Church Leaders Called to Preserve Tradition, Pope Tells New Cardinals

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Leaders and members of the Catholic Church do not have the authority to determine its teaching and structure but are called to ensure its fidelity to Jesus and to the faith passed on by the apostles, Pope Benedict XVI told the 22 new cardinals he created.

“The church is not self-regulating, she does not determine her own structure but receives it from the word of God, to which she listens in faith as she seeks to understand it and to live it,” the pope said in a homily Feb. 19 during a Mass concelebrated with the new cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The College of Cardinals was expanded Feb. 18, and the new members included Cardinals Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Edwin F. O’Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and former archbishop of Baltimore; and Thomas C. Collins of Toronto.

The family, friends and pilgrims accompanying the new cardinals arrived at St. Peter’s extra early after many of them missed the consistory Feb. 18 because the basilica was full. While they waited for Mass to begin, they joined in the recitation of the rosary in Latin.

O God, Creator of us all,
From whom we come,
You look with pity on our hearts,
The weakness of our wills you know.

Forgive us all the wrong we do,
And purify each sinful soul.
What we have darkened, heal with light,
And what we have destroyed, make whole.

The fast by law and prophets taught,
By you, O Christ, was sanctified.
Bless all our penance, give us strength
To share the Cross on which you died.

O God of mercy, hear our prayer,
With Christ your Son, and Spirit blest,
Transcendent Trinity in whom
Created things come all to rest.

(Hymn from Magnificat, February 2012)
Tradition

The Mass marked the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, a liturgical solemnity focused on the authority Jesus entrusted to Peter. The feast usually is celebrated Feb. 22 but was early because Ash Wednesday fell on that date this year.

The basilica’s bronze statue of St. Peter, with its foot worn smooth by centuries of pilgrims’ caresses, was draped with red and gold liturgical vestments for the feast day.

To illustrate his homily, the pope used another artwork, Gian Lorenzo Bernini’s towering sculpture of the Chair of St. Peter, which is topped by the Holy Spirit window in the basilica’s apse.

The Catholic Church is like a window into which the light of truth shines and through which a response of love should radiate, he said.

“The Church herself is like a window, the place where God draws near to us, where he comes toward our world,” the pope said.

Bernini’s sculpture features a large throne, which symbolizes the authority Jesus gave to St. Peter, supported by two ancient church theologians — two doctors, the Church from the East and two from the West, representing the unity and diversity within the universal Church, he said.

The support of the theologians also teaches us that love rests upon faith. Love collapses if man no longer trusts in God, as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

“All in the Church rests upon faith: the sacraments, the liturgy, evangelization, as well as ‘the law and the Church’s authority,’ he said.

Catholics cannot make things up as they go along, he said. They must follow tradition, the sacred Scriptures and the teaching of the apostles, explained and interpreted by the fathers of the Church and the popes.

All the Church teachings and the world must be motivated by love and lead to love, the pope said.

“A selfish faith would be an unreal faith,” Pope Benedict said.

“Whoever believes in Jesus Christ and enters into the dynamic of love that finds its source in the Eucharist discovers true joy and becomes capable, in turn, of living according to the logic of gift,” he said.

Like the basilica’s Holy Spirit window with its radiating golden rays, “God is not isolation, but glorious and joyful love, spreading outward and radiant with light,” the pope told the new cardinals.

Entrusted with God’s love, every Christian — and, particularly, each of the Church’s cardinals — has a duty to share it with others, he said.

The altar servers at the Mass were seminarians from the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome where Cardinals O’Brien and Dolan both served as rector before being named bishops.

At the beginning of the Mass, Italian Cardinal Fernando Filoni, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, thanked the pope on behalf of all the new cardinals. Acknowledging the different nationalities and ministries of the new cardinals, Cardinal Filoni said, “We are united by one faith in Christ, love for the Church, fidelity to the pope and a deep awareness of the real and serious needs of humanity.”

The cardinal also thanked the family members present at the Mass, several of whom brought the offertory gifts to the pope. Cardinal Filoni said every vocation, including the new cardinals’ vocations to the priesthood, is born within a family or other community and nurtured by the faith of others.

Pope Benedict met the new cardinals and their family and friends again Feb. 20 in the more informal setting of an audience.

He asked the family and friends to support the new cardinals with even more prayers, to listen to them more carefully and “be united with them and among yourselves in faith and charity in order to be even more fervid and courageous on their part.”

At the end of the audience, each of the new cardinals presented two members of their entourage to the pope. Cardinal Collins introduced his sisters, Catherine and Patricia, to the pope and Cardinal O’Brien presented two longtime friends of New York, Patricia Dillon and Patricia Handal.

After Cardinal Dolan introduced his main supporter, Shirley O’Brien, 83, to the pope, Pope Benedict told her, “You look too young to be a cardinal’s mother,” the cardinal told Catholic News Service. “I told him, ‘I hope that’s an infallible statement.’”

“Let’s face it,” Cardinal Dolan said, “it’s somewhat rare that a cardinal can introduce his mother to the pope.” The average age of the 213 members of the College of Cardinals is over 75.

Cardinal Dolan also presented Vincenzo Mustaciuolo to the pope. She is the mother of Msgr. Greg Mustaciuolo, chancellor of the New York Archdiocese. The monsignor is one of the cardinal’s closest aides, and his mother had never met the pope, the cardinal said.

By Francis X. Rocca

Catholic News Service

Practically everyone knows two things about cardinals — they wear red hats and elect the pope. But what other purpose do they serve in the Catholic Church? During a Feb. 18 consistory, Pope Benedict XVI expanded the College of Cardinals by 22 new members. The three North Americans among them shared some thoughts on the meaning of their new role.

“Every priest and certainly every bishop has a responsibility to care for the church universal,” said Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien, “but a cardinal really has a very clear role in a pastoral concern for the church universal.”

“It’s a wider focus on the church and how we can help the Holy Father and inform the Holy Father as to the needs of the church universal as we experience them,” Cardinal O’Brien said.

Unlike most of his peers working in Rome, Cardinal O’Brien has not been named to run a Vatican office. Instead, Pope Benedict has made him head of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

The order, which has its roots in the medieval crusades, now works to help Christians living in the Holy Land, among other ways, by running hospitals, orphanages and schools.

That mission has lately “taken on a special urgency,” said Cardinal O’Brien, as war and civil unrest in the Middle East have made thealways-precarious position of Christian minorities there even more threatening.

Cardinal Dolan, who will continue to administer the Archdiocese of Baltimore until the pope names his successor as archbishop there, said that he will also remain involved in efforts to defend religious freedom in the United States, from what he called the “steps being taken on every level of our government to limit our options as Catholic and Christian people.”

“I’m still an American,” Cardinal O’Brien said. “I will not interfere, but I will support my successor in every way possible, and my brother and sister Catholics in every way possible, to turn this tide around. It’s gone too far and we’ve been too complacent for too long, and we have to take action.”

Cardinal Thomas C. Collins of Toronto said he recently drew inspiration from a biography of St. John Fisher, a cardinal who was martyred in 1535 for refusing to recognize King Henry VIII as head of the English church.

“The red robes, those spectacular scarlet robes of the cardinals, the reason for the term ‘rising of blood,’” Collins said.

Most cardinals, of course, do not expect to be killed as witnesses to the Catholic faith. Almost from the beginning of his new role, Cardinal Collins said, is St. Charles Borromeo.

The 16th-century archbishop of Milan, a towering figure of that century’s Catholic Reformation, experienced a kind of non-physical martyrdom in the sense that his people even in the midst of plague ... and he was also very firm in terms of the civil power,” Cardinal Collins said.

New York’s Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan struck a characteristically informal tone when he told Basilian Father Thomas Rosica of Salt and Light Television that “in the long run it doesn’t amount to much” becoming a cardinal.

“In the vocabulary of the Church, we don’t like to use words like ‘promotion’ or ‘honour’ or ‘dignity’ or ‘prestige,’” the cardinal said, “because Jesus told us not to.”

