Penitential Season of Lent

As we enter the penitential season of Lent – the 40-day period of preparation for Easter – we look at ways in which we can observe the Church's traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

In our Lenten journey, prayer life can include regular or daily attendance at Mass, deeper reflection on the Scripture readings, and pondering the Stations of the Cross. Lent is also a time to return to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Without making room for God’s word in their heart, people will never be able to welcome and love all human life, Pope Francis said in his Lenten message.

“Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love,” he said.

“May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need,” Pope Francis said.

Father Haviland Was ‘Always Available to Parishioners’

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Father William T. Haviland, a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg for 54 years, died Feb. 22 at the age of 80.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 28 at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Elysburg. Burial was in the Priests Circle at All Saints Cemetery in Elysburg.

Father Al Sceski, who forged a friendship with Father Haviland while they resided together for nearly five years at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, recalled the late priest as a hardworking laborer in the Lord’s vineyard.

“He was dedicated to the Church and to the priesthood,” said Father Sceski, currently pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey. “He took his role as pastor very seriously. He loved the Church, and he preached the Gospel in season and out of season.”

The two first met when Father Haviland retired as pastor of St. Monica Parish in Sunbury in 2010 and took up residence at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish.

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl Opens Path to a Culture of Encounter

Catholic Relief Services

The season of Lent is marked by many traditions among Catholics in the United States. Symbolized by its ubiquitous cardboard box, CRS Rice Bowl has been a tradition for generations of Catholics. Beginning in 1975 as a response to a growing famine in Africa, CRS Rice Bowl today shines a light on the Catholic community’s commitment to poor and vulnerable families – our brothers and sisters. Their lives are improving in meaningful, measurable ways through the humanitarian programs and services provided by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Church around the world.

This year, CRS Rice Bowl provides a path for Catholics in the United States to build what Pope Francis calls “a culture of encounter.” By visiting www.crsricebowl.org and following the daily Lenten calendar, sharing the weekly stories of hope, and making the meatless meals, participants will follow a personal journey that leads to us seeing ourselves in the faces of our neighbors, cultivating a spirit of global solidarity and encountering God’s love anew.

Pope Francis told Catholic leaders that the “ability to see ourselves in the faces of others, this daily proximity to their share of troubles and their little acts of heroism: this is what enables you to practice the commandment of love, not on the basis of ideas or concepts, but rather on the basis of genuine interpersonal encounter.”

“We do not love concepts or ideas,” the pope said. “We love people.”

“CRS Rice Bowl is about people and the hope we have for each other. It’s about our ability to encounter our neighbors no matter where they live, to love them as Jesus did.”
Invitation Letter from Bishop Gainer to the 2017 Diocesan Men’s Conference

Dear Brothers in Christ:

I would like to extend to you a personal invitation to register for, and attend, the annual Diocesan Men’s Conference on April 1, 2017, at Bishop McDevitt High School. The theme for this year’s conference is “Fools for Christ: Men Called to Glorify God through His Catholic Church.”

Given the theme, it is especially appropriate that this conference takes place during the midst of Lent, the chief penitential season of the liturgical year and preparation for the Paschal Triduum. St. Paul reminds us, “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” [The First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verse 18].

The theme for this year’s conference overall, and I am pleased to say that it is an annual event. The conference has grown each year to this point. Last March, 925 men attended the Men’s conference. It is our hope that more than 1,000 men will attend this year’s conference.

It has been a privilege for me to spend time with the attendees at this conference the past three years, as well as to celebrate Mass and hear Confessions. This year, it will be my pleasure once again to celebrate Mass and to provide one of the more than 35 workshops. There will also be Adoration of the Sacred, Eucharistic, and fellowship.

Each of us has an indispensable role to play in our families, among our co-workers, and in Christ’s Mystical Body, which is the Church. We need God’s grace and we need to help and support one another so that we can be the men that God has created us to be. From time to time we need to be renewed. The Men’s Conference is a prime opportunity for just such personal renewal, inspiration, instruction, and fellowship with the Lord and with each other.

I thank all who support the Men’s Conference, including our priests and deacons, the Men’s Conference Committee, and the parish captains who are assisting and encouraging the men in our parishes to attend this conference. If you have not yet registered, I heartily encourage you to do so. I look forward to spending an enjoyable day together on April 1. May God bless you and all your loved ones with His grace, peace, and mercy!

Your Brother in Christ,
Bishop Ronald W. Gainer

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association and The St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania

invite all Catholic physicians, lawyers, judges, healthcare workers, legal professionals, medical students and law students to a Lenten Day of Reflection
Saturday March 25, 2017
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710

Guest Speaker and Celebrant:
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.

“To be Zealous for the Lord”
The morning includes Mass, confessions, Adoration and light refreshments. Free-will offering will be accepted.

