Through the Oil of the Sick, shown during the Chrism Mass, the sick receive a remedy for the illness of mind and body, so that they may have strength to bear suffering and resist evil and obtain the forgiveness of sins. The Chrism Mass was celebrated on Monday of Holy Week.
Young Disciples Give Public Witness to Christ on Palm Sunday

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Luke Zabroske says he is typically a shy person. But not during the World Youth Day celebration on Palm Sunday.

The sights and sounds of some 700 teens engaged in singing, dancing, praise and worship on the steps of the state Capitol drew him out of his shell.

“Coming here today, I’m ebullient,” said Luke, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg. He also serves as the Communication Director of the Diocesan Youth Council, a group of diocesan high school teens that plans the Palm Sunday celebration in Harrisburg every year.

“I couldn’t be happier to be among all the youth here today,” he said.

Each year, the World Youth Day Palm Sunday celebration draws hundreds of teens to Harrisburg, where they gather at the Capitol in a public witness to Christ. After having their palms blessed by the bishop, they process with parish banners to St. Patrick Cathedral for Mass, and then enjoy a meal and concert at Strawberry Square.

The World Youth Day Palm Sunday event is an annual celebration of faith planned by teens, for teens, noted Diocesan Youth Council member Richard Nagle, a parishioner at St. Joseph’s in Hanover.

“It’s amazing to see such an outpouring of faith in the youth community, and to see how many people can come together throughout the diocese to celebrate the faith and follow Jesus,” Richard said.

Diocesan youth receive Communion from Bishop Joseph P. McFadden during the Palm Sunday Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral. During the Mass, the teens collected $5,382.92 for Monica Primary School in Tanzania, Africa.
Celebrated on Monday of Holy Week, the Chrism Mass is the sacred liturgy during which the Bishop blesses the holy oils that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the coming year.

As diocesan clergy, religious and laity filled St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg for the solemn Mass, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden told the congregation that “Our faith is truly about being family, for the love is shown to us in the self-sacrificial love of Jesus. “It is that self-sacrificial love that is to be the hallmark of all that we say and all that we do. It is in the sacraments of the Church that the Lord gives us the grace and the humility to live in this world as his sons and daughters,” he said.

During the Mass, the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the Sacred Chrism were brought forward for the bishop to bless. The Oil of the Catechumens is used to anoint those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint the infirm and those advanced in age in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Sacred Chrism is used in the baptism of children, the Sacrament of Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and the dedication of altars.

It is also during this solemn Mass that priests renew their commitment to priestly service in the presence of the bishop, and with the support and prayers of the faithful who were present.

In his homily, the bishop exhorted the congregation to share the message that our life has a purpose: to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth that will find its fulfillment in the second coming of Christ.

“I believe that this message needs to be more clearly presented to the world today, especially here in the Diocese of Harrisburg,” he said. “The world has a great need of hearing the Gospel message. The world is lost in its own self indulgence. And if it is to hear this message, it must start with each of us taking our faith more seriously, and allowing that faith to be seen in the daily activity of our life.”

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden mixes balsam into the Sacred Chrism, which will be used in the baptism of children, the Sacrament of Confirmation, the ordination of priests and the dedication of altars in the coming year.
Ten Points to Create Safe Environments for Children

From the USCCB

1. Sexual molestation is a violation of the integrity of another.
   People are often affected when a priest abuses a minor, but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life. The abuser, the family of the abused, and the parish community are also affected by this sin and crime, but the primary person of concern must be the victim.

2. No one has the right to have access to children
   If people wish to volunteer for the Church, for example in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, safe environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. No one, no matter what they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the Church without proper screening and without following the rules.

3. Common sense is not all that common
   It is naïve to presume that people automatically know boundaries, so organizations and families have to spell them out. For example, no youth minister, cleric or other adult leader should be in a child’s bedroom, alone with the child.

4. Child sexual abuse can be prevented
   Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm. These barriers come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

5. The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime
   Those who have been abused seldom just get over it. The sense of violation goes deep into a person’s psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Some have even described the feeling as if it has scarred their soul.

6. Feeling led toward healing
   Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one’s pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim’s/survivor’s appropriate sense of rage and indignation are acknowledged. Not being acknowledged contributes to a victim’s sense of being invisible, unimportant and unworthy; they are in some way revictimised.

7. You cannot always predict who will be an abuser
   Experience shows that most abuse is at the hands of someone who has gained the trust of a victim’s caregiver and his or her family. Most abuse also occurs in the family setting. Sometimes the nicest person in the world is an abuser, and this niceness enables the sense of trust to be created between abuser and abused.

8. There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers
   Training and education help adults recognize grooming techniques that are precursors to abuse. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts. Another common grooming technique is to allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, which includes wrestling and tickling. It is also critical to be wary of age-inappropriate relationships, seen, for example, in the adult who is more comfortable with children than fellow adults. Parishes can set up rules to guide interaction between adults and children.

9. People can be taught to identify grooming behavior
   Grooming behaviors are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. An abuser may develop a relationship with the family to increase his credibility. Abusers might show attention to the child by talking to him/her, being friendly, making alcohol with a minor, and giving the child status by insinuating that he is their favorite or special person. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

10. Background checks work
    Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie.

Diocese’s Youth Protection Standards

The Diocese of Harrisburg has been found to be in full compliance with the demands of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People each year since Charter audits began. The extensive audit process is a critical accountability tool that demonstrates to all the seriousness with which the Church takes the promises made in the Charter. This is an aggressive safe environment program with a comprehensive set of procedures established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that addresses allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy and gives guidelines for reconciliation, healing accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

Youth protection efforts in the Diocese of Harrisburg include:

- Zero tolerance for abusers in ministry or employment within the Diocese.
- Multiple background checks on all employees and volunteers who work with youth.
- Passing a required on-line training program on how to recognize and report child abuse.
- Student instruction in age-appropriate child abuse education programs.
- ID badges for all persons who have completed the requirements of our diocesan Youth Protection Program.
- Outreach efforts to victims and families.
- Prudent and prompt inquiry into each accusation.
- Open communication and due process for all involved.

Information about the Youth Protection Program can be found on the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdioce.org/safeyouth.

What Has the Catholic Church Done to Effectively Respond to Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel?

From the USCCB

The Catholic Church has worked hard to protect children. Much has been done but more needs to be done. Until child sexual abuse is no longer a part of society, the Church will continue its efforts to stop it. The Catholic Church has done more to protect children than almost any other organization in the United States. Consider:

- Safe Environment training is taking place in 193 dioceses of the country. Over 2 million adults have been trained to recognize the behavior of offenders and what to do about it.
- Over 5 million children have been educated with the skills to help them protect themselves from abuse.
- Background checks are conducted on Church personnel who have contact with children. Over 2 million volunteers and employees; 52,000 clerics; 6,205 candidates for ordination have had their backgrounds evaluated.
- All dioceses/eparchies have Codes of Conduct spelling out what is acceptable behavior. This serves to let people know what can and cannot be done as well as letting others know what behavior can be expected. It encourages the reporting of suspicious behavior.
- All dioceses/eparchies have Victim Assistance Coordinators, assuring victims that they will be heard. In 2011, $6,142,810 was spent on therapy for the victims of clergy sexual abuse.
- In addition at least $30,129,584 was spent on child protection efforts such as training programs and background checks.
- All dioceses/eparchies have Safe Environment Coordinators who assure the ongoing compliance to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People’s.
- Bishops are meeting with victims.
- Dioceses/eparchies have Healing Masses, retreats for victim/survivors and other reconciliation events.
- There is a Zero Tolerance policy on abuse.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline:
1-800-334-5077

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan hotline:
1-800-626-1608
Catholic News Service

New proposed regulations governing the contraceptive mandate under the Affordable Care Act continue to violate basic principles of religious freedom, said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In comments filed March 20 with the Department of Health and Human Services, the USCCB raised a series of concerns, among them being that the new proposals keep in place “an unjust and unlawful mandate” regarding the provision of contraceptive and other pregnancy services and that the rules provide no exemption, or accommodation, for “most stakeholders in the health insurance process, such as individual employers and health care providers,” who are morally opposed to such coverage.

