberty Concerns, Charter Report on Tap for Bishops’ Meeting

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

With a long-standing campaign to press its concerns about infringements on religious liberty by governments and the courts, the U.S. bishops will devote a significant portion of their spring meeting June 13-15 in Atlanta to the issue.

The bishops also will receive a 10-year progress report by the National Review Board on the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” and hear recommendations from the review board stemming from the study “The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010.”

Two hours will be devoted to the religious liberty discussion, which will encompass domestic and international concerns as the bishops continue to rally support for and raise awareness about infringements on religious rights in the United States and abroad.

At the forefront of the bishops’ religious liberty efforts is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ mandate that would force Catholic institutions to provide health insurance coverage to employees for
The Catholic Witness

How the GOOD NEWS Gets Around ... TO YOU.

Support the Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Local artist Virginia Thomas, a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg, is drawing on her rendering of a 19th century painting to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

On June 15 this year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, devotion to which became particularly popular following the Lord’s appearance to Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque in France in the 1600s.

Margaret Mary, who was later canonized in 1920, experienced several visions of Jesus, including one on Dec. 27, 1673, in which he revealed his Sacred Heart. On the heart were flames symbolizing his burning love for all people, and a crown of thorns representing sacrifice and penance to redeem our sins.

Jesus confided to Sister Margaret Mary 12 promises to those who would be devoted to his Sacred Heart:

• I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
• I will establish peace in their families.
• I will console them in all their troubles.
• They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of their death.
• I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
• Sinners shall find in My Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy.
• Tepid souls shall become fervent.
• Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.
• I will bless the homes where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
• I will give to priests the power of touching the most hardened hearts.
• Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced.
• The all-powerful love of My Heart will

Catholic Communication Campaign Collection ~ June 16-17

The Diocese of Harrisburg takes advantage of many of today’s media, both new and traditional: newspaper, radio broadcasts, cable TV programming, an informational website, an active Facebook page, a YouTube channel featuring nearly 90 different videos, live streaming video from some events and INSIGHT, our new e-mail newsletter.

These communication tools are integrated into many diocesan efforts that inform, educate and inspire. All this is done with the goal of assisting you to better understand and live out your faith in your daily life.

Half of all proceeds from the Catholic Communication Campaign remain in our diocese, so please be generous in this collection. The CCC is how the Good News gets around to you. Visit www.HbgDiocese.org/CCC for more information and to subscribe to our on-line services.

For many, new media has become a part of daily life. Whether by watching videos or listening to music online, or keeping up with friends and family via social networks, the way we communicate has changed significantly in recent years.

Through the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC), Catholics can be united in the Holy Father’s invitation for each of us “confidently and with an informed and responsible creativity, to join the network of relationships which the digital era has made possible” (Message for the 45th World Communications Day, January 5, 2011).

Prints and Note Cards Available

Several print sizes of Virginia Thomas’ rendering of Francesco Podesti’s “The Apparition of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque” are available: 30x36 for $150, 16x20 for $100, and 11x14 for $50. A box of ten note cards costs $15. For information, or to order, contact Ms. Thomas at 717-329-7560 or artnconcept@yahoo.com. You can also order online at stmparish.org by clicking on “Capital Campaign” and then “STMM Sacred Heart.”

“STMM Sacred Heart.”

Grants to all those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under my displeasure, nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour. On October 16, 2010, the Feast Day of St. Margaret Mary, Ms. Thomas presented to her parish a pastel rendition of Francesco Podesti’s “The Apparition of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.” Painted in 1864, Podesti’s work is part of the Vatican Museums Collection of devotional art.

“It was such a powerful image to paint,” Ms. Thomas told The Catholic Witness. “The crown of thorns around Jesus’ heart, and the wounds on his hands and feet, and on his side – it’s difficult to paint that without feeling something powerful.”

In an effort to further promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to serve St. Margaret Mary Parish, Ms. Thomas has made available prints and note cards featuring her pastel painting. All proceeds from the sales go directly to the parish as part of this perpetual fund-raiser.

Ms. Thomas has also worked with St. Margaret Mary Parish’s pastor, Father Daniel Powell, to produce pamphlets regarding family consecration to the Sacred Heart and to encourage Enthronement Ceremonies. The solemn ceremonies can be performed in the home with an image of the Sacred Heart, and include a number of readings and responses. All of Ms. Thomas’ prints will be blessed so that they will be ready to be enthroned in homes.

“In this day and age, there is a lot of people who have to contend with, and I feel that it’s important to do something to counter that," Ms. Thomas said. “I feel so strongly about this image because of the need to propagate the Twelve Promises and the Enthronement Ceremony. I think that once people hear about it, there will be more interest than they might imagine.”
Job Opening: Desktop Support Technician

The Diocese of Harrisburg IT department is accepting applications for a Desktop Support Technician. This position will be the primary user contact for desktop support and Help Desk issues. Candidate will be expected to perform a variety of computer/network problem analysis and monitoring tasks for the Office of Information Technology; act upon issues or consult with appropriate technical staff; log, coordinate and track requests; escalate issues when necessary; install and test PCs; fix performance issues; diagnose hardware-related problems; troubleshoot, maintain or repair peripherals; and work with storage devices and software programs that are attached or installed on diocesan desktops or laptops.

Ideal candidate will have associates degree in Computer Information Systems; minimum of two years computer support experience preferred; proficient technical skills in supporting Windows desktop/server operating systems and MS Office applications. The candidate should have highly-developed problem solving skills, demonstrate excellent verbal communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to function in a team environment.

Please send a cover letter and resume to: employment@hbgdiocese.org.