For planning purposes, RSVP by March 18 to: CathMedHbg@aol.com

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg

“Soup, Salad, and Sermon” Lenten Lunch
April 5 at Noon
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Register online and find more information at www.hbgdiocese.org/men.
**Diocesan Celebration of World Youth Day**

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.” (Luke 1:49)

April 9, 2017 • New Venue and Format

Good Shepherd Church
3435 Trindle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Schedule:
2:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
2:45 p.m. – Praise and worship music with Teresa Peterson
3:30 p.m. – Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer
5:00 p.m. – Enjoy different types of food from food trucks
6:30-7:30 p.m. – Holy Hour with Father Anthony Dill

For more information, contact your youth minister, Or the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
717-657-4804, ext. 327
oyyam@hbgdiocese.org
www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch

---

**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 interested 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.

Presentations will be offered:
- March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- March 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph in York
- May 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph in Danville
- June 6 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Visitation in Shippensburg
- June 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick in Carlisle

---

**Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar**

- March 4 – Confirmation, Mother Cabrini Church, Shamokin, 10 a.m.
- March 5 – Rite of Election, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.
- March 8 – Teach Lenten Series to high school seniors via Diocesan Wide Area Network, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
- March 11 – Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, Selinsgrove, 10 a.m.
- March 13 – Mass and School Visit, Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School/Holy Family Campus, Harrisburg, 8:30 a.m.
- March 15 – Teach Lenten Series to high school seniors via Diocesan Wide Area Network, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
- March 15-17 – Fresh Expressions Conference/Amore Project, St. Patrick Cathedral and Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg.
- March 19 – Closing of Forty Hours Devotions, St. Patrick Parish, Pottsville, Pa., 4 p.m.

---

**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 interested 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.

Presentations will be offered:
- March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- March 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph in York
- May 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph in Danville
- June 6 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Visitation in Shippensburg
- June 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick in Carlisle

---

**MATTHEW 25 grant applications accepted through March 31**

Grants are available for organizations that provide FOOD, CLOTHING AND/OR SHELTER to the less fortunate within their community.

---

**Bishop Helps Build Readers**

Bishop Ronald Gainer reads "Last Stop on Market Street" from his residence, while being recorded for a video made available for schools to use in their celebration of Read Across America Day March 2.
Heaven
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, I was driving across the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York State with my six-year-old niece in the back seat.

Driving over this bridge is not for the faint of heart. You see, the bridge [New York] is one of the most well-known and has a seven-lane span. Since the bridge appears to be very close to the water and is not straight, one might think that the bridge actually dips into the water. No matter how often I drive over it, I am still amazed by it. If I think about it, when I do traverse it, I look at my fellow travelers, swallow hard, and say, “If they can do this, so can I!”

As my niece and I crossed the bridge, the clouds parted and streams of sunlight gloriously appeared, bathing the entire bridge in shades of brilliant pink, yellow and white. I gasped at the beauty of the heavenly colors. Looking up, my niece calmly remarked, “Heaven is going to be that beautiful, but better.” Intrigued by her comment, “Really?” I said. “This year six-dimensional!” “You see, Aunt Geralyn, we have been made for Heaven. That’s where God is. One day, that’s where I will be too!”

I could not help thinking of this story as I began to write about Heaven, the home of “Our Father.”

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Who art in heaven does not refer to a place but a way of being; it does not mean that God is distant, but majestic. Our Father is not “elsewhere” he transcends everything we can conceive of his holiness … [He is] in the heart of the just as in his holy temple. Heaven, the Father’s house, is the true homeland toward which we are heading and to which, already, we belong.” ([2794, 2802])

My niece was correct.

But, what actually is Heaven? Tim Staples, a Catholic apologist and evangelist, explains it this way: “Heaven is principally a state of utter and absolute fulfillment. In the possession of God in the beatific vision [experiencing God in his totality] the blessed will experience what cannot be put into words; a radical union with God that transcends anything we could envisage. And it is precisely because of this radical union with God in Christ, the blessed will also experience a union with the other members of the Body of Christ that transcends our ability to imagine as well. The image of the mystical “body of Christ” that St. Paul gives us … some inflection of this union, but again, it can only pale in relation to the full truth of the matter. To use St. Paul’s image, the union of the members of Christ is more radical than my union of my finger here with my hand because it is Christ who makes the matter. To use St. Paul’s image, the union of the members of Christ is more radical than my union of my finger here with my hand because it is Christ who makes the matter.”

Yet, we can experience Heaven on earth. With an understanding that our limited minds and hearts can never totally understand what Heaven is like, we do have glimpses of it, almost like a heavenly teaser. I think of the stories of the mystics and the saints who have experienced a grace of God’s presence on this side of Heaven. I think of St. Francis, who was called by God to rebuild the Church. These are just sparks; brief openings in the veil that separates us from our heavenly home truly. Clearly similar to those sunbeams that I saw while driving.

As apt to spend time with the poor and middle class as with the wealthy. They rejoice with their people in celebratory moments like baptisms, marriages, and First Communions, as well as at picnics and parish festivals. They grieve with them during the difficult seasons that all of us go through. They teach the disciples of Jesus Christ, that God’s love and mercy as soon as possible. Do not delay.

Prayer for holy bishops and priests. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, especially the pastor. We are blessed in our diocese to have many good and holy priests and a good and holy bishop. We need to pray for more.