Other objections raised in the comments include:

- An “unreasonable and unlawfully narrow” exemption for some nonprofit religious organizations, primarily houses of worship.
- Limited accommodation for religious employers that continue to require those employers fall outside the government’s definition to “fund or facilitate objectionable coverage.”

The comments state that the concerns being raised are the same as those addressed when the rules governing the Affordable Care Act were first proposed in 2011.

The 24-page statement was filed during the 60-day comment period established by the Health and Human Services after it introduced the new proposed rules Feb. 1. The deadline for comments is April 8.

The comments were filed on behalf of the USCCB by Anthony R. Picarello, associate general secretary and general counsel, and Michael F. Moses, associate general counsel.

The rules are expected to be finalized this summer. Institutions are required to provide coverage by August. The USCCB position is built around a series of legal arguments stemming largely from decisions in earlier court cases.

The document said that the contraceptive mandate remains unchanged and presented the USCCB position that the new rules provide no exemption or accommodation, for “the overwhelming majority” of individuals and institutions who object to contraceptive coverage on religious or moral grounds.

“Those without exemption or accommodation include conscientiously-opposed individuals, for-profit employers (whether secular or religious), non-profit employers that are not explicitly religious organizations (even in cases where their objection is religious in nature), insurers and third-party administrators. Respect for their consciences demands some adequate legal protection, but under the current proposed regulation they have none,” the USCCB told the government.

The document acknowledged that the religious employer exemption in the new proposed rules was “improved slightly” in one area, but was “worsened” in another.

The first version of proposed rules exempted only religious organizations whose main purpose is the inculcation of faith and who employ and serve members of the faith. A later accommodation said the contraceptive mandate could be met by nonexempt organizations through third-party insurers.

Under the new proposed rules for exempt religious organizations HHS eliminated standards governing inculcation of the faith and who the organization serves, which the USCCB welcomed. The USCCB raised concerns, however, that the new proposed rules exclude from the definition of religious employer various organizations that “undeniably are ‘religious’ and undeniably ‘employ’ people, such as Catholic hospitals, charities and schools.

The government’s proposed definition of religious employer still reduces religious freedom to freedom of worship by limiting the exemption almost exclusively to houses of worship,” the USCCB argued.

The document also questioned the accommodation to nonprofit religious organizations in the rules that fail outside the definition of religious employer to the issue “of the constitution on a number of ‘questionable factual assumptions.’

Even if all of those assumptions were sound, the accommodation still requires the objecting religious organization to fund or otherwise facilitate the morally objectionable coverage. Such organizations and their employees remain deprived of their right to live and work under a health plan consonant with their explicit religious beliefs and commitments,” the document said.

The USCCB also maintained that the contraceptive mandate “continues to represent an unprecedented (and now sustained) violation of religious liberty by the federal government.”

“As applied to individuals and organizations with a religious objection to contraceptive coverage, the mandate violates the First Amendment, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Administrative Procedure Act.”

The USCCB offered to work with the government to “reach a just and lawful resolution to this issue.”

(The full document outlining USCCB comments on the federal government’s new proposed rules governing contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act can be read online at www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/rule-comment-april2013-NPRM-Comments-3-20-final.pdf)

Catholic Perspective Radio

March 31: This week’s special Easter edition of Catholic Perspective takes a break from our usual format. We feature an Easter Message from Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. In his message he reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith and wishes everyone the peace, love and joy that the resurrection of our Lord brings.

Our Lenten “radio retreat” concludes with Bishop Richard J. Garciia of the Diocese of Monterey, Calif. He shares his reflections on the ascension of Christ. Father William Weyry of our own Diocese of Harrisburg continues his “Perspectives on the Faith” series with an explanation on the Easter Triduum. Finally, beautiful Easter music entitled “Exultet” is performed by artist Martin Domann. A Happy and Blessed Easter is wished to all from those who make Catholic Perspective possible.

Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese and WHFY AM 720. The program is heard Mondays at noon and Sundays at 3 p.m. on WHYF AM 720 and on Sunday mornings on WNAM-AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WNYL-AM 960, Carlisle, at 8 a.m.; WHVR-AM 1280, Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WKOK-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 WWFC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available online at www.oldsiesRadio1620.com at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WHYF.org at 11 a.m. or for download at www.hbgdioce.org.

Start your day with The Morning Show! Holy Family Radio is proud to present the premier edition of the AM 720, WHYF Morning Show, starting Monday, April 1 from 7:30-9 a.m. Faith-based talk, information and discussion, along with the latest news, weather and more in a fast moving, get-you-going format heard each weekday morning. Tune in and be in the know!
Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities

April 27 at 5 p.m.
Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg
Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will be the principal celebrant.

Persons with disabilities, their friends and family members, and all diocesan parishioners are welcome. The church is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. A sign language interpreter and materials in Braille and large print will be provided upon request. Contact Kate Neri for requests for other accommodations for persons with disabilities on or before April 12 at 717-657-4804, ext. 317, or kneri@hbgdiocese.org.

Second Annual Diocesan Girl Scout Mass

April 14 at 2 p.m.
Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg

All Girl Scouts and their families are invited. Patches will be given to attending Scouts, and national and diocesan Girl Scout awards will be recognized at the Mass. A reception will follow.

Girl Scouts are asked to wear their uniforms or a white shirt and tan pants, and to arrive at the church by 1 p.m. to line up.

Register with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804, ext. 327, or via e-mail oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.

Educators Inspired and Motivated in Technology

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Continuing its vision of integrating technology into all aspects of curriculum, the diocese hosted its annual Tech’d Out conference for school technology coordinators, principals and teachers March 21, focusing on inspiration, motivation and technology.

Armed with iPads, laptops and other devices, the educators assembled at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg for hands-on sessions centered on applications, podcasting, visual storytelling and bringing technology into all classrooms.

Keynote speaker Ken Shelton, who holds a master’s degree in Educational Technology and New Media Design and Production, addressed the conference on “Inspiration, Motivation and Technology.”

“We can use technology to foster higher degrees of intrinsic inspiration both in our students and in ourselves,” Mr. Shelton said. “Technology can inspire and motivate us — instantaneously — in ways that we can share our accomplishments.”

Mr. Shelton, who currently teaches technology at the middle school level in California, serves on the Board of Directors for Computer Using Educators and is a member of the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Education Technology Task Force.

His approach with educators — both those with a great deal of experience in technology and those who are just beginning to explore it — is to offer them ways of using technology to accomplish their goals more efficiently.

“Whatever it is that you’re doing, there is a way to use technology to help you do it more efficiently,” Mr. Shelton said. “If it takes you ten steps to do something, I’d like to share with you ways to use technology that will cut those steps down to four. You’re still doing what you intended to do, and you’re still accomplishing the project, but in many ways, technology can help you do it more efficiently.”

The Tech’d Out conference also offered several hands-on sessions. Mr. Shelton presented on visual storytelling, podcasting and iPad basics, including content consumption and creation. Additional sessions were presented by local educators: iPad Apps, by Chris Helm and Terry Swisher from Lancaster Catholic High School; Integrating Technology Across Curriculum, by Amy Woods from St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg; and Copyright, by Dr. Jim Beeghley, a Member of the Diocesan Technology Committee and an instructor at Penn College.

The Diocesan Technology Committee is a group of individuals from the diocesan administration and school personnel that recommends initiatives for the integration of technology throughout the curriculum and for adequately preparing students to meet the challenges found in the workplace in the 21st century.

As the diocese endeavors to integrate technology throughout curriculum, it has employed a wide range of programs and initiatives, including the annual Tech’d Out conference, professional development for educators, technology planning for schools, and the wide-area network, which offers distance learning and video-conferencing.
Evangelization of Culture II

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Not too long ago, I came across a small biographical sketch of a Jesuit Missionary, Roberto de Nobili (1577-1656), who served in India. He first settled in the Portuguese colony of Goa and then traveled inland to Madurai, a center of Tamil culture that had little or no exposure to European culture. Nobili was determined to bring the message of the Gospel to the Indian culture of the region. Nobili has become known as the pioneer of “inculturation.”

In Porta Fidei, the document announcing the Year of Faith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in a post on 2 Cor 5:14, reminds us that “The Love of Christ impels us” — drives us to...

...rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith. In discovering his love for day by day, the missionary commitment of believers attains force and vigor that can never fade away. Faith grows when it is lived as an experienced love received and communicated when the voice of grace and joy is present.