“This is a great honor, my God, for a kid from Ballwin,” Mo, he said, but “in the vocabulary of the Gospel it’s simply a call to more expanded service.”

“What really counts is what?” Cardinal Dolan said.

“That we’re made in the image and likeness of God, that I’m baptized into the church and saved from my sins by the precious blood of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. For me, it means a lot that I’m a priest. And everything else is gravy.”

Then the cardinal, often known to poke fun at his own hearty appetite, quickly added with a laugh: “I like gravy.”

Of Cardinal Importance: New Princes of the Church on their Role

February 24, 2012

Dear friends in Christ,

As we begin our Lenten observance, I come to you once again in regard to our united effort to safeguard the first freedom guaranteed to us in our Constitution – namely our right to religious liberty. The First Amendment of our “Bill of Rights” states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” When the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services directed nearly all employers, including our Catholic institutions, to make available abortion inducing drugs, sterilizations and birth control to their employees, our fundamental right to freely exercise our faith was infringed.

President Obama announced some adjustments in language, but these do not change the mandate nor do they address the valid concerns about religious liberty. This is no compromise since there is no difference in the effect of the new ruling: Catholics and others who object to these life threatening drugs and procedures are still forced to facilitate their availability.

Catholic Bishops throughout the United States continue to object strenuously to this immoral and indefensible regulation. We have been joined by many members of other faith communities and civil liberties groups in our efforts to defend our “First Freedom”. Our faith cannot be defined or compromised by a government edict. Recently, His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan, President of our Bishop’s Conference wrote:

“Despite how it is being portrayed by the media, this is not just about contraception, abortion-causing drugs, and sterilization—although all should recognize the injustices involved in making them part of a universal mandated health care program. It is not about Republicans or Democrats, conservatives or liberals. It is about people of faith. This is first and foremost a matter of religious liberty for all. If the government can, for example, tell Catholics that they cannot be in the insurance business today without violating their religious convictions, where does it end? This violates the constitutional limits on our government, and the basic rights upon which our country was founded.

I concur with Cardinal Dolan and am personally asking you to exercise your responsibility of citizenship and let your member of Congress know you support legislation that will correct this error and restore our religious liberty and right of conscience. The information you will need is available at PACatholic.org, here at the parish, or from the Diocesan website www.hbgdiocese.org. May God bless you and sustain you in this holy season.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

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Sweeping HHS Mandate
Stands, Violating Conscience Rights and Religious Liberty

Take Action Today

On January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Ser- vices (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortion-causing drugs, and contra- ception. The exemption provided for “religious employers” was so narrow that it failed to cover the vast majority of faith-based or- ganizations—including Catholic hospitals, universities, and chari- ties—that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and his disciples would have qualified for the exemption, because it excludes those who mainly serve people of another faith.

On February 10, the Obama Administration made this rule final “without change”; delayed enforcement for a year against religious nonprofits that were still not exempted (our charities, hospitals, and colleges), and promised to develop more regulations to “accom- modate” them by the end of that additional year. But, as explained below, that promised “accommodation” still forces them to pay for “services” that violate their religious convictions.

The original rule that violated our religious liberty so severely has not been changed, but finalized. After touting meaningful changes in the mandate, HHS instead finalized the original rule that was first issued in August 2011 “with- out change.” So the offensive definition of “religious employer”— which excludes our charities, hospitals, and colleges because they serve people of other faiths—is still in place, and those institutions are still subject to the mandate.

HHS has promised some kind of “accommodation,” but only after the election. HHS said it would take an additional year to develop more regu- lations to “accommodate” religiously-affiliated charities, schools, and hospitals that still fall outside the “religious employer” exemp- tion. The impact of these additional rules will not be felt until after the election, the only point of public accountability for the Execu- tive Branch. This eliminates an important incentive for HHS to pro- vide the best protection for religious liberty.

The promised “accommodation”—even at its best—would still force our institutions to violate their beliefs. Under the proposed “accommodation,” if an employee of these religious institutions wants coverage of contraception or steriliza- tion directly from the insurer, the objecting employer is still forced to pay for it as a part of the employer’s insurance plan. Since there is no other source, the funds to pay for that coverage must come from the premiums of the employer and fellow employees, even those who who object in conscience.

There is no exemption for objection insurers, secular employ- ers, for-profit religious employers, or individuals.

The U.S. bishops defend religious liberty for all, and so have repeatedly identified all the stakeholders in the process whose reli- gious freedom is threatened by the mandate—all employers, insurers, and individuals, not just religious employers. Now, all insurers, including self-insurers, must provide the coverage to any employee who wants it. In turn, all individuals who pay premiums have no escape from subsidizing that coverage. And only employers that are both non-profit and religious may qualify for the limited “ac- commodation.”

We urgently need legislation to correct the mandate’s threats to religious liberty and conscience rights. The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) to ensure that those who participate in the market for health insurance “retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.”

Contact your U.S. Representative by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call your Members’ local offices. Or send your email to Congress at www. pacatholic.org. You can also find contact information for members of Congress at www.hbgdiocese.org/conscience. Give them this message: “Please co-sponsor and support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). The Obama administration’s decision to mandate coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the religious liberty and conscience rights of all participants in our nation’s health care system are respected.”
Convos and the Symphony of Truth
By George Weigel
Special to The Witness
Why do adults become Catholics?
There are as many reasons for “converting” as there are converts. Evelyn Waugh became a Catholic with, by his own admission, “little emotion but clear conviction”: this was the truth; one ought to adhere to it. Cardinal Avery Dulles wrote that his journey into the Catholic Church began with a debate between an unbelieveing Harvard undergraduate detached from his family’s staunch Presbyterianism, he noticed a leafy shimmering with raindrops while taking a walk along the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass.; such walks helped him think—there must be a Cre- dence, poet Robert Lax, by taking a walk along the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass.; such walks helped him think—there must be a Cre- dence, poet Robert Lax, by taking a walk along the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass.; such walks helped him think—there must be a Cre- dence, poet Robert Lax, by taking a walk along the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass.; such walks helped himthink—there must be a Cre-
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

“People with disabilities are not just looking for pity. They seek to serve the community and to enjoy their full baptismal rights as members of the Church. Our interaction with them can and should be an act of faith. There can be no separate Church for people with disabilities. We are one flock that serves a single shepherd.” (Pastoral Statement of the United States Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities)

Since its establishment in August 2007, the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities has done much in its endeavor to cultivate full participation of people with disabilities in the life of the Church.

Specific efforts have included the creation of a ministry to the deaf at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, the formation of a parish advocacy program, the installation of assistive listening devices, the establishment of the homebound, and an annual diocesan-wide Mass celebrating the gifts of those with disabilities.

The Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities is also working with The Catholic Witness to feature a regular column that may appear from time to time to highlight the efforts and the people involved in disabilities ministry.

These spiritual, educational, and physical endeavors are just a few of the efforts that assist the diocese in its mission to promote inclusion, welcome, and participation of those with disabilities in all aspects of the Church.

And they’ve also helped to bridge the gap that will exist between those who have disabilities and those who don’t. Disabilities ministry has reinforced the fact that we share the same divine callling, notes Ginny Duncan, Director of the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities.

“People sometimes have the perception that people with disabilities are needy, that they bring a burden to parishes. Really, in many cases, the opposite is true,” she said. “We all have the same divine calling. What that means to us is that people with or without disabilities are called by God to serve. Therefore, as a parish and as a Church community, we have an obligation to assist people with disabilities in fulfilling that mandate that we all have from God.”

Mrs. Duncan acknowledged the hesitation or uneasiness people can feel when approaching someone with a disability, and said familiarity and knowledge ease those concerns.

“We can feel foolish about how to communicate with a deaf person, or what to do when a person with autism approaches,” she said. “But the more that persons with disabilities are visible and included in our parishes, the more we will feel comfortable and the more we will know.”

And there is much to understand about disabilities.

They span every age and ethnicity. They can be present at birth, or come on with age or circumstance. They can be outwardly apparent – like a physical disability – or sensory – like blindness or deafness. They can include mental illness or learning disorders, and they can be temporary or permanent.