Holy pastors are more important than any parish program, though good programs have their place. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, a lot, not just in sacramental moments, or at meetings, but throughout daily life. They lead their flock in prayer, they live for celebrating Mass, they spend many hours in the confessional reconciling people to God, they spend time in hospitals visiting and anointing the sick. They make sure there is a rich liturgical and devotional life in their parish. They have a preferential option for the poor, and they are as apt to spend time with the poor and middle class as with the wealthy. They rejoice with their people in celebratory moments like baptisms, marriages, and First Communions, as well as at picnics and parish festivals. They grieve with them during the difficult seasons that all of us go through. They teach the disciples of Jesus Christ, that God’s love and mercy as soon as possible. Do not delay.

Prayer for holy bishops and priests. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, especially the pastor. We are blessed in our diocese to have many good and holy priests and a good and holy bishop. We need to pray for more.

Holy pastors are more important than any parish program, though good programs have their place. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, a lot, not just in sacramental moments, or at meetings, but throughout daily life. They lead their flock in prayer, they live for celebrating Mass, they spend many hours in the confessional reconciling people to God, they spend time in hospitals visiting and anointing the sick. They make sure there is a rich liturgical and devotional life in their parish. They have a preferential option for the poor, and they are as apt to spend time with the poor and middle class as with the wealthy. They rejoice with their people in celebratory moments like baptisms, marriages, and First Communions, as well as at picnics and parish festivals. They grieve with them during the difficult seasons that all of us go through. They teach the disciples of Jesus Christ, that God’s love and mercy as soon as possible. Do not delay.

Prayer for holy bishops and priests. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, especially the pastor. We are blessed in our diocese to have many good and holy priests and a good and holy bishop. We need to pray for more.

Holy pastors are more important than any parish program, though good programs have their place. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, a lot, not just in sacramental moments, or at meetings, but throughout daily life. They lead their flock in prayer, they live for celebrating Mass, they spend many hours in the confessional reconciling people to God, they spend time in hospitals visiting and anointing the sick. They make sure there is a rich liturgical and devotional life in their parish. They have a preferential option for the poor, and they are as apt to spend time with the poor and middle class as with the wealthy. They rejoice with their people in celebratory moments like baptisms, marriages, and First Communions, as well as at picnics and parish festivals. They grieve with them during the difficult seasons that all of us go through. They teach the disciples of Jesus Christ, that God’s love and mercy as soon as possible. Do not delay.

Prayer for holy bishops and priests. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, especially the pastor. We are blessed in our diocese to have many good and holy priests and a good and holy bishop. We need to pray for more.

Holy pastors are more important than any parish program, though good programs have their place. The biggest key to good parishes is good and holy priests, a lot, not just in sacramental moments, or at meetings, but throughout daily life. They lead their flock in prayer, they live for celebrating Mass, they spend many hours in the confessional reconciling people to God, they spend time in hospitals visiting and anointing the sick. They make sure there is a rich liturgical and devotional life in their parish. They have a preferential option for the poor, and they are as apt to spend time with the poor and middle class as with the wealthy. They rejoice with their people in celebratory moments like baptisms, marriages, and First Communions, as well as at picnics and parish festivals. They grieve with them during the difficult seasons that all of us go through. They teach the disciples of Jesus Christ, that God’s love and mercy as soon as possible. Do not delay.
Rice Bowl

Continued from 1

God loves us,” said Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Vice President of U.S. Operations for CRS. “At a time when there is so much conflict in the world, this Lenten program gives people of all ages a way to respond to human suffering with compassion and action. To learn the names and stories of our brothers and sisters, to include them in our prayers, to contribute our Lenten sacrifices so they can live better, healthier lives; this is the way we deepen our faith, building a culture of encounter and holding up the dignity of each and every one of us.”

For over 40 years, CRS Rice Bowl has provided an inspired collection of resources for families, parishes and Catholic schools to incorporate into their Lenten season. With CRS Rice Bowl, each week of Lent is a new opportunity to meet a family from a different country overseas, hear their personal stories, learn about their culture and experience a meatless meal they serve at home. Each Lenten story illustrates a principal of Catholic social teaching – an essential element of Catholic faith that says every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.

CRS Rice Bowl is global in its reach, bringing tangible goods and services to people in need around the world. Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs such as community gardens, food pantries, soup kitchens, support groups, and job centers. The remaining 75% goes to support CRS’ humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

Follow CRS Rice Bowl on Twitter @CRSRiceBowl, like CRS Rice Bowl on Facebook and download the app from the iTunes or Google Play stores.

To learn more about CRS Rice Bowl, visit crsricebowl.org.

Lenten Guidelines

Focus on Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

The traditional Lenten practices of piety, fasting, almsgiving and other forms of self-denial are recommended by the Church.