It is important to understand that this type of joy is indeed something that our culture does not understand. This joy, grounded in a lived hope, is nurtured by the Truth of Christ. Absolute Truth is something our culture is not open to explore. Truth is relative. What I think is truth for me and not necessarily truth for you. Absolute Truth can be obtained through the use of human reason. Is our culture really open to dialogue, a true conversation? Or is our opinion cemented to our souls so that dialogue is impossible? The search for Absolute Truth must be allowed to be aired in our media, discussed in our schools. As a public square. So much of this conversation is dismissed because religion is viewed as old-fashioned and not relevant.

Today’s media, social networking sites and our gaming industry are our modern day Areopagus. Those of us who travel within this world must be rooted in the Gospel and witness to its truths in our own tongues. In Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Paul VI says: “The split between the Gospel and culture is without a doubt the drama of our time, just as it was of other times. They [the culture] have to be regenerated by an encounter with the Truth of Christ...”

Father Paolo Padriani, a collaborator of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, on the pope’s passed: “Being present in social media is evangelizing, if just for the fact that he is present with his words. So the very courageous act of standing up and proclaiming the Truth as you tweet, post on your wall on Facebook, pin on Pinterest and upload video clips to YouTube and Vimeo is evangelizing. The very act of spreading the joy that is found in having a relationship with Christ in whatever virtual or face-to-face place you find yourself is evangelizing. The Church needs YOU, our culture needs YOU to feed your mind and your heart with the Truth of Christ and proclaim it in your circumstances. So in venerating the Cross on Good Friday, in the first Holy Week of a pontificate of reform gives fresh expression to the truth of Christ crucified; true reform equips the Church for the more effective proclamation of Christ crucified. That expression and proclamation ought to be done with joy, for we are living on the far side of Easter. But Easter cannot be emptied of the Passion and Death of the Lord; Easter faith must be faith built on an embrace of the Cross. In a Sistine Chapel homily, given to the cardinals who had elected him pope the evening before he was named the new bishop of Rome, reflecting on the dialogue between Jesus and Peter at Caesarea Philippi, Pope Francis referred in his post-election homily, we would have arranged things differently; we would have chosen another kind of Messiah— that theme runs like a bright thread through Lent, in the readings from the Old and New Testaments that the Church assigns to the liturgy during the Forty Days, so that the Church can ponder again the full panorama of salvation history. And as the Holy Father suggested in the Sistine Chapel, the temptation to deny the Cross is perennial; moreover, it is at the root of the Church’s failure to be the credible witness it must be, if the world is to be offered friendship with Jesus Christ. There is much that needs referring in the Church, and true reform, as I described it in EvangelicalCatholicism (Basic Books) is always Christ-centered and mission-oriented. True reform gives fresh expression to the truth of Christ crucified; true reform equips the Church for the more effective proclamation of Christ crucified. That expression and proclamation ought to be done with joy, for we are living on the far side of Easter. But Easter cannot be emptied of the Passion and Death of the Lord; Easter faith must be faith built on an embrace of the Cross.

In The Dialogue between faith and culture is called the “inculturation of the faith.” This means that a particular culture’s symbols, institutions, and values become vehicles for expressing the universal faith. Missiologists invented the term inculturation as a way of rooting the dialogue between faith and culture in the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. Just as the Word of God became man, the faith of the Church becomes Nigerian, Chinese or American — as Nigerians, Chinese and Americans come to know, love, and accept Christ. Pope John Paul II, as he went around the world, always said, “In your land, God has become American.” (pg. 44)

Upon reading this statement, I could not help to think, “What face does Christ does the American culture portray?... How does one determine this?” The answer: Look at the Gospel of Christ! The Gospel is where we find the Truth of how to live, and how to witness to what the Gospel teaches. In

In the Third Annual Weekend Retreat at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of the Diocese of Camp Hill’s IT Department. An educator for 28 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. In addition, Sister blogs for Powerful Learning Practices, a company providing in-service opportunities for educators. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Diocese Gathers at Mass to Offer Prayers, Thanksgiving for Pope Francis

Midday sun illuminates the Vatican flag as faithful of the diocese assemble at St. Patrick Cathedral March 15 to pray for Pope Francis, who was elected two days earlier.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Rejoicing in the election of Pope Francis just two days earlier, diocesan faithful assembled at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg March 15 for a noon Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden to offer prayers and thanksgiving for the Holy Father.

And as Mass began, midday sunlight beamed through a window and illuminated the Vatican flag, positioned adjacent to the sanctuary.

Among those gathered for the Mass were students in grades 5-8 from Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School, and a number of people who had attended the previous two Masses in the trinity of particular liturgies the bishop had celebrated there since the resignation of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI—one for the former pope on Feb. 22, and one for the conclave on March 12.

"Anytime I can be here with others to pray for the Church in these times, it is a blessing," said John Tobin, a member of the Cathedral Parish who attended the three Masses.

"I'm so grateful that we were given Pope Francis so soon, and so close to Holy Week and Easter," he said. "It's just a blessing for the Church to have Pope Francis.

In his homily, Bishop McFadden reflected on the responsibility of Pope Francis as a successor of St. Peter, and his call for us to bring Jesus to the world.

Pointing to the pope's words to the cardinals at the conclusion of the conclave, the bishop said that the Holy Father calls us to walk with God.

Pope Francis "reminds us that we're called each and every day to walk with Our Lord...to keep on despite the trials, despite the challenges that we find each and every day," he said.

He also calls us to help to build the Church, just as St. Francis of Assisi was called to do, the bishop pointed out.

"St. Francis came from a wealthy family, and yet he rejected the riches of his family, the riches of the world, to embrace the riches that he would receive in Christ Jesus," he said.

The bishop also spoke of the pope's call for us to live as brothers and sisters in God's family.

"Today, Pope Francis is a successor of Peter, and it is on his shoulders now to profess who Jesus is—he is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and he calls us to be his people and to be his Church, his family," Bishop McFadden remarked.

"The gift that Pope Francis now receives is the gift of ministry as the Vicar of Christ on earth," he said. "But also, he would remind us that all of us have been given gifts, and God wants us to use whatever gifts he's given to us for the sake of our brothers and sisters."

Enthusiasm and joy surrounding the election of Pope Francis drew Martin Lane, a non-Catholic, and Joe Gerdes, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, to the Cathedral for the Mass.

"I'm here today because I'm excited about the new pope, and about Bishop McFadden as well," said Mr. Lane.

He came to the Mass with Mr. Gerdes, who was educated by the Jesuits at Georgetown University and who said he is impressed by the pope's humility.

"It's exciting to see the beginning of his papacy," Mr. Gerdes said.

"The very first thing that the pope did from the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square was to bow down and ask the people to pray for him," he said. "It was an amazing gesture, and that's what brought us here today."
Pope Explains Why He Chose St. Francis of Assisi’s Name

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said that “as things got dangerous” in the conclave voting, he was sitting next to his “great friend,” Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes “who comforted me.”

When the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio went over the 77 votes needed to become pope, he said Cardinal Hummes “hugged me, kissed me and said, ‘Don’t forget the poor.’”

Pope Francis told thousands of journalists March 16 that he, a Jesuit, should have taken the name Clement XV “to get even with Clement XIV, who suppressed the Society of Jesus” in the 1700s.

The pope told the media, “You’ve really been working, haven’t you.”

While the papal coat of arms includes a large institution with centuries of history, he said, “the Church does not have a political nature, but a spiritual one.”

Pope Francis also said some had suggested jokingly that he, a Jesuit, should have taken the name Francis XVI “to govern even with Clement XIV, who suppressed the Society of Jesus in the 1700s.”

The pope acknowledged how difficult it is for many media to cover the Church as a spiritual, rather than a political, institution, and he offered special thanks “to those who were able to observe and recount these events in the story of the Church from the most correct perspective in which they must be read, that of faith.”

The Church, he said, “is the people of God, the holy people of God, because it is journeying toward an encounter with Jesus Christ.”

“Now, one can understand the Church without understanding its spiritual purpose, he said. “Christ is the pastor of the Church, but his presence passes through the freedom of human beings,” he said. “Among them, one is chosen to serve as his vicar on earth. But Christ is the center, the focal point.”