Twenty percent of people in the United States live with a disability, and the call to include persons with disabilities in the life of the Church must include more than installing wheelchair ramps and handicapped parking spaces, Mrs. Duncan pointed out.

There are accommodations that sometimes we don’t think about. Are our church wells fit for people who rely on lip-reading, or for people with visual impairments? What is the sound system like? Can a person with mild hearing loss hear and understand the Mass? Other accommodations are those we might make for children with autism, where loud music might cause some behavioral issues,” she said.

“Disabilities isn’t a ‘them and us’ issue. Disabilities are us,” Mrs. Duncan remarked. “Before we die, we are likely going to have a disability in one way or another. We need to think of this issue as a human issue.”

To assist parishioners and parishioners in their interaction and work with people with disabilities, the advisory board for the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities is preparing a document of best practices that will soon be distributed to parishes. This tool will provide practical information about interacting with someone with a disability. And it comes directly from those who are disabled. Wheelchair users, for example, explain that it’s not appropriate to touch someone’s wheelchair, crutches or walker without permission. A blind person notes the need for verbal instruction about any changes to the pattern of the Communion line.

“If we can continue to educate about disabilities, then the gap between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities won’t exist,” Mrs. Duncan said.

Inclusion Ministry

Serving and understanding the needs of persons with disabilities is one part of the scope of disabilities ministry. Another key component is including the gifts of those who are disabled in the life of the Church.

“Extending an invitation to persons with disabilities is key to encouraging them to bring their talents to the parish. Often, they have experienced rejection in the past, and so they might hesitate to come forward in the Church, Mrs. Duncan noted.

“One of the challenges that we have in our parishes is that some people don’t want others to know they have a disability, and so they might not seek opportunities to use their gifts,” Mrs. Duncan said. “That’s where welcome and inclusion come in, to show that we’re all in this together.”

The Church must also reach out to those who were born Catholic but have fallen away from the Church.

“We need to bring them back, and by being open and welcoming, we can get them in the door. Then our challenge is educating them, teaching them in the faith,” Mrs. Duncan said.

An integral part of disabilities ministry in the Harrisburg Diocese is the parish advocacy program, which enables parishes to better respond to the gifts and needs of their parishioners with disabilities.

Currently, half of the parishes in the diocese have a parish advocate, the volunteer who assists the pastor in working for and with those with disabilities. Advocates are selected by their pastor, and strive to bring parishes and persons with disabilities into the full life of the Church – spiritually, physically and socially.

“Mrs. Duncan wants to see the program grow so that each parish has an advocate. Most parish advocates come from the diocese’s community of Catholic Action, experience or circumstance. The Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities trains advocates to better understand the full scope of the ministry.

Since its establishment a few years ago, the parish advocacy program has proven to be successful. In successful parishes, advocates, parishes and Mrs. Duncan’s office.

And in their ministry, parishes have developed programs such as disabilities fairs, and an important aspect of the Church’s mission.

“We are all children of God. We are all born with gifts. We are all born with disabilities. Therefore, the job of my office is to help people see that, and to assist people in adjusting to those gifts between, whether they are our own or someone else’s,” Mrs. Duncan said.

“There is a great benefit when any of us reach out to someone else. There’s a great benefit to expanding our world and expanding our knowledge base,” she said.

“The same phrase in the pastoral statement of the U.S. Bishops that says, ‘When we extend our healing hands to others, we are healed ourselves.’ I have found this to be true over and over again in my 30 years of working with people with disabilities. It’s such a gift to me to be able to serve God in this way.”

(For more information on disabilities ministry in the Diocese of Harrisburg – including the parish advocacy program – visit the Disabilities Ministries link at www.hbgdiocese.org or contact Ginny Duncan at vanderslvd@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 322.)

The Same Divine Calling: Annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities

Saturday, April 14 at 5 p.m.
St. Peter Church, 1840 Marshall Drive, Elizabethtown

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will be the principal celebrant. A light reception will follow.

Persons with disabilities, friends, family members and all diocesan parishioners are welcome!

St. Peter Church is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. A sign language interpreter and materials in Braille and large print will be provided. Contact Kate Neri for requests for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at 717-657-4804, Ext. 317, or kneri@hbgdiocese.org.
Faith and Life

Lenten Convocation of Priests Focuses on Penance

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

On the first Friday of Lent, and on the heels of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s Lenten Pastoral Letter, promoting a renewed approach to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, priests from throughout the diocese assembled with the bishop for a convocation on the sacrament.

The gathering, held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, featured two presentations on Penance, remarks by Bishop McFadden and a Communal Penance Service with individual Confessions.

Father G. Dennis Gill, Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, offered the two presentations. The first, on Penance, centered on “Conversion and God’s Forgiveness in the Celebration of the Sacraments and the Christian Life.” The second focused on Sacrament, “The Ritual Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.”

With his brother priests assembled, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden speaks to them about the Sacrament of Penance during a Lenten convocation in Harrisburg Feb. 24. The bishop is urging the faithful to return to the sacrament, and is calling upon priests to offer catechesis on Penance to the faithful.

Bishop McFadden is urging the faithful to return to the Sacrament of Penance.

“During this Lent, I invite you to make generous use of the Sacrament of Penance and to renew how you approach and celebrate the rite,” he wrote in his Lenten Pastoral Letter. “During the days of Lent, my hope is that our renewed approach to the celebration of the Sacrament will help us better experience the compassion of Christ, the challenge of continual conversion, and the joy of forgiveness.”

In exhorting the faithful to return to this sacrament, the bishop has also called upon priests to offer weekly catechesis on Penance, including teaching on the need for Confession, proper preparation for the sacrament through examination of conscience, and the call to true conversion.

The bishop’s Lenten Pastoral Letter, which appeared in the Feb. 17 edition of The Catholic Witness, can be found online with a variety of resources on Lent and Confession at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Matthew 25
Grant Applications for FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER for our brothers and sisters in need are being accepted now.

Grant applications are to be mailed
Maximum grant request is $10,000
Must have pastor endorsement and signature
Deadline for submission is May 31, 2012
Grant approval notification is the end of May

“It is with the deepest gratitude that I write to thank you for your generosity and kindness toward the Ann Josephine House. God knows the Grant has been received in a much needed time. Caring for the elderly is a caring and costly work of love.”
Angie Delaney and readings, 2011 Grant Recipient

Contact your parish for an application or go on line at www.hbgdiocese.org/m25 to print an application.

Let us not forget that funding for these grants is from the generosity of Catholics who responded to the Matthew 25 Collection held on November 20, 2011.

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, divorced people who wish to marry Catholics, parish leaders involved in the RCIA process, and those who have a vested interest because of family or friends. Presentations will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4804 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

March 4 – St. Joseph Church, York, 7 p.m.
March 15 – Cardinal Keeler Center room 103, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
May 7 – St. Joseph Church, Danville, 7 p.m.
June 7 – St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 7 p.m.

Catholic Perspective Radio
March 4: On this week’s edition of Catholic Perspective, we hear about important issues that will assist us all during this Lenten season, including an in-depth look at the Lenten Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. This letter discusses the great importance that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation can have on our spiritual lives and why our bishop is urging Catholics to make generous use of the Sacrament. The letter and a variety of resources on how to make a good confession are available at www.hbgdiocese.org/lent. Listeners will also hear an update on the latest news, events and happenings in the Diocese.

Father Trigilio, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville and Saint Bernadette Mission in Duncannon, tells us about the “Dummies” series of books on Catholic topics that he helped author. In our Vocation Spotlight segment, listeners will again hear from Father Trigilio, who discusses how he got the call to enter religious life.