The faithful observance of Lent should manifest itself especially in the imitation of Christ in daily life and in the readiness to sacrifice time and talents whenever possible in personal, parish and community efforts for those in spiritual or material need. The spiritual hunger of the unchurched locally and in mission lands can be a focus of prayers and charitable giving.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat for those who are 14 years of age and older. They are also days of fasting for those between 18 and 59 years of age. Those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals are also permitted according to one’s needs. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work is seriously affected, the law does not obligate.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older.

Fridays of the year outside Lent remain days of penance. The traditional abstinence from meat is highly recommended, together with fasting, by the Bishops of the United States, for the cause of peace in the world (see the Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response, May 3, 2003, paragraph 298.) However, some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penity may be substituted.

Dispensation for the Feast of St. Patrick

This year, the Feast of St. Patrick falls on a Lenten Friday. Since St. Patrick is the principal patron of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Bishop Ronald Gainer hereby grants a dispensation from Friday abstinence to all Catholics who reside in the diocese and all who are present within the diocese on March 17, 2017. Those who take advantage of this dispensation are urged to substitute another suitable form of personal penance, possibly choosing another day within the Second Week of Lent as a Day of Lenten abstinence.

Meatless Meals during Lent

Fasting from meat on Fridays during Lent helps us “acquire a mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.” (CCC 2043). Fasting is meant to free us. It helps us feel our physical hunger, and in turn, our spiritual hunger for the infinite love found only in God. Catholic Relief Services offers several recipes for meatless meals to keep us in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. For additional recipes and materials, visit www.crsricebowl.org.

**Arroz Rojo, from Mexico**

2 cups rice
1 tablespoon fair trade olive oil
1 garlic clove, diced
3 tomatoes, chopped
½ onion, chopped
4 cups vegetable broth
1 cup peas
2 carrots, chopped
1 chili pepper, chopped
Salt to taste

Add oil to a large pan on low heat. Add rice and toast until golden. Add garlic, tomatoes and onion; cook until mixture is soft. Add the broth, peas, carrots, chili pepper and salt. When it begins to boil, reduce the heat and cover until rice is fully cooked. Makes 4–6 servings.

**Ifisashi, from Zambia**

2 cups rice
1 tablespoon fair trade olive oil
1 garlic clove, diced
3 tomatoes, chopped
½ onion, chopped
4 cups vegetable broth
1 cup peas
2 carrots, chopped
1 chili pepper, chopped
Salt to taste

Bring water to a boil in a medium pot. Add the peanuts, tomatoes and onion. After a few minutes, add the chopped greens. Stir occasionally and continue cooking until peanuts are soft and mixture has become a thick buttery sauce—about 15 minutes. Serve hot over polenta or rice. Makes 4–6 servings.
Pennsylvania’s Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) is passionate about giving parents and grandparents real options for their children’s education. He is spearheading an effort to expand the highly successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference asked Representative Turzai why he is such a strong supporter of school choice.

Q: What does House Bill 250 propose to do?

A: House Bill 250 would increase tax credits available under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program by $50 million (raising it to $75 million) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program by $25 million (raising it to $75 million). It would be a total of $225 million for educational tax credits.

Last year, EITC represented just 1.5 percent of the $11.4 billion we spent on basic education. If we are going to invest in education, we must recognize that one size does not fit all. Take the Independence Mission Schools in Philadelphia. They educate a very diverse student population for $2.25 billion this year alone. Catholic schools in Harrisburg, Holy Spirit Parish, saved the taxpayers more than $15,000 per year on education for each of their students, or $1.5 million more than it cost them to educate their child’s needs. They are entitled to an education. They should have a choice of whichever schools best meets their child’s needs.

Q: In these austere economic times, what makes increasing the EITC and OSTC programs a good investment for taxpayers?

A: The vast majority of students in Pennsylvania are educated in public schools. Our public schools need to be good; but in many communities parents and grandparents want an alternative. They pay their taxes to public schools. Their children are entitled to an education. They should have a choice of whichever schools best meets their child’s needs.

Nonpublic schools are already saving the taxpayers a lot of money. The average cost per public school pupil is around $15,000 per year. The average cost per nonpublic school pupil, by taking about 150,000 students out of public schools, Catholic schools saved the taxpayers more than $2 billion in one year while providing a better education.

The governor talks about investment in education. All students need to be part of the equation. If we are going to invest in basic education, we need to invest in EITC and OSTC too. We should raise the percentage in these tax credit programs to a little over two percent.

Q: What can Catholics do to support you in your efforts to expand EITC and OSTC?

A: Catholics need to let their local lawmakers know how important EITC and OSTC are to their schools, but many students are not Catholic. All parents and grandparents who appreciate the opportunity to go to another school need to let their representatives know how they benefit. They should visit, write, email, and call about the value of having that option. They should stress that increasing EITC is not taking money away from public schools, but enhancing education for everyone. Be positive; rally in support of educational investments; work hand in hand with your local legislators.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Calling it a “magnificent” place, Bishop Ronald Gainer blessed on Feb. 27 the relocated St. Mary’s Thrift Shop in York, a ministry of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

A longtime anchor downtown, the shop moved from its previous location next to the church rectory to its new home in the parish’s former convent, located at 26 East College Avenue. The move offers the shop a larger location.