Thanking the reporters again for all their hard work, Pope Francis also asked them to continue trying “to discover the true nature of the Church and its journey through the world, with its virtues as well as its sins.”

Communications, he said, requires study, preparation and a special attention “to truth, goodness and beauty,” which is something the Church has in common with journalism.

He ended his talk by telling reporters he hoped they would grow in their knowledge of “the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the reality of the Church. I entrust you to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, star of the new evangelization.”

St. Bede continued: “This conversion of one tax collector gave many men, those from his own profession and others, an example of repentance and pardon. Notice also the happy and true anticipation of his future status as apostle and teacher of the nations. No sooner was he converted than Matthew drew after him: ‘Follow me.’ This following meant imitating him through the eyes of mercy and chose him” or more simply, “having mercy, he called him.”

The phrase comes from a homily by St. Bede – an English eighth-century Christian writer and doctor of the Church. St. Bede’s homily looks at Mt 9:9-13 in which Jesus saw the tax collector, Matthew, sitting at a customs post and said to him, “Follow me.” St. Bede explained in his homily, “Jesus saw Matthew, not merely in the usual sense, but more significantly with his merciful understanding of men.”

“He saw the tax collector and, because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him, he said to him: ‘Follow me.’ This following meant imitating the pattern of his life – not just walking after him. St. John tells us: ‘Whoever says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.’”

The papal coat, like his Episcopal one, is the Latin phrase “Miserando atque eligendo,” which means “because he saw the tax collector and, because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him” or more simply, “having mercy, he called him.”

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St. Bede continued: “This conversion of one tax collector gave many men, those from his own profession and other sinners, an example of repentance and pardon. Notice also the happy and true anticipation of his future status as apostle and teacher of the nations. No sooner was he converted than Matthew drew after him a whole crowd of sinners along the same road to salvation.”

Pope Francis was appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires in 1992 and became archbishop of the archdiocese in 1998.
Pope Francis celebrates his inaugural Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 19.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Although attempts were made to simplify the ceremony, Pope Francis officially inaugurated his ministry as pope and bishop of Rome in a liturgy filled with biblical symbolism and signs of the universality of his mission.

But before the solemn rites began March 19, Pope Francis – known for choosing public transport over chauffeur-driven limousines – took his first spin in the popemobile, blessing the tens of thousands of people who arrived in St. Peter’s Square as early as 4 a.m. to pray with him. He waved and, at one point, gave a thumbs up to the faithful. He also kissed three babies held up to him by the chief of Vatican security, Domenico Gianni, and other officers. But he climbed out of the open jeep used as a popemobile to kiss a severely disabled man.

Before entering St. Peter’s Square, he addressed by satellite thousands of his fellow Argentines gathered in Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, where he had been archbishop before his election as pope. He thanked the people for their prayers and told them: “I have a favor to pray with him. He waved and, at one point, gave a thumbs up to the faithful. He also kissed three babies held up to him by the chief of Vatican security, Domenico Gianni, and other officers. But he climbed out of the open jeep used as a popemobile to kiss a severely disabled man.

Pope Francis reaches out to bless a child as he arrives in St. Peter’s Square before his inaugural Mass at the Vatican March 19.
Pope Francis

Continued from 10

to ask. I want to ask that we all walk together, caring for one another — caring for life. Care for the family, care for nature, care for children, care for the aged. Let there be no hatred, no fighting, put aside envy and don’t gos- sip about anyone.

As the Mass began, tens of thou- sands of pilgrims, faithful and tourists continued to arrive, filling St. Peter’s Square and crowdfunding around the large video screens placed along the boule- vard leading to the square. By the time of Communion, the Vatican said there were between 150,000 and 200,000 people present.

In his homily, Pope Francis asked prayers that he would be able to pro- tect the Church like St. Joseph protect- ed Mary and Jesus, “discreetly, hum- bly and silently, but with an unfailing prayer of faith.”

Although according to Church law he officially became pope the minute he accepted his election in the Sistine Chapel March 13, Pope Francis received important symbols of his office just before the inauguration Mass — the Book of the Gospels, the ring of the fisherman, St. Peter, and the pallium, a woolen band worn around the shoul- ders to evoke a shepherd carrying a sheep.

With members of the College of Car- dinals dressed in gold gathered before the main altar in St. Peter’s Basilica and brass players sounding a fanfare, the rites began at the tomb of St. Pe- ter. Pope Francis venerated the mortal remains of his predecessor as head of the church and was joined by the heads of the Eastern Catholic Church.

Processing behind the Eastern Church leaders and the cardinals, Pope Francis — wearing a simple, mostly white chasuble and his black shoes — came out into St. Peter’s Square while the choir chanted a special litany to Christ the King.

French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who had announced Pope Francis’ election to the world six days earlier, placed the pallium, which had been worn by Pope Benedict XVI, around the new pope’s neck. The retired pope did not attend the Mass.

“The Good Shepherd charged Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep; today you succeed him as the bishop of this Church to which he and the Apostle Paul were fathers in faith,” Cardinal Tauran said.

Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, pre- sented Pope Francis with the fisher- man’s ring, a gold-plated silver band representing Pope Francis with the fisher- man’s ring, a gold-plated silver band featuring St. Peter holding keys, a re- minder that Jesus told St. Peter: “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and what- ever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Giving the pope “the ring, the seal of Peter the fisherman,” Cardinal Sodano told the pope he was called, as bishop of Rome, to preside over the Church with charity. He prayed the pope would have “the gentleness and strength to preserve, through your ministry, all those who believe in Christ in unity and fellowship.”

Six cardinals, representing the entire College of Cardinals, publicly pledged obedience to the pope.

While many Christians acknowledge the special role of the bishop of Rome as the one who presides over the entire Christian community in love, the way the papacy has been exercised over the centuries is one of the key factors in the ongoing division of Christians.

For the first time since the Great Schism of 1054 split the main Chris- tian community into East and West, the ecumenical patriarch attended the installation Mass. Patriarch Bar- tholomew of Constantinople, first among equals of the Eastern Ortho- dox, sat in a place of honor near the papal altar.

Catholicos Karekin II of Etchmi- adzin, patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, also attended the Mass along with delegations from 12 other Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches, 10 Anglican and Protestant communities and three international Christian organizations, including the World Council of Churches.

After the Lord’s prayer, Pope Fran- cis exchanged a sign of peace with Patriarch Bartholomew and with Ca- tholicos Karekin.

The Chief Rabbi of Israel, the Jewish community of Rome and sev- eral international Jewish organizations send representatives to the ceremony, as did Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain and Hindu communities and organiza- tions.

 Also present were representatives of 132 governments, led by the presi- dents of Italy and Argentina, the reign- ing royalties of six countries — includ- ing Belgium’s king and queen — and 31 heads of state. Vice President Joe Biden led the U.S. delegation while David Lloyd Johnston, governor gen- eral, led the Canadian delegation.

Pope Chooses Silver Ring, Pallium Style in Keeping with Predecessor

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

With his fisherman’s ring and the pallium — the main symbols of the Petrine office — Pope Francis chose styles in continuity with two of his predeces- sors.

The fisherman’s ring Pope Francis chose is made of gold-plated silver and is based on the same design of a papal ring handed down from Pope Paul VI’s per- sonal secretary. It shows an image of St. Peter holding the keys of heaven and the other indicates the spiritual authority of the papacy on earth.

The pallium, however, represents the pope’s role as a “fisher of men,” was designed by a late-Italian artist, Enrico Manfrini, who was very close to Pope Paul and his late-secretary, Archbishop Pasquale Macchi.

Pope Francis had about three models of rings to choose from, said the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Fa- ther Federico Lombardi, and the pope chose the de- sign that Manfrini gave Archbishop Macchi for Pope Paul. Pope Francis’ ring was made from the same remains of his predecessor as head of the church and was joined by the heads of the Eastern Catholic Church.

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During the installation Mass March 19, Pope Fran- cis received the newly made ring from the dean of the College of Cardinals, Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

The pallium Pope Francis received from French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran during the Mass was the same one Pope Benedict XVI used — a white chasuble and his black shoes — came out into St. Peter’s Square while the choir chanted a special litany to Christ the King.