Mailing address: Human Resources Director Diocese of Harrisburg 4800 Union Deposit Road Harrisburg PA 17111

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat

August 3-5
Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading PA

Space is limited – Please register early
Totally Confidential
Contact Joy: 717-788-4959 or email RVparnd@gmail.com or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

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

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s Public Calendar

June 8 – Diocesan Center Summer Picnic, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon.
June 9 – Sisters Jubilee Mass and Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10:15 a.m.
June 22 – Mass for St. Thomas More Society, St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 8:30 a.m.
June 23 – Closing Mass for Bicentennial Celebration of St. John Neumann, Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, 2 p.m.
June 24-25 – Quo Vadis Days, Mount St. Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

Diocese Thanked for Contributions to Recent Collections

Patrick Markey, Executive Director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office of National Collections, recently sent thank-you letters to the Diocese of Harrisburg for the monies that diocesan faithful contributed to three collections this year.

A total of $36,740.11 was given to the 2012 Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection not only supports provision for basic pastoral programs, scholarships for students working to support their local churches, and other important initiatives, but also helps fund Catholic organizations that ease the burdens facing those who live in the region.

A total of $40,533.45 was given by the people of the diocese for the 2012 Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, which supports essential parish projects across the continent to help education and provide a solid faith foundation.

The people of the diocese also contributed $36,740.11 to the 2012 Collection for the Church in Latin America, which funds evangelization and catechesis projects, lay leadership programs, and religious and seminarion formation.

Information on these and other collections promoted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found at www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/.

Local Church News

Effective June 18, 2012, the Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden has made the following appointments:

• Reverend Monsignor William J. King from Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia to full-time Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg

• Very Reverend Robert R. Gillick from Pastor, Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, York, to Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Pastor, Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton

• Reverend Monsignor James M. Lyons from Pastor, Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton, to Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Harrisburg

• Reverend Jonathan P. Sawicki from Parochial Vicar, Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, to Pastor, Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, York, and Chaplain, York Catholic High School, York

• Reverend Louis P. Ogden from Pastor, Seven Sorrows BVM Parish, Middletown, to Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg

• Reverend Edward J. Keating from Pastor, Saint Pius X Parish, Selinsgrove, to Pastor, Seven Sorrows BVM Parish, Middletown

• Reverend Daniel F. X. Powell from Pastor, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Harrisburg, to Pastor, Saint Pius X Parish, Selinsgrove

• Reverend Charles L. Persing from Pastor, Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, New Oxford, to Pastor, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Harrisburg

• Reverend Steven W. Fauser from Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Danville, to Pastor, Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, New Oxford

• Reverend Tri M. Luong from Parochial Vicar, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg, to Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Danville

• Reverend John D. Schmalhofer from Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Holland, to Pastor, Saint Vincent DePaul Parish, Hanover

• Reverend Pang S. Tchou from Campus Minister, Millersville University, to Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Holland

• Reverend Robert A. Yohe from Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Harrisburg, to Pastor, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Quarryville

• Reverend Philip G. Burger from Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Harrisburg – Father Burger continues as Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life

• Reverend Paul Fisher from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Harrisburg, to Pastor, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Harrisburg and Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Harrisburg

• Very Reverend Edward J. Quinlan from Administrator to Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg, Father Quinlan continues as Diocesan Secretary for Education

• Reverend Paul M. Clark from Administrator to Pastor, Saint Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Parish, Dauphin. Father Clark continues his work in the Diocesan Tribunal.

• Reverend Ignacio Palomino from Parochial Vicar, Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg

• Reverend Keith M. Carroll from Parochial Vicar, Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg

• Reverend Michael Letter from Replacement Ministry to Parochial Vicar, Saint John Neumann Parish, Lancaster

• Reverend Paul Theisz from Parochial Vicar, Saint John Neumann Parish, Lancaster, to Parochial Vicar, Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg

• Reverend Mark M. Speitel from Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg, to Campus Minister, Millersville University

• Reverend Walter F. Guzman from Chaplain, Lebanon Catholic School, Lebanon – Father Guzman continues as Pastor, Saint Benedict the Abbot Parish, Lebanon

• Reverend James E. Lease from Chaplain, Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown – Father Lease continues as Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Hanover

• Reverend Brian J. Wayne from Chaplain, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg – Father Wayne continues as Parochial Vicar, Saint Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey

• Reverend John D. Hoke from pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Milton
Powerlessness, or the Hidden Power in Our Suffering?

By Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Special to The Witness

In a 1999 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, patients suffering from serious illnesses were asked to identify what was most important to them during the dying process. Many indicated they wanted to achieve a “sense of control.” This is understandable. Most of us fear our powerlessness in the face of illness and death.

The hallmark of this path is the personal decision to accept our sufferings, actively laying down our life on behalf of others by embracing the particular kind of suffering God has ordained for us, patterning our choice on the choice conscious- ly made by Jesus Christ.

He concluded that through his only-begotten Son, God “has confirmed His desire to act especially through suffering, which achieves control over his or her destiny through immersion into the hope-filled and redemptive designs of God.”

He expressed that through his only-begotten Son, “God has confirmed His desire to act especially through suffering, which achieves control over his or her destiny through immersion into the hope-filled and redemptive designs of God.”

The Pope also observed that in some cases, “the power of suffering, ‘aware of its saving power.’”

The greatest possibility we have for achieving control, then, is to align our- selves in our suffering and weakness with God and his redemptive designs. This obliteration of radically embracing our particular path to death, actively offered on behalf of others and in union with Christ, manifests our concern for the spiritual welfare of others, especially our friends and those closest to us. We are inwardly marked by a profound need to sacrifice and give of- ourselves, a need that infuses our inner capacity to love and be loved.

As no one had ever done before, Jesus charted the path of love-driven sac- rifice, choosing to lay down his life for his friends. He was no mere victim in the sense of being a passive and unwilling participant in his own suffering and death. He was in control. He emphasized, with otherworldly authority, that, “nobody takes my life from me: I lay it down, and I take it up again.”

Yet we see that his life was, in fact, taken from him by those various indi- viduals and groups who plotted his death and sought his execution. His life was taken from him by evil men, even though, paradoxically, nobody took his life from him, because nobody had power over his being, unless granted from above.

We experience a similar paradox in our own deaths: while it may seem that our life is being taken from us through the evil of a particular ailment or the ravages of a particular disease, we can reply that nothing takes away our life, because nothing has power over our being, except what is ordained from above. In his providence and omniscience, years before the fact, God already knows and foresees that unique confluence of events that will constitute our death, whether it be by stroke or cardiac arrest, liver failure or Alzheimers, or any other means. By spiritually embracing in God that specific path to death, our freedom is elevated to new heights. Indeed, we “achieve control” in the most important way possible, through willed surrender and radical gift in our innermost depths.