“We are very excited about the move,” said Father Jonathan Sawicki, pastor of St. Mary’s. “Moving the Thrift Shop to the old convent building gives us more room to display the wonderful selection of items we have for sale. The additional storage space allows our volunteers to better catalog and organize the donations, and to separate out seasonal items as necessary.”

The Thrift Shop, which opened in 1998, is run entirely by a dedicated staff of several dozen volunteers who sort donations, price and tag items, restock shelves and racks, and serve customers. The money that the parish raises through Thrift Shop sales is used for general operating expenses and assistance in providing Catholic education.

The new space is 400 square feet larger than the previous one.

“It’s wonderful to be moving to a larger location,” said Pat Hoyt, Thrift Shop Co-Manager. “We had grown so much that our location next to the rectory was very cramped and crowded, and were unable to display a lot of what we have to sell. The new location will better enable us to serve the community.”

Above: Shoes, clothing and toys fill the kids’ room at St. Mary’s Thrift Shop in York.
Left: Pat Hoyt, left, and Joanie Nolin, right, join Father Jonathan Sawicki and Bishop Ronald Gainer in cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of the relocated St. Mary’s Thrift Shop. The ladies are part of the shop’s management team.

Bishop Ronald Gainer, in the purple hardhat, conducted a service for a groundbreaking ceremony at Lancaster Catholic High School’s Rossmere Stadium Feb. 13, in anticipation of renovations to the athletic complex to be completed by the fall. The bishop broke ground alongside Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education; Tim Hamer, Lancaster Catholic President; Terry Klugh, Lancaster Catholic Principal; and members of the construction team.
BISHOP’S ANNUAL LENTEN APPEAL
MARCH 12, 2017

“I give you an example”

“In addition to prayer and fasting, Jesus also gives us the spiritual tool of charity and almsgiving. In our Diocese, we have an excellent opportunity to exercise charity through the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal. The theme of this year’s appeal is ‘I give you an example.’ (John 13:15) Those words recall the act of service Jesus performed for His apostles on the night before He died. He took the role of a servant and washed the feet of His disciples, and then asked them to follow His example and do the same for others. Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that humble service was not beneath them. They would glorify God by their willingness to be His servants and respond to the needs of the less fortunate.”

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg
2017 Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal Letter

HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE USED

Evangelization, Respect for Life, Vocations,
Marriage and Family Life, Clergy and Consecrated Life,
Liturgy and Worship, Religious Education, Catholic Schools,
Adult Religious Formation, Bible Study, Charismatic Renewal,
Diocesan Institute, Youth Protection,
Safe Environment Education and Training,
Black Catholic Apostolate, Hispanic Ministry,
Vietnamese Apostolate, Persons with Disabilities,
Catholic Charities, Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families,
Evergreen House, Lourdeshouse Maternity Services,
Financial Administration, Information Technology,
Social Media, Catholic Scouting, Youth Ministry,
Campus Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Health Care Ministry,
Prison Ministry, Senior Adult Ministry, Retrouvaille,
Beginning Experience, Engaged Encounter,
Marriage Encounter, Tribunal, Landings, Communications,
The Catholic Witness, Cemeteries, Foster Care and Adoption,
Counseling Services, Social Outreach,
Immigration and Refugee Services, Ecumenism, Archives

10% ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
45% HUMAN SERVICES
22% CATHOLIC EDUCATION
51% EVANGELIZATION
12% COMMUNICATIONS
"When we see our Savior serving others, the example is already set for us to hear the cries of the poor, recognize their needs, and do everything in our power to ease their burdens by helping them shoulder the crosses of life. What our Lord did for His disciples, He wanted His disciples to do for one another. Jesus gave an example of humility, compassion, and love. In our daily following of Christ, especially during the Lenten Season, may our charity manifest our love for God and our neighbor."

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg
2017 Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal Letter

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

In treasure

MAKE A PLEDGE
You may make a pledge and pay in monthly installments. A monthly coupon book will be mailed for the duration of the pledge period.

ONE-TIME GIFT
A one-time, outright gift can be made at any point during the year of the appeal.

PAYMENT METHODS
The following payment methods are accepted: cash, check (payable to your parish), Visa, MasterCard, and/or stocks and securities.

Visit us online at www.hbgdiocese.org/blacc

Many companies will match charitable donations
through an Employee Match Program.
Contact your employer to determine if a matching program is available.

In prayer

O God,
During this holy season of Lent remind us these are the days of salvation. Help us to make it through our difficulties, and the trials and temptations of everyday life.

Help keep us from evil and help us avoid the pain and hurt sin causes. Remind us to be prayerful and to reflect upon the great sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us. Amen.
Vatican Invites Experts to Promote Safe, Accessible Water for Everyone

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

A special gathering of policy experts, government officials, religious leaders, scholars, and development and social justice advocates was looking at ways to guarantee water that is safe and more accessible to the world’s people.

More than 90 experts were invited from five continents to provide an interdisciplinary look at the role of public policies in water and sanitation management. The meeting, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Argentine-based School of Dialogue and the Culture of Encounter, was held Feb. 23-24 and was to include a speech from Pope Francis and a final “Rome Declaration” drafted and signed by participants.