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Pope Francis kisses the altar as he leaves after celebrating his inaugural Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 19.
Three Vocations, Two Popes, One Passion for Christ
By Mary Klaus
Special to The Witness

The first time that Father Anthony Dill saw Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican in 2009, the then-York Haven seminarian felt “star struck. We made eye contact. You could tell he loved us.”

When Father Dill and thousands of others prayed with Pope Francis during his first papal appearance in St. Peter’s Square earlier this month, the young priest felt the Holy Spirit in the midst of the crowd. “It was such an unbelievable feeling,” he said, calling the new pope “Papa Francesco” and describing his greeting as “simple but comforting.” “He led us in prayer. It just felt like a priest leading his people,” he said.

Father Dill, who was ordained last June and is in Rome completing his studies in Canon Law, and two diocesan seminarians attending the Pontifical North American College in Rome told The Catholic Witness that the selection of Pope Francis fills them with joy and optimism.

Kyle Sahd is a native of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia. His older brother, Father Chris Sahd, is pastor of Christ the King Parish in Rohrerstown, said he is blessed to have seen two popes since August. He and other seminarians saw Pope Benedict at the papal summer residence.

“When Pope Benedict saw the seminarians, his face lit up with joy,” Mr. Kuchinski said. “I was numb. I felt like I was in a dream.”

Mr. Kuchinski felt moved again while watching “unmistakably white” smoke billowing from the Sistine Chapel chimney indicating the selection of the cardinal who became Pope Francis.

“Everyone in the square surged forward, wanting to be as close as possible to the balcony,” he said. “The atmosphere was incredible. The Swiss Guard marched into the square. The bells were ringing. More people poured into the Square. We were packed like sardines. It was impossible to move.”

An hour later, Pope Francis came out onto the balcony, prayed with the crowd and blessed them. “I do not think I will ever forget this night,” Mr. Kuchinski said.

When Father Dill and the two seminarians were growing up in the Diocese of Harrisburg, they dreamed that they would attend the Pontifical North American College next to the Vatican.

Mr. Sahd, who hails from Columbia, said the priests and sisters in his life helped foster his vocation. He said that Sister Anna Cosgrove, his religion teacher at the former Holy Trinity School, and Father Kenneth Lawrence, his current pastor, were especially supportive. Before entering the seminary, Mr. Sahd taught history at York Catholic High School for seven years.

Father Dill realized he had a vocation when he was 18, while Mr. Kuchinski felt his calling by the end of his high school freshman year. “I really grew in my faith during Pope Benedict’s pontificate,” said Mr. Kuchinski. “I was sad when he resigned, but the Holy Spirit runs the Church.”

All three praised Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Mr. Sahd attended many of his noon audiences to hear the weekly papal reflection in six languages and pray the Angelus.

“Pope Benedict was a very holy man who loved the faithful,” he said. “When he left the Apostolate of the Chair he would wave to the people. I had eye contact with him and felt his love. He touched my soul. He was a man of prayer. I hope I can be humble and prayerful like him.”

Father Dill, who has lived in Rome five years, called Pope Benedict “one of my favorite popes.” He’s smart theologically but writes encyclicals in a down-to-earth fashion. He really loves priests, seminarians and sisters.”

The trio expressed joy at the selection of Pope Francis, with Mr. Kuchinski calling him strong in his identity as a priest and both prayerful and joyful in his ministry.

Mr. Sahd called Pope Francis “another Peter who will guide us in the truths of the faith and to Jesus Christ. When we prayed [at the pope’s first appearance to the crowd], it showed the universality of the Church and how we are all united in Jesus Christ.”

Father Dill added that Pope Francis will need to maintain “one holy, Catholic and apostolic Church with an international perspective.”

The three young men said they love living in Rome, where Father Dill celebrates weekend Mass in Italian at a small Roman parish.

The seminarians said they enjoy getting to know Rome, which Mr. Sahd called “a walking city.” They enjoy exploring the various historical places and churches.

Mr. Kuchinski said he loves living in Rome, then laughed when asked what he misses from home. “We get a lot of great pasta here,” he said. “But sometimes, I miss eating a great steak or hamburger.”

(Mary Klaus, a freelance reporter for The Catholic Witness, was in Vatican City during the conclave and interviewed and photographed Father Dill, Kyle Sahd and John Kuchinski at the Pontifical North American College and in St. Peter’s Square.)

At First Angelus, Pope Francis Says God Never Tires of Forgiving
By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Citing a distinguished German theologian and an anonymous elderly woman from Argentina, Pope Francis told an overflow crowd in St. Peter’s Square never to despair of God’s mercy to sinners.

“The Lord never tires of forgiving,” the pope said March 17, before leading the recitation of the midday Angelus. “It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.”

Pope Francis, who was elected March 13, spoke from his window to an estimated crowd of at least 150,000 people gathered to see the pope for his first scheduled appearance in St. Peter’s Square since the night of his election.

He opened with an expression of what has already become his trademark informality, greeting listeners with a simple “buongiorno!”

Commenting on the day’s Gospel reading (Jn 8:1-11), Pope Francis noted that Jesus addresses a woman caught in adultery, not with words of scorn or condemnation, “but only words of love, of mercy, which invite her to conversion: ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.’”

Pope Francis referred to a book on the subject of mercy by German Cardinal Walter Kasper, retired president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, whom he described as a “superb theologian.”

“Both don’t think I’m advertising my cardinals’ books. That’s not it,” the pope said in the sort of spontaneous aside that listeners have already come to expect from him.

“This book has done me so much good,” Pope Francis said, apparently referring to a work published in 2012 under the German title “Barmherzigkeit” (Mercy).

“Cardinal Kasper said that to feel mercy, this word changes everything,” the pope said. “A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”

The Argentine pope also recalled an encounter more than 20 years ago with an elderly woman in Buenos Aires, who told him: “If the Lord did not forgive all, the world would not exist.”

Pope Francis said he had wanted to ask her if she had studied at Rome’s prestigious Pontifical Gregorian University, because her words reflected the “wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit: interior wisdom regarding the mercy of God.”

Following the Angelus, the pope offered a particular greeting to Romans and other Italians, noting that he had chosen for his papal name that of St. Francis of Assisi, which he said “reinforces my spiritual tie with this land, where— as you know— my family origins lie.”

Earlier that morning, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at the Church of St. Anne inside Vatican City, where his homily also treated the subject of divine mercy.

“It is not easy to trust in the mercy of God, because that is an incomprehensible abyss,” he said. “But we must do it.”

Jesus taught us to speak to him as we speak to someone who wrongs us, the pope said. “He forgets; he has a special ability to forget.”

At the end of Mass, Pope Francis drew attention to the presence of Father Gonzalo Aemilius, founder of the Liceo Jubilar Juan Pablo II, a high school in Montevideo, Uruguay. He described the priest as one “who has long worked with street kids, with drug addicts. He opened a school for them, he has done so much to make them know Jesus.”

“I don’t know how he came to be here today,” the pope said. “I’ll find out.”

Afterward, outside the church, the pope personally greeted each of the approximately 200 members of the congregation, then walked over to meet people waiting around St. Anne’s Gate.

He also sent his first official Tweet from @pontifex: “Dear friends, I thank you from my heart and I ask you to continue to pray for me. Pope Francis.”
Portenos Paint Pope as Kind, Outspoken, Good Administrator

By David Agren
Catholic News Service

Oscar Justo, 60, begs for bills and coins from a perch next to St. Joseph Parish in Barrio de Flores, the neighborhood where Pope Francis was born.

As Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis passed by often, walking from the bus stop or surfacing from a nearby subway station. But he always took time to greet Justo, offer a blessing and provide a few pesos.

“He always gave me something ... sometimes 100 pesos ($20),” said Justo, 60, who lost both legs in a railway accident.

Such stories of kindness abound in Buenos Aires, where Pope Francis was archbishop for 15 years, until being elected pope March 13. Portenos, as locals here are known, came to know Pope Francis as an unpretenious prelate, who took public transit, showed pre-occupation for the poor and challenged the authorities.

The new pope is mostly portrayed as a pope for the poor and common people. But a more complex picture -- as a priest, administrator and soccer fanatic -- comes from Argentina, where vendors now peddle his pictures and posters, and where Peronists -- the political movement founded by former President Juan Peron and his second wife, Eva Peron -- have blanketed Buenos Aires with posters proclaiming him one of their own.