The program is heard Mondays and Fridays at noon on WHFY AM 720 and on Sunday mornings on WLAN-AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WHYL-AM 960, Carlisle, at 8 a.m.; WHVR-AM 1280, Hanover, at 9 a.m.; WKOL-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WVEC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available on line at www.OldiesRadio1620.com at 6:30 a.m. or for download at www.hbgdiocese.org.
Compiled by Jen Reed

Parishes and schools in the diocese are offering various activities to enhance the observance of Lent. The pentennial season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. Below is a list of educational and spiritual opportunities submitted to The Catholic Witness.

A Biblical Walk through the Mass study will be facilitated by Deacon Richard Wenzel and Paul Barrettemeier on Wednesdays during Lent in Fredric Hall of St. Mary’s Center at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon. Each session will conclude with Evening Prayer in the Chapel, and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. A sixth optional session may be held during Holy Week. If interested, call the parish at 717-227-5764 to register. A free-will offering will be accepted to help defray the cost of materials.

The Biblical Walk through the Mass study produced by Ascension Press will be offered at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel. Sessions will explore the biblical roots and gestures of the Mass in the context of the new translation. Father Frank Karwacki, pastor, will be the presenter using DVD presentations and book and study materials. The study will be held Thursdays at the church hall at 7 p.m. through March 29. Questions, call the parish at 570-339-1582.

A Family Lenten Evening of Reflection, sponsored by the Parish Council of Catholic Women, will be held at St. Katharine Drexel Church in Mechanicsburg March 6 at 7 p.m. Presenter will be Dr. David Hall, former senior pastor at the Elizabethan Brethren in Xavier Church and now General Minister of a private, non-profit apostolate called Heart for God, which is a ministry of speaking at special events as well as mission/servicew.

His theme will be “obedience in spite of inconvenience.”

“Journey Towards Jesus,” a series of Lenten discussions, will be held at St. Patrick Church in Gettysburg on Tuesdays during Lent. Scott Anthony, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Saint Joseph Parish in Donora, and the developer of the Fan the Fire Youth Rallies, will present the series. The evening will begin with Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral at 5:30 p.m., a soup and bread dinner at 6 p.m., and the presentation at 6:30 p.m. The final presentation on March 27 will be a Cartoon Stations of the Cross. This one evening will begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. so the Stations can be held at 6:30 in order to be held in the evening light. A free-will offering will be donated to Operation Rice Bowl at Catholic Relief Services. For more information, call the parish at 717-232-2169.

“The Last Words Of Our Lord On The Cross” will be the theme of a three-day Mission at St. Francis Xavier Church in Gettysburg March 11-13 at 7 p.m. Conducted by P Msgr. William Connor, As- trant Professor of History at St. Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., the mission will show how the words exemplify the teachings of Jesus Christ during his ministry. A widely published author and co-producer of several series for the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), Father Connor is a noted specialist in Church history. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Scranton in 1990, he served 10 years as Assistant Pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Scranton, then as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Susquehanna, and at his home parish, St. Rose in Carbondale. On June 29, 2005, he was named Rector of St. Pe- ter’s Cathedral in Scranton.

The Conewango District Council of Catholic Women will have an Evening Drawer at 6 p.m. “Mary’s Way of the Cross,” will be present- ed by Karen Bruskewicz on March 10 at St. Joseph Parish, Hanover. Mass is available in the church at 8:30 a.m. Check-in will be held in the Social Hall between 9:9-15 a.m. and the retreat concludes at 3:30 p.m. Cost is $15 and includes retreat materials, morning coffee and donuts, lunch, and afternoon refreshments. Payment by cash or check to “St. Joseph CCW” may be made to the parish office, 5125 Grandview Rd. Hanover 17331 not later than March 2. Contact Peg Clissa at 717-632-7774 for more information.

Adult Education on the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held at St. Joseph Parish, Carbondale March 5. If you’d like to gain a better understanding of the sacrament, you are welcome to attend this class offered by Mr. Richard Groff, St. Joseph Parish Director of Religious Education. The class is offered at two different times on the same day, 4:15-5:15 p.m. or 6:45- 7:45 p.m. When registering, please specify which time you’ll be attending. Cost is $2. Mail registrations to St. Joseph Church, 410 E. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, ATTN: Mary Vukelich. Call Mary at 766-9435 with any questions.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Mass will be held at Saint Catherine Labouria Parish in Harrisburg each Wednesday night during Lent. Mass begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Church and is followed by a supper of homemade soups and breads in Leo Hall. The evening continues with a presentation on the topic of prayer given by Father Jor- dan Hite. Donations will benefit Operation Rice Bowl.

The Churches of Mount Joy will hold community free Lenten lunches on the theme “Common Ground” each Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. RSVP to individuals churches to attend. Remaining lunch dates are March 7 at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish (717-653-4903) March 21 at Florian Church of the Brethren (717-653-1202) and March 28 at Mount Joy Menonite Church (717-653-3660). A Prayer Walk will be held March 14 beginning at the Weis Markets at 441 West Main Street and ending at First Presbyterian Church.

A Catholicism DTV series will be presented at St. John the Baptist Catho- lic Church in New Freedom. Witness the Catholic faith as you have never seen it before with Deacon Fred Horn on Sundays after 11 a.m. Mass at 1 p.m. in the lower level of the main church March 4, 11, 18 and 25. Light refreshments will be avail- able for participants after Mass, prior to the program. Each episode runs 50-60 minutes. A list of all 10 episodes plus a preview of the series contents is available at www.wordonfire.org/The-Catholicism-Project/Trailer.aspx. We will journey with acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian Father Robert Barron to more than 50 loca- tions throughout 15 countries as the full- ness of Catholicism is revealed. Call Don- na at 717-235-4289 if you plan to attend.

Living the Eucharist, a program de- signed to deepen the experience of Sunday Mass for participants, will be held on the six Tuesdays of Lent from 10-11:30 a.m. in the large TV room at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lancaster. The session is free, or for the optional contemplation oils, call at 717 464-9260 or Romaine at 717 392- 3997.

“Standing on Holy Ground,” a Lent re- treat, will be held at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville March 14. A day ses- sion will be held from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and includes lunch. The evening session will run from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and includes light refreshments. Cost is $8 for the day retreat and $5 for the evening retreat. For more information or to register, contact Christine Miller at 717-872-2166 or crmill- er@bgdilsoc.org.

A Lenten Afternoon of Reflection with Father John A. Szada, Jr., will be held at Divine Redeemer Church in Mount Carmel March 11 at noon. Coffee and cake Social will follow. Day will end by 3 p.m. Sponsored by Northumberland District Council of Catho- lic Women.

For information, call 570-339-5557.

The CROSS Group invites the York Catholic High School family to join them at the chapel each Friday at 8 a.m. during Lent for a CHAPLET IN THE CHAPEL. All are welcome to participate in medi- tating upon the Sorrows of Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. On April 12, parents and friends are invited to celebrate the Eas- ter season with Mass at 10 a.m. in the audi- torium.

Soup and Stations, sponsored by St. Benedict the Abbot Outreach Ministry in Lebanon, will take place on Fridays dur- ing Lent (except Good Friday). Soup will be served at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall fol- lowed by Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. at St. Benedict Church in Lebanon.

“The Life of Christ in the Religious Paintings of Caravaggio” is a contemplative, inspirational, educational, interactive, power-point presentation of the art of the 17th century, baroque artist who influenced art from the Reformation to modern times. Friend of cardinals, religious orders and innovative in the use of light and shadows ("chiaroscuro"), his portrayal of Biblical figures using ordinary people as models was revolutionary and moving. For parish groups. Contact Father Robert Nugent at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Free- dom, 717-235-2156 or cn292@aoicm.org.

St. Joseph Church in Danville invites you to its Parish Lenten Mission from March 7-17 led by missionaries Father Paul Bryan, CSSR, and Sister Mary Sninsky, O.SF. Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. during Lent. Soups and Stations will be the theme. Services will also be held at 7 p.m. each evening. Sunday and Monday Masses will be followed by a time of eucharistic adoration. Social time on Tuesday evening will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be admitted beginning at 7 p.m. The evening will conclude with a closing Mass. The theme for the evening services will be “Relationship with God.” For more information or to register, contact Peg Clissa at 717-275-2512 for more information.