The opening sessions looked at the religious, moral and rational bases underlying a call for the universal right to safe and accessible drinking water.

Jerome Delli Priscoli, an expert in water conflict negotiations and management, said people will not expand or facilitate access to water without an attitude that is also built on respecting human dignity.

Water management and policies have to take into account values such as solidarity, just distribution, preferential option for the poor, respect for the environment and being “good stewards” who are “co-creative in the design process that God has set in motion.”

Gianni Vattimo, an Italian philosopher, said attention to getting people access to water should not overlook the quality of that water.

“What threatens us most,” he said, isn’t scarcity, but the pollution and “poisoning” of water sources. How people treat water resources is linked to “an industrial structure” built on an attitude of theft against nature, he said.

Instead of collaborating with God’s plan of safeguarding and development, he said, “we are simply stealing and robbing, destroying all of this.”

The problem also includes “who holds the keys” to the systems of distribution and the policies supporting exploitative structures, he said.

Rajendra Singh, a water conservationist from India who won the Stockholm Water Prize in 2015, said modern engineering and technology focus too heavily on nature, he said.

“Everything is managed,” he said; there is “no love or affection” or appreciation and respect for the natural resources at hand. In fact, he said, resource management is just taking a resource from one place and placing it somewhere else, with little regard for the consequences that has on nature, he said.

Society, too, tends to focus on what people should gain in life – like rights and resources – and hardly ever asks that people give something back, he said.

The work he does helping local communities in India, he said, is about teaching people “to cooperate with crisis” and “cooperate with water” so that they practice a disciplined use of resources.

The proper mentality, he said, is “if you conserve, you have a right to water,” not, having that right just because the resource is there.

Water, he said, is not just a human right, it’s also a right for “the tiger, the elephant, the tree” and the river itself, which should not be drained dry.

There should be equal rights and respect toward nature, he said, because a greedy attitude toward the planet will not lead to “a bright future.”

A man carries containers filled with drinking water after taking it from a public tap at a roadside in Jammu, India, May 23, 2016.
Winning tradition runs deep at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, and perhaps no more so than in the District 3 Class AA diving championships held each year at Big Spring High School in Newville. At this year’s championships, held on a balmy Feb. 22, Trinity’s Riley Spahr, a junior, left, finished with a score of 348.25 to win the silver medal and a berth in the PIAA state championships in mid-March at Bucknell University.

In the girls’ competition, Trinity’s Erica Kenski, right, completed her 11 dives for a total score of 357.95 to place third, just missing out on a berth to the state tournament.
St. Catherine Laboure Parish
Host Singer-Composer ValLimar Jansen

By Joreen Kelly
Special to The Witness

St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg will be presenting “A Lenten Evening of Music, Stories & Prayer with ValLimar Jansen” on Wednesday, March 22 from 7-9 p.m. in the church. Admission is free. A free-will donation is requested, a portion of which will be tithe to St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen.

“Amazed by the power of her presence...” these words of testimonial best describe the presence of ValLimar Jansen. Blessed with an extraordinary voice, ValLimar is a highly-regarded singer, composer and recording artist. Her presence on stage commands “Amazed by the power of her presence…” these words of testimony.

ValLimar has presented at some of the largest gatherings of Christians in recent years, including: An international papal prayer service for over 300,000 Roman Catholics, the March for Life, the National Conference for Pastoral Musicians, and more.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

“SAVE THE DATES”

92nd Annual Convention • Monday, May 1, 2017 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

*** ***
7th Annual Weekend Retreat • June 9 – 11, 2017
(Friday evening until Sunday Noon)
Mount St. Mary’s University Emmitsburg, MD
Retreat Master: Father Alfred Sceski
Pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey

More Details Coming Soon!

Lenten Retreats and Prayer Services

(The following Lenten events were submitted by parishes and organizations to communications@hbgdioce.org.
A listing of Lenten dinners can be found on page 15 of this edition, and online at www.hbgdioce.org/lent.)

Encounter: a retreat experience for college aged young adults and recent graduates will be held March 25 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Lent is a perfect time to get away to refresh and renew ourselves while growing in relationship with our Lord and with other young adults. For more information, contact your Catholic Campus Ministry Newman Club or the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at oyyam@hbgdioce.org or call 717-857-4804 ext. 337.

“The Passion of Our Lord through the Eyes of His Mother” – Join the Columbusians for a Lenten Retreat of Reflection March 11 at St. Joseph Church in York beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. Father Stephen Fernandez, pastor, will be the presenter. The retreat will conclude with Adoration and recitation of the Rosary. Light refreshments will be provided.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York will have a Catholic Book and DVD Fair during Lent. Books and DVDs from Ignatius Press will be available for purchase after the Sunday Masses and during the Friday Lenten Seafood Dinners in the auditorium of the parish center. Those interested in ordering by catalog may contact Sharon Egan at 717-843-3043 or segan@hbgdioce.org for more information.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago welcomes you a Lenten Mini-Retreat given by Sister Thelma Steiger, HSF, Ph.D., on March 18 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mgr. Rost Parish Hall, 30 Basilda Dr., Hanover. Doors open at 8 a.m. The topic of the Retreat is “How I Long to Love You: Contemplating the Mysteries of Paschal Sunday.” A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call Deb McAulay at 717-632-7708.