He ascended in the Church, something attributed to his force of personality and ability to remember names and faces.

“He has a prodigious memory,” said Father Andres Aguerre, Jesuit vice provincial in Argentina. “You tell him your birthday once and he remembers.”

In the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis adopted the attitude that the Church belongs in the street. He built chapels and missions in poor areas and sent seminarians to serve them.

He spoke out often against injustice, such as the treatment of migrant workers from neighboring countries and those lured into the sex trade, who were sometimes sheltered and rescued from the sex trade, who were sometimes sheltered and rescued from the sex trade.

He criticized the late President Nestor Kirchner of Loyola, and this caused controversy,” said Poirier. “Bergoglio is very demanding ... He demanded a lot of discipline and obedience. He also considered himself a privileged interpreter of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and this caused controversy,” said Poirier.

“I always had the ability to say what he thinks,” said Poirier.

Gabriel Castelli, a member of the board of directors at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, said the new pope “always had the ability to say what he thinks.”

He put a priority on providing attention to his priests. He had a cellphone reserved just for his nearly 4,000 diocesan priests, and each morning he reserved one hour to take their calls.

“He was very committed to his priests, which is difficult with such a large archdiocese,” Castelli said.

Many in the Church, like Poirier, speak of his administrative skills in Buenos Aires.

“He’s not an intellectual [like Pope Benedict], rather a man of government, with great political and administrative abilities,” Poirier said.

Priests had to keep their parishes in order, Poirier said.

He said Pope Francis preferred the shanties to high society; he never dined out or went to parties; he cooked for himself and read voraciously. He especially liked Latin American literature and Fyodor Dostoyevsky novels. He did not use a computer or email and listened to games of his favorite soccer team, San Lorenzo, on the radio.

Barrio de Flores is a working class neighborhood. The new pope’s father was a railway worker, his mother a housewife. As a youth, the pope studied in public schools, which included technical certification as a chemist.

He returned often to the barrio, to St. Joseph Parish, where he was scheduled to celebrate Mass on Palm Sunday.

At St. Joseph, parishioners shared memories.

“He always carried his own bags,” recalled Zaira Sanchez, 72.

After Mass, “People would wait outside and he would bless all of them and talk to them,” before leaving on public transit, she said.

He took time for causes, too -- such as Fundacion Alameda, which sought support from Pope Francis for its work against the exploitation of migrants working in Argentina.

It also works to prevent migrant women from being lured into the sex trade.

The foundation’s director, Olga Cruz, knew the then-cardinal previously -- he baptized both her children, who were not infants, after she asked him personally.

“He said it would be an honor,” recalled Cruz, a native of Bolivia.

Pope Francis embraced the migrants’ cause, making public statements and celebrating Mass for the foundation.

“He told me, ‘Don’t be afraid’ ... that I can confront this,” Cruz told Catholic News Service.

Cruz also recalled him coming at a moment’s notice to provide spiritual and moral support for women rescued from the sex trade, who were sometimes sheltered in parishes.

Parishioners at St. Joseph showed mixed emotions about Pope Francis having to leave Argentina for a higher calling.

“Once he got to know you, he knew you for life,” said St. Joseph parishioner Gloria Koen, 73. “Unfortunately, we had to share him with the world.”

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The 11th annual Catholic Charities Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic will take place on Monday, May 13 at Blue Ridge Country Club in Harrisburg. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Price is $100 per person with a four-person scramble format. Price includes registration gift, lunch, golf with cart, skill contests, dinner, and door prize raffle. All proceeds benefit Harrisburg’s Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families.

Registration deadline is May 3. For more information, contact Christopher Meehan, Catholic Charities Director of Development, at 717-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cchbg.org.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Researchers have long linked aerobic exercise with promoting healthy lifestyles, especially in regards to cardiovascular health and weight control. Newer on the scene are studies that link routine rigorous aerobic exercise that entails increased heart rate and perspiration not only to physical fitness, but mental sharpness. A resource proving the positive effects of strenuous exercise is the book, Spark – by noted medical researcher Dr. John Ratey.

Based on these findings, Trinity High School in Camp Hill broke ground on a cold, blustery March 22 on a 3,000-square-foot facility located at the school’s southeast corner next to the gymnasium which will house numerous state-of-the-art fitness equipment. Next academic year, each Trinity student will be introduced to daily fitness to help curb stress, lift moods and clarify thinking by boosting memory.

The facility is possible through the generous gifts of donors, most notably Brad Hollinger, President of Vibra Healthcare and The Hollinger Group. “I am a big proponent of every child experiencing fitness at a young age,” Mr. Hollinger said. The donation was the largest in Trinity’s 50-year history. The center is not only for student-athletes, but will be utilized by every student as part of a transformed physical education curriculum at Trinity.

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Catholic Diocese Night with Harrisburg Senators Baseball

April 20 at 7 p.m.
Metro Bank Park on City Island

Join fellow parishioners and school students as we watch Bishop Joseph P. McFadden throw out the first pitch for the Harrisburg Senators as they battle it out against the Altoona Curve on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m. It promises to be a fun-filled night at Metro Bank Park on City Island in Harrisburg. The first 1,000 fans will get a Stephen Strasburg Blanket; Kids run the bases after the game and you can enter to win special prizes for diocesan group members only!

Tickets are $8. Obtain a ticket order form from your parish or school, or contact Jess Kaufman at 717-231-4444 or jkauffman@senatorsbaseball.com for more information or questions.
Memorial Beckons, ‘Let the Children Come to Me’

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Just inside the spacious lobby of Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg, students pause in moments of quiet reflection to remember their classmate, Owen Brezitski, the bright-eyed and friendly 8-year-old who died two years ago after being struck by a distracted driver in a crosswalk on Market Street.

The elementary school students have kept the memory of their friend alive these past two years, and thanks to a new memorial at the school, they’ll have more occasions to recall happy memories of Owen.

On March 18, Father Edward J. Quinlan, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus, blessed a painting and plaque dedicated to Owen’s memory. Former Bishop McDevitt High School students and families at Holy Name for tuition assistance.

The plaque also reminds all who read it to “Slow Down, Be Alert and Save a Life!” – the slogan of Owen’s Foundation, which works to promote pedestrian, driver, traffic and childhood safety, and to raise awareness of the consequences of distracted driving.

“This memorial is another way to honor Owen, and to aid in the healing process,” his mother, Karen Brezitski, told The Catholic Witness. “It’s just so unbelievable that it’s been two years since his death. We want to keep his memory alive and to help the children in the process of healing.”

Owen would have been a fourth-grader at Holy Name this year. His sister Kyla is in eighth grade there, and his sister Makenna is a sophomore at Bishop McDevitt High School.

The Holy Name and Brezitski families came together for the blessing of the memorial, a gift to the school from the Brezitski family: Mark, Karen, Kyla and Makenna. Students sat on the floor and bowed their heads in prayer, as Father Quinlan spoke of Owen and then sprinkled the painting with holy water.

After the ceremony, students reverently filed past the artwork and the plaque, marveling at how the picture on the plaque “looks just like Owen” – a sure sign that they have not forgotten their friend.

Owen’s Foundation continues its charitable efforts. This year, the foundation established a $1,000 scholarship (The Owen Cole Brezitski Memorial Scholarship) for a graduating Bishop McDevitt student pursuing post high school education. And, this coming school year, two $500 grants will be given to two families at Holy Name for tuition assistance.

In November 2011, the foundation purchased two solar, blinking LED crosswalk signs in front of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, where Owen died. The signs have since been moved to the new Bishop McDevitt campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Brezitski continue to advocate for safe driving practices, and have spoken at a range of events, a number of which are geared toward young drivers. Future plans include the purchasing of all needed safety helmets for the baseball association in which Owen played, and the foundation is working with The Silence of Mary Home to help furnish and decorate a bedroom in the newly acquired St. Faustina home in memory of Owen.

The second annual Orange 4 Owen Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon June 8 with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Visit orange4owen.org for more details on the events, or send an e-mail to orange4owen@comcast.net.