Jesus foresaw that his greatest work lay ahead as he ascended Calvary to embrace his own powerlessness and self-emptying. Although we may feel condemned to our powerlessness as we receive help from others in our sick- ness, and although we may feel supremely useless as we “nailed” to our hospital bed, our active, inward embrace of the cross unleashes important graces for ourselves and others, and reveals a refugent light beyond the ob- security of every suffering. Jesus’ radical embracing of his Passion — and our own embracing of our own — marks the supreme moment of a person who achieves control over his or her destiny through immersion into the hope-filled and redemptive designs of God.

(Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.)

The Catholic Witness
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

Most Rev. Joseph P. McFadden
Publisher

Jennifer Reed
Managing Editor

Chris Heisey
Emily M. Albert
Susan Hunsberger

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Help Us Find A New Transmitter Site! — WHFY AM 720 is in search of a few good acres of land to construct a new transmitter and tower. Holy Family Radio, Inc. re- quires at least (10) acres of flat land, possibly wet/marshy, with easy access to electric and telephone lines. A new site could increase our current coverage area by up to 30%! We would prefer to lease property. Is there a land owner out there who would like to support our Catholic mission and gift us a lease? Do you know of some land or someone who owns land? The property must be no more than five straight line miles west or northwest of Mechanicsburg or two miles due east or south of Mechanicsburg. Please go to the technical page on this website for more information, www.YourHolyFamilyRadio.com. If you can help, please call 717-525-8110.

The Witness

Email: witness@hbgdiocese.org
Website: www.hbgdiocese.org

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$18.17 per family, derived from and how their religious freedom was protected. An article about this form can also be

June 10: Religious liberty was the topic at a forum held recently at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg. On this week’s edition of Catholic Perspective, we hear part two of that forum. Father Paul Schenck, Director of the Diocesan Respect Life Office, speaks about the federal government’s violation of our right to religious free-

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

The day of prayer will include the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary and Mass at the Grotto (weather permitting), a Marian Conference, Act of Conse-

The Witness

Editorial Board

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Most Rev. Joseph P. McFadden
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Faith and Life
Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg

Schenck said. “If the HHS rejection of religious freedom stands, it will spread like poisonous beliefs. Not be forced to act against their religious freedom and conscience.”

Mr. Ciccocioppo cited the recent appearance by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at Georgetown University and her efforts to de-ceive Catholics about the HHS mandate truly means.

Catholic kids were being beaten or expelled” from schools for religious groups. The result is “very, very mixed body of law.”

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” are the first words of the Bill of Rights, ratified in 1791.

Religious liberty was desirable in the minds of the founders of the republic from the beginning, according to Douglas Laycock, law professor at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He said that political conflicts over religion were a part of living memory for many of them, and wars fought over beliefs were chronologically closer than the Civil War is to contemporary Americans. They wanted to be sure, he said, “that none of that should ever be repeated here.”

He agreed with McConnell that Baptists and Presbyterians were “the political muscle” behind the First Amendment. “Catholics most-ly weren’t here.”

The first major conflict over the First Amendment came, McConnell said, with the influx of Irish and German Catholic immigrants beginning in the 1830s. It was then that there were riots, McConnell said, over public schools’ use of the King James Version of the Bible. “Catholic kids were being beaten or expelled” from schools for refusing to read from the King James Version, said Laycock.

A later conflict in the 1870s centered on government funding of schools. Catholics were establishing as alternatives to the public schools that were dominated by Protestant teaching and that used the King James Version. While the Blaine Amendment that would have forbid any state or federal aid to specifically religious schools was narrowly defeated in Congress in 1875, it was then that there were riots, McConnell said, as states passed “little Blaine” amendments to their state constitutions with the same purpose. Catholics went ahead and established their school system, and eventually argued successfully that limited government aid would be provided students in parochial schools to fund transportation and textbooks for secular subjects.

Other issues include use of hallucinogens in worship by some Native American religious groups and workers right not to work on their Sabbaths. All these, he said, involve Free Exercise clause issues.

The second cluster involves government funding, such as the provision of funds for social and human services or school vouchers. Generally such aid has been found controversial and laws providing it are hard to enact, Laycock said.

Finally he said there is a cluster of issues around religious speech, both private and government-sponsored. This would include school prayer, Christmas displays, and displays of the Ten Commandments and various monuments on public grounds. “A lot of the conservative justices” on the Supreme Court tend not to think that all these things violate the Establishment Clause as long as there’s no coercion involved; others see all of them as proselytizing, he said.

McConnell said fewer arguments break along Catholic, Protestant, Jewish or Muslim lines. Rather, he said, the most conservative members of all those groups tend to come out on one side of an issue – so that some evangelical Protestant voters are supporting conservative Catholic candidates. In other instances, more moderate or slightly liberal members of religious groups are willing to work together. At the outlying extreme, he said, are liberal members of religious groups and religiously indifferent or anti-religious secularists who strongly oppose any cooperation between government and religious groups as well as any kind of religious observance or display connected with civil events.

Laycock listed three clusters of issues regarding religious freedom in the United States. “All are very much alive right now,” he said, and Supreme Court decisions have varied widely concerning them. The result is “very, very mixed body of law.”

The first cluster centers on religious practice and covers a variety of issues, some of which, he said, legislators and prosecutors “have more sense than to meddle with.” These would include matters as the Catholic Church having a male celibate clergy and allowing children to receive Communion from the chalice. Other issues include use of hallucinogens in worship by some Native American religious groups and workers right not to work on their Sabbaths. All these, he said, involve Free Exercise clause issues.

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Summer Missionary Cooperative Appeal

The Face of the Missions

By Father Robert F. Sharman
Special to The Witness

Sometime during the summer months, a missionary will appear in your parish to preach about the Church’s mission work. This missionary is participating in the Missionary Cooperative Program and was assigned by the diocese to visit your church.