St. Patrick Parish in Trevorton will hold Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 6 p.m.

Corpus Christi Church in Chambers- burg holds Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. every Friday. The parish will have a penance service March 29 at 7 p.m.

St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown will have Stations of the Cross at the Historic Church on Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m. A Novena to St. Joseph and Eucharistic Ado- ration will be held March 19 at 7 p.m. in the New Church. On Saturday, April 1, a Communal Reconciliation Service will take place at 7 p.m. in the Historic Church.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover will be hosting the following spiritual offer- ings during Lent: Eucharistic Adoration led by Father Jeffrey Thomas every Friday at noon at Gottoh Hall; Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Ex- traordinary Form of the Mass celebrated March 7 and April 4; Lenten Penance Serv- ice at 5:30 p.m.; and Tenebrae on April 4 at 5:30 p.m.
Preparing to Enter the Church

On the first Sunday of Lent, catechumens and candidates throughout the diocese gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg to celebrate a major step in the process of Christian Initiation. The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebrates the growth and commitment of those preparing to enter the Catholic Church.

This year, 284 candidates and 159 catechumens are preparing to enter the Church at Easter.

The Rite of Election established the names of catechumens (those who have not yet been baptized) who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. During this rite, godparents testified that the catechumens are worthy to be initiated, and Bishop Joseph P. McFadden witnessed by his signature the names of the catechumens that have been inscribed into the Book of the Elect.

The Call to Continuing Conversion recognized the desire of candidates (those who have been baptized in a Christian tradition) to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation and to enter into the full Communion of the Church by receiving the Holy Eucharist. They were exhorted to be faithful to their baptismal covenant and join with the whole Church in a spirit of repentance and conversion.

Lent Should be Time of Grace, Defeating Temptation, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

The 40 days of Lent are a time of spiritual renewal in preparation for Easter, but they also are a time to recognize that evil is at work in the world and even the Catholic Church faces temptations, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope explained the meaning of Lent during his weekly general audience Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday.

Like the people of Israel during their 40-year exodus and like Jesus during his 40 days in the desert, the Catholic Church and its members experience the grace of God, but also are besieged by evil around them and are tempted by power and selfishness, the pope said.

Jesus, before beginning his public ministry, withdrew to the desert for 40 days. Fasting, “he nourished himself on the word of God, which he used as a weapon to defeat the devil,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict said experience of God’s grace and of temptation is not unique to modern Catholics or to the Church.

During their 40 years in the desert, the people of Israel were guided by God, fed with manna and given water from a rock, but they also were tired, complaining and tempted to return to idol worship, the pope said. And, spending 40 days in the desert before beginning his public ministry, Jesus experienced the closeness of God, but also faced the devil’s temptations of “power, success and dominion.”

“This ambivalent situation also describes the condition of the Church journeying through the desert of the world and history. In this desert, we believers certainly have the opportunity of having a profound experience of God, who strengthens our spirit, confirms our faith, nourishes our hope and animates our charity,” the pope said.

However, he said, “the desert is also the negative aspect of the reality that surrounds us: the aridity, the poverty of words and values, the secularism and materialism” that attempt to convince people that God does not exist.

Still, “the desert time can be transformed into a time of grace” because God’s love is more powerful than the temptations of the world, the pope said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict met with Msgr. Keith Newton, head of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Members of the ordinariate, established in January 2011 for the pastoral care of former Anglicans in England and Wales, were making a pilgrimage to the Vatican to thank the pope.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The text of the pope’s audience remarks in English will be posted online at: www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2012/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20120222_en.html.)
By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Most Pennsylvanians who were ever blessed to come in contact with Joe Paterno speak of the profound impact the legendary coach had on their lives.

Maybe it was the time when a torrential April thunderstorm was lashing Old Main in State College that caused the coach to stop and help a young college student whose umbrella was being ripped inside out by the whipping winds. She will always remember him as the one person who did not ignore her problem and made it his priority to help her when others chose to look the other way.

Or maybe it was the football player who came to play for the coach of 40-plus years as an athlete and left the university a man who today contributes to society with the education given to him by this extraordinary mentor.

Each of these sort of people that Joe Paterno touched along the way were in attendance at a Memorial Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral on Feb. 15.

Five diocesan priests, who are Penn State graduates, concelebrated Mass with the bishop. The moving Holy Mass was attended by more than 600 faithful, including the coach’s son Scott Paterno, who resides with his family in the Harrisburg area.

In addition to the family, Governor Tom Corbett, many other elected state officials and alumni were in attendance.

In his remarks after the Mass, Scott Paterno shared a number of stories that centered around the theme, Make an Impact. When Joe Paterno told his father that he was leaving for Penn State to become an assistant football coach for a measly salary instead of entering law school, it was his father who did not interfere, but merely told him to make an impact. And Scott Paterno above all else knows in his heart that his dad made an impact in thousands of lives during his tenure at Penn State. In closing, the son said that the 85-year-old coach did not die with any bitterness toward the university. That’s a remarkable testament to the man’s goodness, given that the Board of Trustees, on which the governor sits, fired Paterno in November for not doing enough in the child abuse scandal with a late evening phone call – it was a painful end to a 61-year-old career that did so much good for the state.

Scott Paterno also related the death bed scene in which the coach, who was suffering from complications from lung cancer treatment, had no regrets or complaints. He held the hand of his wife Sue and touched her on the face and then told his sons to take care of their mother when he passed. He genuinely accepted death with the resolute fashion he always faced stiff challenge. It was a tender and tearful moment for the faithful gathered in the Cathedral to pay their respects to a beloved Pennsylvanian.

“Remember this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to listen but slow to speak and slow to human anger…,” the first reading of the Mass from James 1:19-27 stated. “Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.”

Bishop McFadden in his homily noted how the Scripture readings of the Mass spoke to how Joe Paterno lived his life. “We give thanks for the gift of Coach Paterno,” Bishop McFadden told the mourners. “I believe all of us are in this Church tonight because we know that he was a man of faith and conformed to the will of God…. Joe Paterno was a doer of the Word…. Joe Paterno was a man of integrity. He was more than a successful football coach. He tried valiantly not to be stained by this world…. What is most important is not our accomplishments, but how we treat people,” the bishop said.

That’s how Joe Paterno made an impact in a profound way.
Trinity’s Diehl Surges through District Championships

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Trinity’s Ryan Diehl has put Pennsylvania’s 113-pound weight class on notice: he’s hungry for a third state title.

The two-time West Virginia state champion, who joined Trinity’s wrestling team this season, cruised through the District 3 AA individual tournament at Hershey Park Arena Feb. 24 and 25.

On his way to district gold, the undefeated junior (34-0) rang up a pin and two technical falls, including one over Bishop McDevitt’s Terrence White in the semifinals. The other came in the championship match, where he won in convincing fashion over two-time district champ and state runner-up Joe Byers of Boiling Springs, 18-2.

The four diocesan high schools with wrestling programs – Trinity, Bishop McDevitt, Delone and Lancaster Catholic – were well represented in the district tournament with a total of ten wrestlers in six weight classes.

McDevitt’s Terrence White rebounded from his semifinal loss to Diehl, eventually placing third on the podium. Lancaster Catholic’s John Lobeck also made the podium in the 113-pound weight class with a fourth place finish.

Other podium spots from Lancaster Catholic were earned by Stephen Loiseau, who placed second after coming up short in the 152-pound championship bout; by Isiah Taltoan, who finished third at 170; and by Evan Schnader, who placed sixth at 285.

In addition to the unbeaten Ryan Diehl, Trinity’s Devon Bentley also had a strong showing in the tournament, finishing fourth in the 106-pound bracket.

Diehl, Bentley, White, Lobeck, Loiseau and Taltoan will go on to compete at the Southeastern Regional Tournament at Wilson High School for a chance to enter the state wrestling tournament in Hershey March 8-10.