St. Joseph Parish in York will host a Lenten event with Father Paul Dressler, OFM Cap., on March 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. Father Dressler’s priestly ministries have included working in a Capuchin parish in center-city Philadelphia, serving as a coordinator for youth adult ministry in Philadelphia, and studying Franciscan formation in Rome at the Antonianum. He is the director of post-novitiate formation for the Capuchin Franciscans at Capuchin College in Washington, D.C., and he has been a retreat master and speaker at several youth and young adult conferences. Fr. Paul’s major influences on his spirituality and thought include St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, Fr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Padre Pio, to name a few. Call the parish at 717-755-7503 for additional information.

Lancaster County Queen of Peace #1023 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas cordially invites all women to attend a Lenten retreat. Sister Mary Paul Giordano, DM, will present “Mary asks, ‘Who do you say that I am?’” at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Millersville in the Parish Activity Center from 1-4 p.m. on March 19. A light lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend, but free-will offerings will be accepted. For more information or to reserve a seat, e-mail mggiordano.sultzbach@gmail.com or call Margaret T. Giordano at 717-390-9035.

Soup and Scripture on Wednesdays during Lent will be offered at Xavier Center in Gettysburg, with soup and bread supper from 6:30-7:30 p.m., followed by speakers from 6:30-7:30.

Lenten Retreats and Prayer Services

Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
Holy Name of Jesus Church
6150 Allentown Boulevard
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Reverend Joshua R. Brommer, Celebrant

Special thanks to:
Rev. Joshua R. Brommer, Chaplain for the Italian Apostolate Ministry
Rev. Edward J. Quinlan, Pastor at Holy Name of Jesus
Mario Billow of Daily Funeral Home

For more information, contact the parish office at 717-564-1321 or e-mail jkelly@hbgdioce.org.

Joreen Kelly is the Director of Worship at St. Catherine Laboure Parish.

LA SANTA MESSA PER LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE
ITALIAN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

March 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.
Holy Name of Jesus Church
6150 Allentown Boulevard
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Celebrant: Reverend Joshua R. Brommer, OFM Cap.

Special thanks to:
Rev. Joshua R. Brommer, Chaplain for the Italian Apostolate Ministry
Rev. Edward J. Quinlan, Pastor at Holy Name of Jesus

Mario Billow of Daily Funeral Home

For more information, please contact: Messa Saveria, 717-727-9420

Maria Disanto 717-554-5698

or disanto1@comcast.net

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro will hold a Lenten Mission March 5-7. Father Donald Bender will speak on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., offer daily Masses at 8 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday and hear confessions from 3:30-6:45 p.m. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. daily Mass on Monday and Tuesday, with Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 7 p.m. on both evenings.

St. Monica Church in Sunbury will have Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent in the main church beginning at 7 p.m. Please note that Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 14, will be at noon in the main church with a celebration of the Lord’s Passion that evening at 7 p.m. in the main church.

Soup and Stations at St. Benedict Parish in Lebanon and “The Deep Dark Secrets of the Catholic Church” presented by Father Michael Rohan. Each Friday in Lent beginning at 6 p.m., the parish will serve meatless soups and bread. At 6:15, a presentation of “The Deep Dark Secrets of the Catholic Church” will take place. Stations of the Cross in English will follow in the church at 7 p.m.

March 8: Dr. John Mark Miravalle, Professor of Moral Theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, will speak on “Battle in the Desert: Christ’s Victory over Satan.” March 15: Dr. Owen Phelan, Professor of Church History at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. March 22: Father Charles Con- nor, Professor of Church History at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, March 29: Fr. Michael Heintz, Professor of Theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, will speak on “Witness and Worship: The Meaning of the Apocalypse.” April 5: Msgr. Anthony Fronzoni, Director of Human Formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, will speak on “The Sinless Friend of Sinners and the Paschal Mystery: The Final Week and the Morning Beyond Belief.”

How much does Jesus Christ love you? And how is that love revealed to you when you turn your focus and concentrate on certain elements leading to the death of Christ on the cross? Answers to those questions will be addressed March 11 during a mini-retreat at Xavier Center in Gettysburg beginning at 8 a.m. and closing at noon. “How I Long To Love You” is the theme and will be presented by two nuns from the Tau Hermitage of St. Francis Assisi in Fairfield, Sister Thelma Steiger and Sister Jo Ann Knight. Definitions of contemplation, a form of prayer, and mysticism, a theological, biblically-based element about the Passion and Death of Christ, will be given with several sub-topics to shed Lenten light on the main theme “How I Long To Love You.” A special story is planned to close the event at noon. The mini-retreat will start at 8 a.m. with Mass celebrated by Father Daniel Mitzel, pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish. A hospitality table featuring a variety of pastries will be available. There is no charge for the event, but a free-will offering will be received. Interested attendees are advised to call Kevin Reiher at the church office to reserve a seat. The phone number is 717-334-3919.