The missionary’s presence among us is both a challenge to action and an affirmation of our faith. Missionaries remind us of our baptismal commitment to spread the Gospel by our words and deeds. They call us to support the missions by our prayers and sacrifices. At the same time, they affirm the fact that the Church is alive and growing among people of different lands and cultures and that there are millions of people who need to be evangelized.

Missionaries share with us their real-life mission stories and experiences, as well as stories of the people they serve. Our own faith is deepened and broadened as we learn of the tremendous good done throughout the 1,150 mission dioceses around the world.

The Missionary Cooperative Program is a blessing for your parish for a number of reasons. First, the Church, by her very nature, is missionary. But not everyone is called to leave home and family to minister among the poor and to bring the Good News to those who have never heard it. It is important for all of us to hear how the mission of Jesus is being carried out in other parts of our country and our world. This reminds us of the essential missionary foundation of Christ’s Church and our role to help spread the Gospel.

Second, the Church is called to be prayerful. Each one of us is asked to reach beyond our own needs and embrace the needs of the missionary church. When we hear about our fellow Christians in other lands through the stories of missionaries, we are called upon to keep them in our prayers. We are also asked to pray for missionary vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and the lay catechists who form such an important part of how the Gospel is proclaimed.

Third, each one of us must respond to Jesus’ challenge and recommit ourselves to our baptismal call to be missionary – the responsibility to spread the love and message of Jesus to every person we meet, in every place we visit.

If mission forms the heart of the Church, it is the missionary standing before us in our ambo (pulpit) who puts a human face on our baptismal vocation. We are all God’s missionaries, and we are all called to take the message of Jesus wherever we go. When the missionary in your church preaches this summer, many you also see yourself as the face of the missions.

In the words of Saint Teresa of Avila,

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.

The Pope’s Mission Societies

- Society for the Propagation of the Faith
- Holy Childhood Association
- Saint Peter Apostle Society
- Missionary Union of Priests & Religious

These Societies direct their efforts to reminding baptized Catholics of their vocation to be missionaries and encouraging participation in the Church’s mission to bring the “Good News” of Jesus to the world. Each of these missionary organizations tries to respond to the various needs associated with the work of evangelization.

There are national offices in more than 120 countries. The Office of Pontifical Missions in Harrisburg coordinates the work of the Societies in the parishes of the Diocese of Harrisburg. More information about the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies can be found on the Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org (click on World Missions), or on the national Pontifical Mission Societies website: www.onefamilyinmission.org.

Or contact:
Office of Pontifical Missions
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-657-4804 ext. 240

Thank you for your prayers and your sacrifice.

Missions…
By the Numbers

1822

The year in which the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was founded in France by Pauline Jaricot.

2/3

The portion of the first Society for the Propagation of the Faith collection that went to the young United States for the diocese of Louisiana (extending from the Florida Keys to Canada) and the mission of Kentucky. The remaining third went to China.

30,000

Number of missionary seminarians who receive help from the Saint Peter Apostle Society.

700

Number of dollars that helps one young seminarian for one year as he prepares for priesthood. $300 will assist the education of religious Sisters and Brothers.

26

Percent of the support contributed by the United States to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith today for the 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide.

1

Number of U.S. dioceses still receiving help from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (Fairbanks, Alaska).
Pope Marks Pentecost, Announces New Doctors of Church

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

The modern world is a latter-day Babel, where arrogance inspired by technological progress leads people to play God and sets them against each other, a predicament from which people can escape only through divinely inspired humility and love, said Pope Benedict XVI.

The pope made his remarks during his homily May 27, Pentecost Sunday, during Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Acknowledging that communications media and modern transportation have brought the world’s people “closer to one another than ever before,” Pope Benedict lamented that true “understanding and communion” is “often superficial and difficult.”

“Thanks to scientific and technological progress, we have acquired the power to dominate the forces of nature, to manipulate the elements, to fabricate living beings, almost going so far as to fabricate human beings,” he said. “In such a situation, praying to God seems outmoded and useless, because we ourselves can construct and achieve anything we want.”

Pope Benedict likened these developments to the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel, according to which men came to think themselves “strong enough to be able to construct on their own a path to heaven in order to open its doors and put themselves in God’s place.”

That ambition bred conflict not only with God but among men, he said, since it caused them to lose “the ability to agree, to understand each other and to work together.”

Pope Benedict said the remedy for today’s strife is the same one bestowed at the first Pentecost, when the fire of the Holy Spirit descended on the gathered disciples “and lit in them the divine fire, a fire of love with the power to transform.”

Among the consequences then, the pope noted, was that the disciples “began to speak freely, such that all were able to understand the news of Jesus Christ dead and risen again.”

“At Pentecost, where there was division and estrangement, there are born unity and understanding,” he said.

The Holy Spirit “sustains and unites” mankind, the pope said, and also resolves interior conflicts within each person, between the constantly struggling impulses of the flesh and the spirit.

After the Mass, before praying the “Regina Coeli” at the window of his study overlooking St. Peter’s Square, Pope Benedict announced that he will proclaim St. John of Avila, a 16th-century Spanish priest, and St. Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century German abbess, as doctors of the universal church Oct. 7 in Rome.

The doctors of the church, saints honored for particularly important contributions to theology and spirituality, come from both the Eastern and Western church traditions. The current list of 33 doctors include early church fathers such as Sts. Jerome, John Chrysostom and Augustine, as well as major theologians such as Sts. Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure and John of the Cross.

The last saint named a doctor of the church was St. Therese of Lisieux, who was honored by Pope John Paul II in 1997. St. Hildegard will become the fourth woman doctor of the church, joining Sts. Therese, Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila.
"I Do" Jubilarians Say it Again 50 Years Later

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

The Catholic Witness is pleased to bring you the following article about the 50th wedding anniversary of Barbara and Irvin Wingeard. They each explained their initial attraction to each other. They had met at a party. They fell in love, and they were married. They have had a very successful marriage. They have been through many challenges, but they have stuck together. They are a great example of how love can overcome any obstacle.