Three is a Charm for Shamrock Diver

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

The third time is definitely the charm for Trinity Shamrock diver, Ashley Buchter. The junior won her third straight District 3 Class AA diving championship at Big Spring High School on Feb. 22. Soaring to her third win, she broke her own district record with a score of 498.10. She is continuing to work hard with the state tournament looming later in the month.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:


**BLOOMSBURG** – St. Columba: Virginia L. Markoski.

**CAMPBELL** – Good Shepherd: Janet Lasli, Elma Moore.

**CARLISLE** – St. Patrick: Helen Garvin, Helena Smythe.

**CHAMBERSBURG** – Corpus Christi: David Lee Barthart, Frances Joseph Fegan.

**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Our Lady of Hope: Marie Deitz, Phyllis Holland, Lamar Kline, Joseph Lizzul, Richard Martini, Gerald Sobel, Shirley Wetzel.

**COLUMBIA** – St. Peter: Joe Finegan.


**HARRISBURG** – Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Assunta Pinti, Esther Taylor; Holy Name of Jesus: Alice Fatala, Lenore M. Wolfe; St. Catherine Laboure: William Decker; St. Roberta: Rose Traino.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Marge Garret, Debra Wever.

**KELTON** – Holy Angels: Victoria Toll.

**LANCASTER** – Assumption BVM: Karen Coyne, Bernart Beigle.

**LEWISTOWN** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Elizabeth “Bety” O. Hackett, Patricia E. McMullen, Rita R. Tedeschi.

**MCHERRYSPTOWN** – Annunciation BVM: Doris Stormes.

**MOUNT JOY** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Betty Hardesty, Mabel E. Hobbs.

**NEW FREEDOM** – Sacred Heart of Mary: Victoria Ann Serbin.

**NEW HOLLAND** – Prince of Peace: Anna B. Fyrster, Rita Leo; St. Joseph: Dorothy B. Fyrster.

**WILLIAMSTOWN** – St. Joseph: Georgia Sparler.

**WILLIAMSTOWN** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Betty Hardesty, Mabel E. Hobbs.

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

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**HERSHEY** – St. Joseph: Donald J. Turner.


**BLOOMSBURG** – St. Columba: Virginia L. Markoski.

**CAMPBELL** – Good Shepherd: Janet Lasli, Elma Moore.

**CARLISLE** – St. Patrick: Helen Garvin, Helena Smythe.

**CHAMBERSBURG** – Corpus Christi: David Lee Barthart, Frances Joseph Fegan.

**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Our Lady of Hope: Marie Deitz, Phyllis Holland, Lamar Kline, Joseph Lizzul, Richard Martini, Gerald Sobel, Shirley Wetzel.

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**NEW HOLLAND** – Prince of Peace: Anna B. Fyrster, Rita Leo; St. Joseph: Dorothy B. Fyrster.

**WILLIAMSTOWN** – St. Joseph: Georgia Sparler.
Trinity Seniors Reflect on ‘Faith, Academics, Service’ in Essays on Catholic Education

As part of Catholic Schools Week, the seniors at Trinity High School in Camp Hill were asked by school Service Coordinator Judi Fejfar to reflect on their Catholic school experience and the Catholic Schools Week theme of “Faith, Academics, Service.” Students were invited to work in their parish groups to compose an essay, relating the theme to Catholic education and their experience at Trinity. Seniors Alexander Farkas and Kate Maffey submitted individual essays, which are included here.

**Faith as Reason**

*By Alexander Farkas*  
*Trinity High School Senior*

A Catholic school is an institution of purpose. Its goal is the formation of contemplative, moral individuals capable of addressing culture’s ethical, intellectual, and religious dilemmas. An education of faith engenders within students an intense desire to excel in academically and spiritually. By integrating reasoning and theology, Catholic institutions grant students the faith to endure life’s challenges, and the knowledge to overcome them.

Trinity High School is a rich tapestry of students, athletes, and believers. Together we weave our collective experiences into the Mass, celebrating our disparities and reveling in our unity. And although our parts are many, and our students diverse, we are held together by a bond of faith, from St. Augustine to Thomas Aquinas, theologians who have utilized reason in their search for truth. Trinity High School proudly follows in this tradition, infusing logic into dogma, in the hopes of gaining a greater understanding of Catholic beliefs and principles. As an educational institution, we approach science, mathematics, and the arts with the same fervor. Ultimately, Catholic education imparts both an appreciation for our faith, and an affinity towards learning. This quest for knowledge and understanding empowers students in their academic, as well as spiritual lives.

Service is paramount to the Catholic faith. It is, in its most basic form, a physical manifestation of our creed and beliefs. Through communal stewardship, we demonstrate our beliefs, bringing the Word of Christ from the page to the person. The time and effort devoted to service enrich our own sense of community, and work to affirm the dignity of the human person. This dedication to service also reflects an intrinsic characteristic of our school. We, as students, view Trinity not as a faceless edifice, but as a personal community of Catholics.

At Trinity, we walk the line between tradition and progress. By encouraging cooperation between faith and reason, we pioneer an evolution of thought. By engaging in service, the Mass, and other religious activities, we exemplify Catholic Tradition. Through example and action, the Trinity community has demonstrated that growth signifies a step towards faith, not a departure from it.

**A Strong Foundation**

*By Kate Maffey*  
*Trinity High School Senior*

Catholic Schools Week is a reminder of the benefits that come with being educated in a faith-filled environment. It allows us to remember how a Catholic school is not just an education; it is an experience in which students will grow in their faith, become an integral part of a community, and learn in an environment conducive to education. Going to a Catholic school is a constant reminder of the way we want to act, and in that we live our lives as an example of the people we want to be with our faculty and peers alike. Catholic schools, in addition to providing strong academics and a vibrant faith life, allow students to learn more about themselves and help the community through service. In doing so, they open up opportunities in every part of a student’s life and thereby give an experience unlike any found at other schools.

Faith is an integral part of the Catholic school experience. Instead of just educating them, it gives students an extra dimension to their learning by allowing them to grow in their spiritual lives. Faith makes the community grow closer through school wide Masses and prayer services that allow the community to come together in worship. Praying before class reminds you that there is, in fact, a purpose worth living for, someone greater than yourself to trust, and a reminder of our spirituality in an intellectual context. The purpose and opportunity to express oneself spiritually are great assets to attending a Catholic school. High school is a difficult and wonderful time in which we grow into the person we wish to be. Trinity High School allows its students the chance to develop their faith every day, and thus helps them to become exemplary people.

Academics are the main focus of any school; they are the infrastructure upon which a good school must be built. Without strong academics, a school cannot build higher in other aspects because their foundation is weak. At Trinity, the focus on academics blended with faith, service, and extra-curriculars allows students to balance all the competing forces in their lives. The faculty and staff do their best to help students in academic areas, and students have the option of taking classes that appropriately match their skill set. In seeking opportunities they will get more out of the class because it is relevant towards them. Also, there are numerous opportunities for students to get peer leaders or mentoring, like with the Peers Actively Listening (PALs) Program, which reaches out to freshmen as they transition into high school. By supporting the community from within, Trinity creates an atmosphere in which students can easily flourish.

Service helps students to aid the community and grow in their faith while helping others. There is nothing more enlightening than service; it helps open students’ eyes and hearts to aid those in need. Not only that, it helps bring the community closer and teaches them invaluable lessons at the same time. By emphasizing service in school, the hope is that students will do service outside of school and continue the tradition of helping others all throughout their lives. Trinity does numerous service projects as a community, which helps forge new friendships and allows people to appreciate their classmates while being involved with the community. One such project would be the Wreaths for a Reason project through the Shalom House, to which Trinity created and donated numerous wreaths, greatly aiding the project. Service soon becomes a part of life for the students and by doing so can hope that they will continue the practice in later years.