(Owen’s Foundation is a charitable fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Orange 4 Owen is a project of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor. The official registration and financial information of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State or by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.)
**Obituaries**

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

**ABBOTTTOWN** – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Carol Folkenroth, Geraldine Pohlman.

**BERWICK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Vivian M. Doherty; St. Joseph: Sylvia Chace.

**BLOOMSBURG** – St. Columbia: Edward J. Sundra.

**BONNEVAULIE** – St. Joseph the Worker: Kathryn Jones.

**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Stanley Bobula.

**CARLISLE** – Corpus Christi: Gertrude Giorgini, Nancy Woods.

**COAL TOWN** – Our Lady of Hope: Rita Sosnoskie.

**COLUMBIA** – Holy Trinity: Farrell Nixdorf, Rose Romano, Catherine Smith.


**FAIRFIELD** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Raymond Beaumont, Sr.


**HARRISBURG** – St. Catherine Labouré: Mary Burke; St. Francis of Assisi: Vincent Burgos-Cruz; St. Margaret Mary: Teresa Shimp, Francis Smith.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Nicola Zalla.

**LANCASTER** – St. Anthony of Padua: Paul Barber, Dr. Joseph Eckenrode, Long Huynh.

**LEBANON** – Assumption BVM: Jose Martinez.

**LEWISTOWN** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Anna Zigerl.

**LITTLESTOWN** – St. Aloysius: Dorothy Roger.

**MCBRYSTOWN** – Annunciation BVM: Patricia C. Borowick, Patrick J. Kluhn.

**MIDDLETOWN** – St. Anthony: Rosemary Pankiewicz; St. Katharine Drexel: Doreen Sheldon.

**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows BVM: Anna Trojcak.

**MOUNT CARamel** – Divine Redeemer: Mary Louise Bednarczyk; Our Lady: John Baloni, Rose Hynsick.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. Theresa: Ann Bell, Doris Gallagher, Alan Hook.

**NEW FREEDOM** – St. John the Baptist: Dennis R. Carter, Jesse Forton.

**NEW OXFORD** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Aileen Ann Smith.

**STEELTON** – Prince of Peace: Dagmar Hart.

**TREvORTON** – St. Patrick: Stephen Ardan, Peggy L. Dorkoskie.

**YORK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Eleanor Kuentzler, Mary Shuman; St. Patrick: Fay Entler.

**Harristown Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Scholarship Fund**

The Harristown Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Scholarship Fund will be awarded to a Catholic senior high school girl (2013) for her freshman year at an accredited college, university or trade school. The amount of the academic scholarship is $1,000.

Applications must be sponsored by a mother, grandmother or guardian who is an active member of a parish Council of Catholic Women for no less than one year. The applicant and her sponsor must be a resident of the Harristown Diocese. Applicants must meet all conditions established by the scholarship committee as set forth in its rules and regulations, which are in an enclosed booklet.

Application packets are available from parish presidents of the Council of Catholic Women. Deadline for submitting applications is May 1. For more information, contact Joyce Scott, Chair, at 717-737-0927 or joynobb10@comcast.net.

**St. Patrick School in York Awarded Grant**

St. Patrick School in York recently received a $5,000 partnership grant from Community Aid, Inc., Mechanicsburg, to provide tuition scholarships for economically-disadvantaged students living within the boundaries of the York City School District.

Community Aid supported the school’s assessment that tuition scholarships for at-risk elementary students from a state-declared “underperforming” and “financially distressed” public school district provides an opportunity for those students to build a stronger academic foundation in a private school setting, resulting in higher future rates of high school, college, and vocational training graduations, thus forming the community’s next generation of leaders.

Established in 1886, St. Patrick School offers Christ-centered education in levels PreK3 through 6th grade and promotes the spiritual, academic, social, and physical development of students. Children from both Catholic and non-Catholic families are welcome. The school is diverse ethnically, culturally, and economically.

**Lancaster Catholic Student Plans Fashion Show for Scholarship Fund**

A fashion show set to take place in Lancaster on April 5 is being directed by Lancaster Catholic High School senior Annseliee Kambouroglos. Shows will take place at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Ware Center of Millersville University. There is no cost for admission, but donations will be accepted at the door. There will also be a cake sale and special raffles. Proceeds will fund a merit scholarship that will go to an incoming Lancaster Catholic freshman who excels in art.

Annseliee, who is studying Fashion Merchandising at Immaculata University this fall, is hosting the show as a way to give back to the school. She received a full, four-year scholarship to Lancaster Catholic from Judith Cook in memory of her son, Dennis Cook, a graduate who died in one of the Twin Towers on 9/11.

The project is part of the Senior Project class, a senior-year, career-based course that provides an opportunity for seniors to pursue an area of interest along a path of discovery, research or innovation.

For more information, or to purchase raffle tickets in advance, contact Annseliee at annseliee.kambouroglos@gmail.com.

**Events at National Shrine to Commemorate Sesquicentennial of the Civil War**

The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will host several events to commemorate the events leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg.

**Bell and History Days, April 6 & 7:**

Come and enjoy the festivities that kick-off the 2013 museum season in Frederick County. On April 6, get your Bell and History Day passport stamped, participate in a children’s craft, take our Civil War tour, *Miracles Amid the Firestorm*, and visit the historic houses where Mother Seton once lived. On April 7, five handbell choirs from across the region will perform in the annual Handbell Festival at 5:30 p.m. in the Basilica. To commemorate the Civil War, this year the Handbell Festival will feature patriotic music and an original composition, *An American Pastiche*, written specifically for this occasion by local musician Amber Ion.

**Nursing a Nation Divided, April 13, 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.:**

Join us as we host The National Museum of Civil War Medicine for an interactive family event about medical science during the Civil War, and how the Sisters and Daughters of Charity served as nurses to soldiers on both sides during the war.

Learn about the history of the Shrine’s grounds, which served as the site of a Union encampment and the location for a war council to prepare for the Battle of Gettysburg. This free event will feature hands-on displays, living historians and re-enactors from the Union Rose Hill Mansons and the Confederation of Union Girls, the 200th of Maine, the Hessian Barracks, Visititation Academy, The Blue and Grey Hospital Association, and sutlers. Our exclusive Civil War tour, *Miracles Amid the Firestorm*, will also be offered.

**Heritage Days, June 28 – 30:**

The town of Emmitsburg will hold its annual Community Day on Saturday, June 29. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the town has expanded the community day this year to be a three-day heritage festival. The Shrine will be holding many events on its grounds. The event will feature living historians, Civil War era vendors/crafts, a Civil War tour, *Miracles Amid the Firestorm* and a performance by the Williamsport Band on Sunday at 4 p.m. For more information on the events at the Shrine, contact Bridgett Baxster at 301-447-6666.
Diocesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

A Mission, “Prosidion Son Retreats,” will be preached by Father Thomas der Spiegel, OSB, of St. Meinrad Archabbey, on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisburg. All members of the community in the Hospitality and the Blessed Virgin Mary, he is the editor of books on Mary, including his latest, “Purest of All Lilies.”

State Street Academy of Music, a music teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg, and helps direct the music ministry at St. Benedict’s Abbey in Lebanon. A reserved donation of $10 may be given at the door.

Bishop McGrath’s “fabulous lightings” spring musical, “Dry Eye Bride,” will bring a little rock and roll and a lot of fun to audiences of all ages at April 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. The show is McGrath’s first musical to be performed on the John Biusus stage. The performance will take place at St. John’s Roman Catholic Church in West York. Admission is $12 per adult, $8 for senior citizens ages 65 and older, and $5 for children under 12. For more information, call 717-736-0723 or visit www.bishopmccord.org.

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Middletown presents its spring drama production, “The First New Clothes,” on April 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. The curtain will run at 2:30 p.m. for the Sunday matinees. Performances at both shows are free, and donations are accepted. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 717- 525-2749 or can be bought at the door. For more information, call 717-675-0198 or visit www.7sorrows.com.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill will host its 17th annual Monte Carlo River Rockie Dinner Theatre on April 13. Please join us for food from famous chefs and a live rock band, The Boomers, all bands that include Delone Catholic alumni and whose repertoire spans the 1960s to today, will all perform at the event. Anyone 21 and over is welcome to attend the event to be held in the lobby of the Lebanon Catholic School Gymnasium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Snacks and beverages will be provided prior to the dinner, and dinner is served at 7 p.m. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the door, or contact, volunteer, or secretariat at 717-736-0723. Delone Catholic Main Office. The cost is $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

Lancaster Catholic School will host a parochial school hour, “Jack and Jill on Assumption Hill,” for moms and children ages 17 from 1-2 p.m. in the school. Lunch will be served and refreshments will be available. The cost is $3 for adults, $2 for children and $1 for seniors. For more information, call 717-234-7211.