Barbara and Irvin Wingeard

The old saying goes that all good things must come to an end, and that was the case for the Bishop McDevitt girls’ soccer team as their terrific season ended last weekend in the state quarterfinals with a 4-2 loss against a strong Mechanicsburg Wildcats team at Hersheypark Stadium. The Crusaders had played the Wildcats in two previous matches during the regular Mid-Penn Conference season when they beat the ‘Cats and then played them to a draw. But in the third meeting, Mechanicsburg was able to attack deep and cross the ball unimpeded, which led to multiple scoring opportunities.

A week earlier, the Crusaders won the District 3 Class AA championship by beating Berks County perennial power Fleetwood 1-0 in double overtime to capture the gold medal. The Crusaders were led by senior captain, forward Kelsie Maloney, who had a stellar season scoring more than 50 goals in 24 games. Quick, fast and able to keep the ball on her feet in traffic, Maloney was the engine that drove the Crusaders’ train this season.
Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will open the Fortnight for Freedom on the feast of St. Thomas More with a Mass at St. Patrick Parish, 87 Marsh Drive, Carlisle, on Friday, June 22, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. All are encouraged to attend. The “Fortnight for Freedom” is a 14-day period of prayer, education and action in support of religious freedom from June 21-July 4 that was called for by the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops because of concerns over threats to religious freedom, both at home and abroad. Following the Mass, the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania will host a light breakfast in the school cafeteria. This will be a time to greet the Bishop and mingle with others. For more information about the society and its activities, please visit its website at www.saintthomasmoresociety.com.

Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat
Set for August 3 Weekend

“Transformation” is the theme for the 34th annual Retreat for the men of the Harrisburg Diocese, at Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md. The retreat, sponsored by Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg, will be led by Father Joe Breighner of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Ordained in 1971, Father Breighner has served as a parish priest, a pastoral counselor, and diocesan coordinator of evangelization. He hosted a radio program for 35 years and continues as a columnist for the archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Review. In addition to leading many retreats, he is an author of a number of books, including When Life Doesn’t Make Sense. The retreat is open to ages 14 and up. Men are encouraged to bring sons and grandsons. A $60 deposit is required towards the total cost of $130. Reservations can be made through local parish coordinators or by contacting Paul Little at 717-264-2577.

Museum Honors Lancaster Catholic HS
Teacher for Excellence in Science Education

The North Museum of Natural History & Science in Lancaster donated $1,000 to Lancaster Catholic High School in honor of Vasantha Kittappa, the 2012 recipient of the North Museum Board of Directors Prize for Excellence in Science Education. Mrs. Kittappa was named this year’s winner at the North Museum Science & Engineering Fair awards ceremony in March. Mrs. Kittappa began teaching in 1988, and since then she has had an impact on the lives of thousands of students. She teaches Honors Biology for freshmen, Academic Biology for sophomores, as well as Human Biology and Academic Anatomy and Physiology, and she supervises all the projects of Lancaster Catholic students who participate in the science fair. The hundreds of science fair winners she has advised include the fair’s 2008 and 2010 Grand Champions, Sanjeethan Baksh and Marian Bechtel. According to biology teacher Tanya Manso, the colleague who nominated her, “Mrs. Kittappa’s name is synonymous with the Science Fair within the walls of Lancaster Catholic High School and beyond.”

Lancaster Catholic High School intends to use the funds to purchase materials and supplies for the Annual North Museum Science Fair.

The North Museum introduced the Board of Directors’ Prize for Excellence in Science Education in 2009. The winner of the award must have taught for at least 10 years; have had some involvement in the Lancaster Newspapers or North Museum Science & Engineering Fair; and have demonstrated excellence in science education.

Nominations are sought from more than a hundred school district administrators, principals, curriculum specialists, and science teachers. The award is funded by members of the North Museum Board of Directors.

Knights Council Raises Funds for Annual ARC Campaign

Knights of Columbus Council 12532 of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster, extends heartfelt thanks to all of those who generously contributed to this year’s ARC Campaign. This annual campaign, which benefits local individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, raised $1,454 this year, outpacing last year’s $1,100 total. The money raised by the St. John Neumann council is divided between the Arc of Lancaster County (which will receive 75 percent of the funds) and the Arc of Pennsylvania (which will receive the remaining 25 percent). These organizations provide advocacy, community education, information and referral on available services, and monitoring of services provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“For the Knights of Columbus of Council 12532, sponsoring Arc is part of our pro-life mission,” said Joe Hainthaler, chairman of the Arc Campaign for the council. “We are all God’s children, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are therefore deserving of the acceptance and support of our community.”

This year marks the 34th year of the Knights of Columbus of Pennsylvania’s “Measure Up” campaign, during which members collect contributions and hand out raffle tickets to raise public awareness about The Arc and its mission. During last year’s “Measure Up” campaign, Knights of Columbus across Pennsylvania raised more than $140,000, and more than $5 million has been raised over the 34 years of the campaign for The Arc of Pennsylvania and its chapters across the commonwealth.

For more information, contact Joe Hainthaler, Arc Chairman, St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Council 12532, at 717-598-8661 or jhainthaler@aol.com.

Obituaries

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

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Mary Stachow
BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Kathryn Kemper; St. Katharine Drexel: Robert Keough, Larry Peffley, Mary T. Ortiz
ELYSBURG – Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: Mary Pisani
GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Norma Estrada, Mildred Gosselin
HARRISBURG – St. Vincent de Paul: James Hydock, Jr.
HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Joseph Suknaic; St. Francis Xavier: Gilda Aluise, Sarah Herwig
LANCASTER – Queen of Peace: Anna Eureick, Debra Smith, Margaret Zavich
NEW BLOOMFIELD – St. Bernard: Alina Keith
NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Andrew Daniash
NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Norman McSherry
ORCHARD - BVM: Kathryn Wark.
REFLECTIONS ON THE DEATH OF FATHER ROBERT BURNS, JR.