Being in a Catholic school teaches many unexpected lessons that cannot be learned anywhere else. For instance, it is important to work hard and diligently if you are to achieve your goals. There is always someone looking out for you, no matter how bad things may seem. You can achieve anything, if you have the guts to do it. There are countless other pieces of wisdom, funny moments, spiritual experiences, and all around opportunities at Catholic schools. They are unique institutions that blend faith, academics, and service in order to create the best environment for students to learn. They establish a strong base in education and morals so that their students are well prepared to take on all challenges that will face them in their later life.
Spiritual Offerings

St. Joseph Parish in Hanover will coordinate community par-

ticipation in the national 40 Days for Life campaign through April

24, 2012. Many Catholic parishes across the nation are offering

through prayer and fasting, it runs through April 6 in York. Consider

offering one hour, from 9-10 a.m. outside of Planned Parenthood.

Contact Father John Mendel, 561@catholic.net or

Name at janemarie@comcast.net.

St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey will host a parish mission

March 12-14, 2012, led by Brazilian Franciscan Father Ricardo

Mazzoni. Father Ricardo will share his passion for the Eucharist

and the Shrines of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Alabama will be

hosted by St. Joseph Parish in Mount Joy, June 11-12. Highlights

include fish sticks or macaroni and cheese with one side and a drink.

Desserts available for $3. Contact Father Joseph Roslo at 717-541-1844 or

Eliza\nKot\z at 717-574-6294 for details.

Immanuel Knights of Columbus #13692, Abbottstown.

Lenten Fish Dinners at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish every

Friday of Lent from March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24 from 4:30-7 p.m.

in the hall. Standard dinner for $7 ($4 for children 12-19) will be fried

or baked fish, fries or roasted vegetables, a fruit or cup of beer.

Bridge of Peace: The Assumption of Our Lady Church in

St. Peter Parish in Hanover will host a 5K run/

walk March 24 at 8:30 a.m. in the Penbrook area surrounding the

gym. The doors will open at 6:30 a.m. An Irish Dinner will

be served, along with snaxs, sodas and beer for the all inclusive

price of $30 a ticket. Music will be by the Moonlighters Big Band.

Tickets are available by calling Karen Hirscherger at

717-538-1434 or hnjgala2012@verizon.net. For more information,

contact Jennifer at 717-538-1434 or visit www.stmm5k.com.

Soldiers of the Divine Word are planning to hold a

manager, who is the mother of a public school, home school or other school needs to make

arrangements to take the test. Contact Sister Maria Jude, CSJ, at

717-392-2441 or secretary@stleoschool.org.

www.leaseoncatholicschool.org.

St. Margaret Mary Parish in New Holland

will host a spring fish dinner March 23 from 5-8 p.m. in the parish

gym. For more information, call the parish office at 717-637-5236.

Comedian Earl David Reed will be the featured performer at the

first annual benefit dinner for East Penn Fire Co. #89. The event will

be held March 24 from 5-8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 1575 New

Dinners on the last Wednesday of February and March 14 from 7-8:

30 p.m. at the Historic Church on High Street.

Parishes in Mount Joy, June 11-12. Highlights include

attending the EWTN live show, tours and daily Mass. Cost is $550.

Parishes in Middletown and Lebanon.

No need to register. Contact Kitty at rkfelter_565@comcast.net or

meggef@epix.net for information.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg

will hold a 5K run/walk March 24 at 8:30 a.m. in the Penbrook area

surrounding the gym. Various age groups, water stop, support for

fire, and EMS departments. Race day registration starts at 7 a.m.

and closes at 8 a.m. To register, and to learn more about the event,

visit www.stmm5k.com.

St. Margaret Mary Parish in New Holland will hold a 5K run/

walk March 24 at 8:30 a.m. in the Penbrook area surrounding the

gym. Various age groups, water stop, support for fire, and EMS departments. Race day registration starts at 7 a.m.

and closes at 8 a.m. To register, and to learn more about the event,

visit www.stmm5k.com.

St. Mary's Community Center Auxiliary is sponsoring a

Spring Craft Show to benefit the Retirement Community Retirement

March 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anne's Retirement Community

in Columbia. Admission is $5; free for seniors and children. A
baked goods table will also be available. There will also be a number

of craft vendors and vendors. Lunches, luncheons, vegetable soup,
coffee, and cold drinks will also be available.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Spring Garden

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Parishes in Mount Joy, June 11-12. Highlights include

attending the EWTN live show, tours and daily Mass. Cost is $550.

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visit www.stmm5k.com.

St. Mary's Community Center Auxiliary is sponsoring a

Spring Craft Show to benefit the Retirement Community Retirement

March 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anne's Retirement Community

in Columbia. Admission is $5; free for seniors and children. A

baked goods table will also be available. There will also be a number

of craft vendors and vendors. Lunches, luncheons, vegetable soup,
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By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

Despite all the headlines lately, concern over the con- traceptive mandate and the related issue of religious freedom is not the only thing on the minds of the U.S. bishops. This being an election year, the bishops’ Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, has undertaken an intensive effort to bring the quadrennial document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” to as many Cath-olics as possible.

The bishops want people in the pews to better understand their political responsibility not just at the polls come No- vember but also as they consider any number of social is- sues locally or nationally on any given day.

The department’s staff has established a website – www. faithfulcitizenship.org – with numerous resources, pastoral guides, teaching tools and school activities in English and Spanish.

The document was discussed during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in the nation’s capital Feb. 12-15 as much if not more than the religious liberty implications of the Affordable Care Act, and the bishops’ department told the 450 attendees the document is rooted in the church’s tradition of social justice.

The department is looking to build on the work of faith leaders across the country who carried the document to their parishes back home with the document. They carried with them new ideas and helpful tips from strategy sessions with the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, told the 450 attendees the document is rooted in the church’s social and moral teaching and is meant to help Catholics discern their response to important political issues.

“What ‘Faithful Citizenship’ does is give us different questions to ask. It’s not are you better off or are we better off? Are the unborn protected? Is there a right to die? Is religious freedom pro- tected? Is it about life and death and war and peace. It’s not just the economy, stupid, even in this moment of economic distress. It’s about who moves ahead and who gets left behind,” he said in his 45-minute address.

“What ‘Faithful Citizenship’ does is ask us to look at pol- icies from the bottom up,” he said. “How do policies, how do these leaders, how do these choices affect the people with no voice: unborn children, immigrants who have no hope, the poorest people on earth who have no place at the Senate Finance Committee and those who are left behind in this economy?”

Carr challenged Catholic Republican and Democrat lead- ers to embrace the full realm of Catholic teaching on the issues confronting the country if they truly identified with the church.

He also cautioned the delegates to be aware of attempts by individuals across the political spectrum to use the docu- ment to support their own views or to disavow it altogether for giving Catholics too much leeway in forming their con- science.

Carr’s comments resonated throughout the gathering as delegates began considering how to carry the document to the pews. Several delegates told CNS they felt it was vitally important for Catholics to present a unified voice and to discuss issues peacefully.

“I’d like to see it go where there’s less antagonism, where people can find the common good,” said Jack Knapp, a priest and the Justice and Peace Commission in Coal Valley, Ill., “To me a vehicle like this so people can recognize the common good is a good thing.”

The bishops believe there has been growing awareness about the November election by joining a statewide campaign to place initiatives on the ballot that would end the death penalty and require parental or guardian notifica- tion when a minor seeks an abortion.

Linda Batton, director of social ministries in the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D., said parishes were set to conclude sign- nature drives on both measures in parishes the weekend of Feb. 18-19. The effort also offered diocesan social ac- tivity offices the opportunity to begin planning how to bring “Faithful Citizenship” to parishioners, she said.

“We have to see ourselves as bridge builders,” Batton told CNS. “We use resources to help people understand what we do in ministry is to be carriers of hope in the middle of a devastating situation with the economy, people losing their jobs being so overburdened with their own problems that it’s hard for them to see beyond their needs.”

For Debi Haug, director of community life and outreach at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Ind., Carr’s message hit home. The key, she said, is getting the message of “Faithful Citizenship” into people’s hands.

Recounting what John Carr said, she said, “it’s not just to be a faithful citizen at election time. We’re supposed to be a faithful citizen throughout our life,” she said.

“In 2009, I wrote a book with the title ‘Faithful Catholic’ and it’s not just faithful citizenship, it’s about being a faithful citi- zen at election time. We’re supposed to be a faithful citizen throughout our life,” she said.