A Tea Party to raise funds for the Lebanon Catholic School musical, “Cinderella,” will be held on April 20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the school. Lunch will be served and there will be a 50/50 raffle and many additional prizes. First prize is $5,000 cash. Cost for dinner and a name on the draw-down board is $150. Tickets are available at 717-846-8671 x51.

A Princess Tea Party to fundraise for the Lebanon Catholic School musical, “Cinderella,” will be held on April 20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the school. Lunch will be served and there will be a 50/50 raffle and many additional prizes. First prize is $5,000 cash. Cost for dinner and a name on the draw-down board is $150. Tickets are available at 717-846-8671 x51.

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The Fighting Irish of York Catholic, finishing as state runner-up is nothing to be sad about. After all, just to reach the final is a monumental task, even though they have done it six of the last seven years, which is a remarkable accomplishment. Yet, losing isn’t easy, no matter if it means wearing a nifty PIAA silver medal. After winning three straight Class AA championships from 2006 to 2008, the Fighting Irish have dropped four finals in the last five years.

Last year, the Fighting Irish lost to a superior Seton LaSalle team at Penn State. But this year’s final, held at Giant Center in Hershey - for the first time in six years - brought a foe in Bishop Canevin, who carried some mystery with them to Chocolatetown. The Crusaders lost to Seton LaSalle by 31 points in the regular season, but then beat LaSalle twice in the postseason to earn a trip to the final against York Catholic.

Tied at 21 at halftime, it was a game that could have gone in the Fighting Irish’s favor. Leading 33-28 with a chance to go up seven on the fourth quarter’s first possession, the Irish instead missed an easy inside look and the Crusaders were off on a 13-0 run to bury York Catholic.

Morgan Klunk, the Irish’s go-to scorer and senior floor leader, scored 18 points in three quarters, but was held scoreless in the final stanza, and York Catholic had nobody else to answer the Crusaders’ double-team defense.

Great teams make adjustments, and champions are usually led by seniors down the stretch. The Crusaders got great play in crunch time from their three outstanding big senior guards who impressively broke York Catholic’s half court zone trap with ease in the late stages.

“I thought we had a good chance in this game,” Morgan Klunk, who will play for Bloomsburg University next year, said after the game. “We did our best, and I’m not disappointed with second place. They were a good team and we played our hardest. We worked hard as a team all year.”
By Chris Heisey  
The Catholic Witness

Bradley Buchter, freshman at Trinity High School, poses in front of a Pennsylvania state map after he won the PIAA Class boys’ AA championship with a state record score of 533.05 – smashing a record set last year. If the name sounds familiar, it’s because his sister, Ashley, had won the last three state championships and was favored to win a fourth if she had not broken her foot this winter. Just as Bradley was in the stands for her recent gold medal performances, Ashley was cheering on her younger brother this year at Bucknell University where the championships are held.

Not only did Bradley win the state gold, he captured the Mid-Penn and District 3 championships earlier in the winter. As for Ashley, she will be diving for the Hokies of Virginia Tech next year.

Lancaster’s Catholic’s Everett Albert found a pot of gold during St. Patrick’s week at the PIAA state swimming championships at Bucknell University, where he won a gold medal in the 200-IM – considered by most to be the sport’s best indicator of swimming prowess, as it includes 50 meters of each stroke. The win marks the fifth gold medal for the Crusaders’ swimming program, with the first coming in 1973 from Paula Stein.

Albert’s winning time of 1:53.72 was a school record. “Winning states, it not only brings attention to your name, but it also brings attention to your school’s name, too,” Albert told the press afterwards.

In the girls’ competition at Kinney Natatorium, Delone Catholic’s Victoria Griffin swam a personal best to win a silver medal in the 100-freestyle. She also won a bronze in the 200-yard freestyle. Griffin, who swims as an independent swimmer for Delone Catholic, giving her the opportunity to compete in the PIAA meets, is a standout swimmer from the York YMCA and will swim for Bowling Green University next year.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent (John 17:3).”

It is with great joy that I greet you this Easter as we celebrate the wondrous event of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: “The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ (CCC 638).” It is in this phenomenal mystery of the Lord’s resurrection that each of us has been given hope for an eternal future. Through the grace of our Baptism, which we recall at every liturgy on Easter Sunday, we have been given a share in the very divine life of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternity. This eternal life, which has been won for us through the suffering and death of God’s Only Begotten Son on the Cross, satisfies the debt of our sins. With this new life comes the grace to know the only true God and His Son Jesus who opens us to experience the great love the Father has for all humanity.

This Easter the Church throughout the world also experiences a newness of life in the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, who has been chosen through the grace of the Holy Spirit to shepherd the Church at this moment in history as the successor of Saint Peter and the Vicar of Christ on earth. He has been chosen to guide the Church during the Year of Faith that was initiated by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI last October and will continue until the Solemnity of Christ the King this coming November. During this Year of Faith we are called to reflect more deeply on the gift of our faith, to grow in our knowledge and understanding of what the Church teaches, and to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ who desires to share with us the newness of life.

In his initial words and actions, Pope Francis has encouraged us to embrace this deeper commitment and resolve to living out the Christian life in the world, particularly encouraging us to put our faith into action by lovingly reaching out to the poor and the marginalized in our society, imitating Jesus’ example when He walked among humanity on earth. We are called to be instruments of God’s mercy and to be true witnesses to the Risen Lord whose life we share as members of His Body, the Church.

On this Easter day, I ask all members of Christ’s Church in Harrisburg to heed the call of Pope Francis to grow more deeply committed to living our new life in Christ on a daily basis. You and I are to allow the Risen Lord’s presence to be felt more fully in the world by the love we show to our brothers and sisters. May Jesus, who has been raised from the dead and lives among us, fill you with His peace, joy, and love this Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season.

+Joseph P. McFadden

Pope Francis prays with retired Pope Benedict XVI after arriving at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, March 23. Pope Francis travelled by helicopter from the Vatican to Castel Gandolfo for the private meeting with the former pontiff. Pope Francis gave Pope Benedict an icon of Mary and Jesus that the Russian Orthodox delegation to his inauguration had given him just a few days earlier. “They told me this was Our Lady of Humility. If I may say, I thought of you,” Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis tells retired Pope Benedict, ‘We’re Brothers’

Catholic News Service

With a warm embrace, a helping hand, shared prayer, a long discussion and lunch together, Pope Francis spent several hours with retired Pope Benedict XVI March 23 at the papal summer villa.

Pope Francis gave Pope Benedict an icon of Mary and Jesus that the Russian Orthodox delegation to his inauguration had given him just a few days earlier.

“They told me this was Our Lady of Humility. If I may say, I thought of you,” Pope Francis said. Pope Benedict, obviously moved, grasped his successor’s hands.

Pope Francis told Pope Benedict, “You gave us so many examples of humility and tenderness.”

The meeting took place in Castel Gandolfo, where Pope Benedict is staying while a Vatican monastery is being remodeled as a residence for him.

The retired pope moved with much greater difficulty than he did a month ago. Walking with a cane, he took smaller and slower steps.

When the two went into the chapel of the papal villa to pray, Pope Benedict indicated that Pope Francis should take the front pew, but Pope Francis, reaching out to the con- cressor walk, said, “We’re brothers,” and they knelt side by side.

Traveling by helicopter from the Vatican, Pope Francis arrived shortly after noon. While the two have spoken by telephone at least twice, this was their first meeting since Pope Francis’ March 13 election.

Hundreds of people who were gathered in the main square outside the papal villa were left disappointed. They had hoped the two popes – one reigning, one emeritus – would come to the balcony together.

Father Lombardi told reporters, “Remember that the retired pope had already expressed his unconditional reverence and obedience to his successor at his farewell meeting with the cardinals, Feb. 28, and certainly in this meeting – which was a moment of profound and elevated communion – he will have had the opportunity to renew this act of reverence and obedience to his successor.”

He also said, “Certainly Pope Francis renewed his gratitude and that of the whole Church for Pope Benedict’s ministry during his pontificate.”