Father Robert Burns, Jr., 2001

Father Robert Burns, Jr., 2001, was ordained in 1971. He served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore for 30 years and continues as a columnist for the archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Review. In addition to leading many retreats, he is an author of a number of books, including When Life Doesn’t Make Sense. The retreat is open to ages 14 and up. Men are encouraged to bring sons and grandsons. A $60 deposit is required towards the total cost of $130. Reservations can be made through local parish coordinators or by contacting Paul Little at 717-264-2577.

Bishop to Open Fortnight
for Freedom on June 22

Student Designs T-Shirt for Respect Life Day at Annunciation BVM School

From Annunciation School

The slogan says it all: “Live Life, Love Life, Respect Life, Pro Life.”

Seventh-grade student Armando Ugarte coined this phrase for his school’s T-shirt that was worn on Respect Life Day recently by students at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in McSherry-town. Armando, with fellow members of the school’s student council, created a T-shirt to be purchased by students and worn as the culmination of the school’s Pro Life efforts.

“Respect for Life is a theme that permeates the school throughout the year,” explained Amy McNeill, principal of Annunciation BVM School. “Through small contributions and classroom programs, our students are subtly reminded of the great importance we place on God-given life.”

Pro Life activities begin in October, when students participate in Cupcakes for Life and Pennies for Life. Teachers donate cupcakes and students enjoy them as a treat and as a reminder that every person deserves the opportunity to celebrate a birthday. For the entire month of October, students collect pennies and small change to support the Harrisburg Diocese’s “Pennies for Life” Program. This year, students collected more than $800 for the effort. In February, student council sells twenty-five cent “Heartmarks” for Valentine’s Day. All proceeds from this sale went to the local Tendercare Pregnancy Center. In the classroom, an informational poster, which is updated monthly, shows each stage of a baby’s life from conception to birth.

For the April 30 Respect Life Day, students were given the opportunity to purchase the student-designed T-shirts at a reduced price, thanks to a generous donation from the Knights of Columbus in McSherry-town. Students wore the T-shirt and members of the school’s student council presented a shirt to Christopher Hoffman from the Knights of Columbus. Two members of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary were also present to accept the shirt on behalf of the organization. The entire student body then gathered outside the school for a picture to commemorate this special day.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Parking lot in Mount Pocono, Pa. Depart Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg Sept. 7 at 1:15 p.m., return in Lebanon Sept. 10 at 11 p.m. The retreat is open to men ages 14 and older. Men are encouraged to come with a friend and attend with a group. Cost is $25. A $5 deposit is required to reserve your spot. Additional highlights include a pilgrimage to a community meeting Sept. 8. If you feel called to serve as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, you must be willing to give back to the Lord to pursue a deeper awareness of God's Indwelling Presence and in community, you may want to come to visit and see if this community is what you have been searching for. For more information on Carmelite Spirituality, contact Maureen Heberle at 717-921-8644 or roihnheb454@aol.com or Karen Kupris at 717-512-0806 or karenupris@gmail.com.

**Events & Fund-Raisers**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual pilgrimage June 8 and 9 at St. Cecelia’s Parish Hall and Grounds, Lebanon. Games, great food, bingo and music both evenings. Midway 5-11 p.m. Fri-Sat., July 17-18 p.m. Sun. A Fish Dinner on Father starting at 4 p.m. in the air conditioned Parish Hall, plus food stands on the festival grounds. The Johnson Brothers will provide the musical entertainment Friday evening, and the music of Laredo, entertainment by the Mudflaps. Sunday features a spaghetti dinner, prizes and refreshments. Contact Ashley Long at 717-772-4965 or karinupris@gmail.com.

St. Peter’s Parish in York will hold an annual silent auction in the Parish Center, Columbia June 9 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bargains galore, food and festivities.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonners Forge will hold its Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra **Carnival** June 12-16 from 5-10 p.m. each day at St. Joseph Parish in York. Admission is $8 per person. Additional highlights include a carnival June 12-16 from 5-10 p.m., and 16 from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Cost is $25 per person. Tickets on sale now.

**Scrapbook Crop**

At the Fairview Elementary School, June 21-23 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. All proceeds will aid the Library Fund. For more information contact Mrs. Marie Liddle at 717-576-7826 or mliddle@stannesrc.org.
World Meeting

Continued from 1

Archbishop Chaput went on stage to greet the pope, and there they embraced and chatted briefly. The pope, who chooses the venue for each world families’ meeting, thanked the archbishop for his willingness to host.

The former archbishop of Denver, who has been leading the Philadelphia Archdiocese since September, said the event will be “a blessing for us.”

“It’s really a great opportunity for us to preach the Gospel and celebrate the gifts of our families and marriage,” he said.

“Philadelphia is in the midst of a very difficult time and I hope that (the 2015 meeting) will be a way of celebrating our commitment to be a Church of the new evangelization that looks forward to the future with confidence and joy,” he said.

Archbishop Chaput said he was contacted six weeks ago by the Pontifical Council for the Family and told it had picked Philadelphia as one of three possible cities for the next world gathering.

The council wanted to know if the archbishop would be willing to host before it sent the candidate cities’ names on to the pope for the final selection.

Archbishop Chaput said he spelled out very clearly to the council the archdiocese’s financial struggles, saying it could only host a significantly limited gathering.

We envisioned a gathering of 60,000 to 80,000 rather than 300,000,” people, he said.

Despite the limitations, the pope “still decided to come to Philadelphia knowing that it would probably be a different scale of celebration than they’ve been used to.”

The meeting in Milan was the archbishop’s first World Meeting of Families and he said he was moved by families’ personal testimonies and very impressed with the same kind of joy and enthusiasm seen at World Youth Days, which he has actively attended for years.

The world family gathering is not so well known or understood in the United States, he said, and hosting the event will be a great way to positively promote the Catholic understanding of marriage and family in a very public way during a time when marriage is undergoing legal redefine and the family is facing ongoing challenges.