The document already is forming the basis of a stronger advocacy push by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, said Sheila K. Gilbert, the organization’s national president.

“We have an absolute commitment to ending poverty,” she said. The organization is looking to tap the stories of the poor people that local parish councils serve to help mainstream Catholics understand “there are policies, there are procedures, and there are laws that are really holding people in poverty,” she explained.

Teddy Bears and Tabernacles: The Pope’s Childhood, Told by His Brother

Recounting Hitler’s rise to power in 1930s Germany, Msgr. Ratzinger says that their father regarded the dictator as the “Antichrist” and refused to join the Nazi party.

“But so as not to put our family completely at risk, he advised Mother to join the women’s organization,” Msgr. Ratzinger says, noting that the children “did not talk about Hitler but instead exchanged recipes, chatted about their gardens, and sometimes even prayed the rosary together.”

It was only reluctantly that the two boys obeyed requirements to join the Hitler Youth and later served in the German military during World War II, Msgr. Ratzinger says. The pope’s brother was present at the Allied bom- bardment of the monastery on Monte Cassino, Italy, in 1944.

Msgr. Ratzinger recounts anecdotes about their time together as adults: watching a German television series about a police dog named “Inspector Rex,” and dividing tasks in the kitchen — the monsignor washing dishes while his brother, by then a cardinal, dried.

In 2005, after the death of Blessed John Paul II, Msgr. Ratzinger was sure that his brother was too old to be elected pope. When he heard the news of the new pontiff’s name pronounced on live television, he admits that he was “disheartened.”

“It was a great challenge, an enormous task for him, I thought, and I was seriously worried,” Msgr. Ratzinger says.

The pope later confided that his election had “struck him like a bolt of lightning,” Msgr. Ratzinger says.

Readers get a glimpse inside the papal household as Msgr. Ratzinger de- scribes his brother’s daily routine. On Tuesdays, for example, the Bene- dict listens to tape recordings and practices his pronunciation of the remarks in foreign languages that he will make at the next day’s general audience.

Msgr. Ratzinger says that his brother has not been indifferent to the many criticisms that he has received during his career, as prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and then as pope.

Pope Benedict is “personally very sensitive,” but he also knows from which corner these attacks come and the reason for them, what is usually behind them,” Msgr. Ratzinger says. “That way he overcomes it more eas- ily, he rises above it more simply.”

This is the cover of “My Brother the Pope” by Msgr. Georg Ratz- inger, released March 1 by Ignati- us Press. Pro-life Pope St. John Paul II Parishes published in German, takes the form of an interview, along with editorial commentary, by co-author Michael Hesemann.
Future of Catholic Health Care Seen in Service to Community, Poor

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

Even with health reform, some people will remain uninsured, and Catholic health care must continue to be known for its “special predilection for the poor,” said panelists at a Washington colloquium.

“Without that, we would have a hard time distinguishing ourselves from other not-for-profit hospitals,” said Robert V. Stanek, retired president and CEO of Catholic Health East in Newtown Square, Pa., and current chairman of the board of trustees of the Catholic Health Association.

Corinne Parver, health policy attorney and former executive director of the health law program at American University’s Washington School of Law, expressed dismay that only 60 percent of those who are uninsured today are expected to be insured once health reform law is fully implemented.

That situation will give Catholic hospitals “an opportunity to advance their community benefit,” she said.

Jesuit Father John Haughey, a research fellow at Georgetown University’s Woodstock Theological Center, focused on Catholic health care’s role as a continuation of Christ’s healing ministry. He said that understanding should infuse any discussion of health care.

“Catholic health care is a continuum of Christ’s healing ministry. He said that understanding should infuse any discussion of health care. If our health care delivery system is truly person-centered, the Catholic ministry will be alive and well regardless of what form it takes.”

He said this is the first generation of lay leaders not working side by side with women religious in Catholic health care.

Stanek said the lay leadership has progressed from saying, “Sister, tell me what to do” to asking, “What would the sisters do?” But they need to continue to progress to the point of asking, “What will it mean to do, from a perspective totally consistent with our heritage?”

Saying that the “variety of rapidly emerging technologies will impact Catholic health care very strongly in the future,” Stanek said he did not believe the major emphasis of health care in the future will be large acute-care hospitals.

“We can’t afford as a society to continue to treat people in the most expensive vehicle possible,” he said.

Myths Abound about HHS Contraceptive Mandate: Here are the Facts

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

Exaggerations and outright misrepresentations about the Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate have been appearing in White House “fact sheets” and mainstream media. Here are some of the more frequently cited claims and the facts to counter them.

Myth: Self-insurance is a self-created myth.

Fact: Self-insured plans are excluded from state contraceptive mandates, but not from federal requirements. In addition, all but three states – California, New York and Oregon – include a broader religious exemption than the HHS one, which sets four criteria for an exemption: that an employer’s purpose is to inculcate religious values, that it primarily hires and serves people who share its religious tenets, and that it is a nonprofit organization under certain sections of the tax code.

Twelve states do not require that the organization’s purpose be the inculcation of religious values, 12 do not mention a requirement to hire people who share the organization’s religious tenets and 13 states have no requirement that the exempt organization serve only those who share its religious tenets. Sixteen states do not mandate that the exempt organization meet the tax code criteria.

Eight states exempt virtually any religious employer with moral objections to providing coverage of contraceptives to its employees. Illinois and Missouri extend that exemption to nonreligious employers who object.

Other states have passed laws that do not define what constitutes a religious organization or have declined to enforce existing laws.

Myth: Adding contraceptive coverage to health plans will be net cost-neutral, because those covered by the mandate will have fewer unintended pregnancies.

Fact: Pharmacy directors disagree. An online survey by New Jersey-based Reimbursement Intelligence of 15 pharmacy directors representing more than 100 million employer- or their dependents found that nearly 50 percent thought the mandate would increase costs, 20 percent thought it would be cost-neutral and none predicted that it would save money. More than 30 percent said they didn’t know what effect would be.

Several respondents also raised the question of whether the mandate to provide contraceptives free of charge would require them to use brand-name medications, even when generics are available.

In addition, the assumption that greater contraceptive use results in fewer pregnancies and fewer abortions has not been proved. A 2003 study in the journal International Family Planning Perspectives purported to show such a result, but found that levels of abortion and contraceptive use rose simultaneously in Cuba, Denmark, Netherlands, the United States, Singapore and South Korea. Abortions went down as contraceptive use increased in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, Turkey, Tunisia and Switzerland, the study found.

Myth: Ninety-eight percent of Catholic women have used contraceptives.

Fact: The figure comes from an April 2011 Guttmacher Institute report based on the 2006-2008 National Survey of Family Growth. Twenty-five percent of the respondents to the survey self-identified as Catholics, but 40 percent of those said they never attended Mass or attended less frequently than once a month.

The survey looked at women between the ages of 15 and 44 and asked about contraceptive use only among those who had had sex in the three months prior to the survey and were not pregnant, postpartum or trying to get pregnant. Ninety percent of those women – and 98 percent of the Catholic respondents – said they had used some form of contraception at least once in their lives.

The survey did not ask the women about their current contraceptive usage.
Presidential Ceremony

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

During the week that America honors its past presidents, first graders at Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, performed a rousing patriotic program that showcased their impressive ability to read and recite in unison text and civic concepts that are normally not grasped until much later in grade school. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden attended the program and partook in the mock presidential swearing-in ceremony for the class’s president-elect, Isabella Mirarchi.

The classroom of Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Sister Mary Ann Lawrence was adorned in symbolic American patriotic decorations and filled with the parents of the students. Also in attendance was ABC27 TV personality Chuck Rhoades, who graciously attended the performance to include in his Out and About series that runs a couple times a week on the 6 p.m. newscast.

“I am so proud of these children,” Sister Mary Ann said after her students performed the program without any misstep. “They worked so hard putting this together and it was a joy to see them be able to perform it for their bishop.”