He said he did not know why the pope chose Philadelphia, but said the choice represented “the Holy Father blessing us” with a unique opportunity to boost Catholic’s spirits and re-energize their efforts and commitment to living and spreading the Gospel.

It would also be an important way for families to share their experiences and insight, he said, adding that hope it would be able to replicate in Philadelphia the same kind of energy and enthusiasm he saw in Milan.

The World Meeting of Families, which celebrates and aims to help families love their Christian vocation, is organized by the Pontifical Council for the Family.

The first world meeting was held in Lyon in 1994, since then it has taken place in Rio de Janeiro, in 1997; Rome in 2000; Manila in 2003; Valencia, Spain, in 2006; and Mexico City in 2009.

USCCB Meeting

Continued from 1

procedures the Catholic Church opposes, including abortion-inducing drugs, artificial contraceptives and sterilizations. The mandate was announced Aug. 1, 2011, as part of the rules that are issue to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed 2010. Other concerns have surfaced that worry the bishops, including court rulings and policies that force Catholic institutions out of adoption and foster care.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Balti more, chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, told Catholic News Service he will update the status of the series of lawsuits filed May 21 across the country by Catholic institutions and organizations challenging the HHS mandate. He also planned to discuss the major activities around the country for the “fortnight for freedom” campaign in support of religious freedom called by the ad hoc committee for June 21 to July 4.

He said he also will review “ongoing efforts to educate Catholics and the general public on the Church’s teaching on religious liberty and religious heritage as Americans.”

Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, will address religious liberty concerns internationally during the two-hour discussion. Two other speakers will join Bishop Pates during the session to offer ways Americans can be in solidarity with the church abroad.

Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad, who serves as president of Caritas Iraq, will describe the situation facing Christians in the Middle Eastern country.

Thomas F. Farr, director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University, will provide an overview of challenges to religious freedom around the world.

“Our view is that the two [sides of religious liberty] are very much inter related,” Archbishop Lori said. “It’s important for us to keep the torch of religious liberty burning brightly at home so we can be a beacon of hope for people everywhere, particularly for people who are suffering real persecution.”

Representatives of the National Review Board will look at the progress made on preventing incidents of clergy sexual abuse since the adoption of the charter in Dallas in 2002 and offer recommendations on how to strengthen its implementation for the future, said Mary Jane Doerr, associate director of the bishops’ Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

The report will examine accomplishments under the four sections of the charter: healing, effective response, accountability and protecting the faith.

The National Review Board also will offer a series of recommendations to the bishops stemming from the “causes and context” study conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York released in 2011. The study found “no single identifiable ‘cause’ of sexually abusive behavior toward minors” by clergy and encouraged steps to deny abusers “the opportunity to abuse.”

The recommendations will encompass the main factors identified in the study: education, situational prevention, and oversight and accountability, Doerr told CNS.

“They want the recommendations to broaden the audience, not just to members of the Church, but to the community at large. We’re all responsible for protecting children,” Doerr explained.

Federal Court Overturns Defense of Marriage Act; Appeal Presumed

Catholic News Service

With a ruling that acknowledged the final decision will be up to the Su preme Court, a federal appeals court declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional May 31.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the provision of the 1996 federal law, known as DOMA, that defines marriage as “a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Massachusetts Cath olic Conference, which had urged the court to uphold the law, jointly issued a press release June 1 calling the ruling disappointing.

The appeals court in Boston did a grave injustice yesterday by striking down that part of the Defense of Marriage Act that reasonably recog nizes that marriage is the union of one man and one woman,” said the statement from Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the bishops’ Sub committee for the Promotion and De fense of Marriage. “DOMA is part of our nation’s long-established body of law rooted in the true meaning of marriage.”

The president of the National Orga nization for Marriage, which opposes same-sex marriage, accused the judg es of inventing the legal path to the ruling.

“Liberal federal judges in Massa chussetts and California have resorted to making up legal standards in order to justify redefining marriage,” said a statement from Brian Brown “They realize the legal precedent doesn’t allow them to redefine marriage, so they are making up new standards to justify their values on the rest of the nation.”

Judge Michael Boudin, who wrote the opinion, was appointed to the 1st Circuit by President George W. Bush. The other two judges who joined the opinion were Judge Sandra Lynch, appointed by President Bill Clinton; and Judge Juan Torruella, appointed by President Ronald Rea gan.

The panel cited previous Supreme Court rulings that struck down laws determined to be discriminatory against a class of people as being among the keys to their ruling. They also stayed their ruling pending re view by the Supreme Court.

The case was brought against the federal government by a group of same-sex married couples and sever al widowed spouses, all from Massa chussetts. They seek access to federal benefits such as Social Security that would be available to heterosexual married couples but are blocked un der DOMA.

The law was passed soon after Hawaii’s Supreme Court held that it might violate the state constitution to deny marriage to same-sex couples. Amid concern that states would soon be allowed to redefine marriage, Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed the 230-word law, which the appeals court described as “one of the shortest major enactments in recent history.”

Since then, 30 states have passed constitutional prohibitions on same-sex marriage while six states and the District of Columbia have passed laws permitting it. Another dozen states, including Hawaii, have laws recognizing civil unions between people of the same sex.

The 1st Circuit was reviewing only the provision of DOMA that defines “marriage” and “spouse,” not its pro vision guaranteeing that no state or territory is required to recognize a marriage recognized by another state or territory.

The court said the case was dif ficult, “because it couples issues of equal protection and federalism with the need to assess the rationale for a congressional statute.”

That rationale is “open to interpreta tion,” the judges said, adding: “We have done our best to discern the di verse of these precedents, but only the Supreme Court can finally decide this unique case.”
Blessing

Continued from 1

The ceremony included the poignant reading of the Scripture passage from Matthew 25:31-46, in which Jesus commands his followers to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

“Is it Jesus who tells us that we are to take care of one another. It is Jesus’ command to us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to give counsel to those who are ill, and to provide a shelter for them. In doing that, we are really serving the Lord,” he said.

“What we are doing here is part of our faith. The St. Samuel Center is an important part of our Church, it’s an important part of our faith. It’s what we do, and we cannot separate that out as though it’s some other type of ministry,” Bishop McFadden said.

“For us, this is who we are. This is our faith. This is our religion…. We are called to live our faith each and every day by the manner in which we treat one another,” Bishop McFadden said.

As much as you hope to bless them, they bless us in return,” she said. Lourdeshouse Maternity Home offers comprehensive maternity care to up to 12 women at any given time. Typically, they are single women who have no support from their families, are homeless, or have just come out of prison.

Lourdeshouse monitors their medical care and nutrition, and offers a supportive environment throughout their pregnancy and up to six months after the birth of their babies.

“Sometimes it takes awhile to get to where they want you to help them, because they still are hesitant to trust because of some of their past issues, but once you gain that trust, you become like a part of their family,” she said. “The women really rely on us to help them with whatever they need. And sometimes when their babies are six months old, they don’t want to leave because we’ve become their family.”

Enveloped by trees and situated in a neighborhood setting, the 90-bed St. Samuel Center offers the amenities of home to the residents of the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Evergreen House and Lourdeshouse.

Here, mothers and infants can continue to receive support services until the babies reach 12 months of age. Services include housing, case management, childbirth education, parenting classes, pantry items, and access to other Catholic Charities services such as counseling and adoption services. The program served a combined 60 residents and babies in the past reporting year. Lourdeshouse program director Renee Ramp said the women are looking forward to moving into St. Samuel Center, where they will continue to develop bonds with each other and with staff members.

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How to Help

You can assist the St. Samuel Center and its residents in a variety of ways. Naming opportunities are available for the three programs located in the facility, including common rooms, kitchens and bedrooms. Donations are welcome for the establishment of a playground for the children of the Interfaith Shelter, and to help defray operating expenses. You can also assist the programs by donating items from their wish lists, which can be found at the “Homes for Healing” link at www.hbgdiocese.org/charities.

Wish list items include household mops and cleaning supplies for the Interfaith Shelter; alarm clocks, radios and a sectional sofa for Lourdeshouse; and feminine hygiene products, date books and gel pens for Evergreen House.

For additional information, to donate, or to express interest in sponsorship opportunities, contact Chris Meehan, Development Director for Catholic Charities, at 217-457-4004 or cmeehan@hbgdiocese.org.

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International Eucharistic Congress Is Ireland’s Largest Religious Event Since 1979 Papal Visit

By Michael Kelly
Catholic News Service

The weeklong 50th International Eucharistic Congress, which gets underway in Dublin June 10, will be Ireland’s largest religious event since Pope John Paul II visited in 1979. The celebration of faith offers a lively mixture of prayer, reflection and liturgy with participation from some of the leading voices in the Catholic world.

Organizers promise an estimated 12,000 overseas visitors the traditional Irish “cead mile failte” – “a hundred thousand welcomes.” Many Dubliners have opened their homes to pilgrims.

Events were set to begin June 10 with an open-air Mass celebrated by Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

The Royal Dublin Society – normally a venue for equestrian events, rugby matches and election counts – will be transformed into a “Eucharistic Village” where, according to organizers, “the Eucharist will be celebrated in the liturgy, adored in the prayer space and lived in the experience of each pilgrim.”

Each day there are talks, reflections and guided prayer hosted by leading lay voices such as Brother Alois Leser, German prior of the Taize community; Maria Voce, president of the Focolare Movement; and Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Before converging on the main congress arena, pilgrims will gather daily for Mass in their respective language groups at churches across the city. There also is a program dedicated for younger pilgrims running side-by-side with the main schedule of events.

Father Kevin Dorn, secretary general of the congress, said the event is a celebration of culture as much as it is of faith.

“This festival consists not only of testimonies, catacomb visits, celebrations and workshops, but also a wide range of activities throughout the week: movies, choirs, cultural exhibitions, plays, gospel music, traditional Irish music, liturgical dance, Chris- tian rock bands, orchestras, workshops on song and other artistic expressions,” he said.

As the theme, chosen by Pope Benedict XVI, is The Eucharist: Communion With Christ and With One Another. That theme will be examined by an international cadre of Church leaders from around the world including Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa and Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

While the week is a celebratory in nature, there also will be poignant reminders of the recent history of the Church in Ireland. A special healing stone dedicated to those who have suffered abuse by priests and religious will be unveiled at the opening ceremony, while a day will be dedicated to reconciliation with a special liturgy.

Complex issues such as Christian hope in the context of suffering will be addressed by Christian leaders from troubled parts of the world. Among the speakers:

-Chaldean Archbishop Bashar Warda of Irbil, Iraq, will discuss the suffering of Christians in his battle-scarred country.

-Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem will describe conditions for religious minorities in the Holy Land.

-Rose Busingye, executive director of Meeting Place International, will speak of her experiences in Uganda in treating and advocating for people with AIDS.

-Pilgrims also will be able to view an exhibition that recreates Capernaum in the time of Jesus. The three-dimensional exhibit will give visitors the opportunity to transport themselves to the village on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus spent much time during his public ministry.

The closing Mass will take pilgrims across the Liffey River to Croke Park on the north side of Dublin. More than 80,000 pilgrims are expected to attend the liturgy, which will include a live video-link with Pope Benedict from the Vatican.

Honoring Those Who Serve

Active and retired military members and their families gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on May 20, for the annual National Memorial Mass of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Timothy Broglio, archbishop for the Military Services, USA. “Are we not here to celebrate our communion with those who gave their lives on the battlefield? (And) we ask God’s blessing on all those in harm’s way,” the archbishop said. “It is important to thank everyone who committed himself or herself to defense of the principles and values of this country. The Mass included the posting and the retiring of the Colors, the singing of the National Anthem and ‘America the Beautiful.' There was also a most moving sound of ‘Taps’ for those whom Archbishop Broglio said ‘made the ultimate sacrifice’ during the past year.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services was created by Pope John Paul II to provide the Catholic Church’s full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces. This includes more than 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 153 V.A. Medical Centers, and federal employees serving outside the boundaries of the USA in 134 countries.