A Lent retreat, “Jesus, the Suffering Servant,” will be held at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Millersville March 22. Both a day retreat (10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) and night retreat (6:30-9:30 p.m.) will be offered. The day retreat includes lunch, and the night retreat includes light refreshments. Cost for the day retreat is $12. Cost for the night retreat is $20. Call 717-872-2166, ext. 103, or e-mail cmiller@hbgdioce.org to register. Registrations will be accepted until March 19.

Harristown Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

“SAVE THE DATES”

92nd Annual Convention • Monday, May 1, 2017 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

*** ***
7th Annual Weekend Retreat • June 9 – 11, 2017
(Friday evening until Sunday Noon)
Mount St. Mary’s University Emmitsburg, MD
Retreat Master: Father Alfred Sceski
Pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey

More Details Coming Soon!

St. Catherine Laboure Parish
Host Singer-Composer ValLimar Jansen

The National Catholic Youth Conference, the Mid-Atlantic Conference, and World Youth Day.

ValLimar has been singing professionally since the age of six and holds degrees in music and performance and professional degrees in the Arts from Howard University, California State University and the University of California.

She and her husband, talented keyboardist/songwriter/arranger Frank Jansen, have recorded several CDs, including their latest work, “Give God the Glory.” Their work are influenced by Gospel, contemporary Christian and Jazz, although she sings a wide variety of music, including traditional organ based hymnody. Her music will be available for purchase after the performance in the narthex of the Shrine.

For more information, call the parish office at 717-564-1321 or e-mail jkelly@hbgdioce.org.

Joreen Kelly is the Director of Worship at St. Catherine Laboure Parish.
Priest has Ministry to Street Artists who are Transforming Neighborhood

By Ed Wilkinson Catholic News Service

When Pope Francis urged that the Gospel be preached at the peripheries of society, he may not have had the young artists who have been transforming that Brooklyn neighborhood into a magnet for like-minded in-dividuals and in turn, changing the face and the faces of the area.

Assigned part time to St. Martin of Tours Parish, the 64-year-old priest spends most of his time walking the streets, sipping coffee in the burgeoning cafes, or pursuing his own art in his studio that is part of artists’ complex in what was an old factory.

His door is always open and other artist-residents wan-

d in and out to say hello, never quite sure what a priest is doing in their midst.

“My objective is to be present and supportive both to the artists themselves and their work,” he told The Tablet, newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn. “Likewise, I hope to be an active, listening ear for their multifaceted needs that are both personal and communal.”

There’s no hard sell about the Catholic Church or the faith but inevitably, matters related to spirituality and faith arise.

“My experience to date with many of the street artists is that they are often Roman Catholics who are rather starkly disconnected from the Church and/or their parishes,” he observed.

“However, they are often individuals with profound spiritual depth who seek the way of compassion and mercy in their lives. These artists are uniquely passionate about a multitude of social justice issues that are regularly reflected in their artwork, writings and music.

For Father Mann, it all comes quite naturally. He has an eye for art and though he has no formal training, he has learned to expressing himself in oils and watercolors on canvas. One original piece he calls “Souls in Eternity,” with well-known street artists such as Plasma Slug, whose work can be viewed around the world.

One short-term goal for the priest is to sponsor an art contest with a religious theme, such as works dealing with the themes of Pope Francis’ “Laudato Si’” or the recent Year of Mercy.

He recently had a discussion with 14 artists on the sig-
nificance of “Laudato Si’,” and encouraged them to reflect about how they can inspire others through their art to pro-
tect and respect the environment as well as all created life.

“It’s important that I try to encourage and stimulate ideas and discussion regarding the many aspects of the transcendence found in our lives,” he said.

“In reality, street artists are visionaries and influential prophets. Their work points to a vast array of transcendent truth and meaning.”

Meanwhile, he continues to pursue his unique ministry while exploring the galleries in Bushwick.

And he continues to hon his own skills in a studio that is spiritual for an appropriate name.

Someone has suggested “The Periphery.”

“It has a ring to it,” said Father Mann.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall will serve Lenten fish dinners on Wednesdays through April 12. Dinner includes baked or fried fish, baked potato or French fries, applesauce or coleslaw, coffee for tea. Cost is $9. Child’s chicken fingers and fries (for those under 5 years old) is $5.

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Parish in Harrisburg will offer hot and tasty fish and peroni dinners this Lent on Wednes-
days from 4-6 p.m. for $10 in the parish hall. Homemade soups, side dishes and dessert are also available. Peroni will be sold for $3.25 each. Additionally, fish will be sold for $6 per dozen each Wednesday during the dinners and from 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. on Wednesdays and on Saturdays in Lent from 9 a.m.-noon. Filing available will be potato and cheese, cabbage, sauerkraut, prune, farmer cheese and apple. Smoked kielbasa rings and sticks will also be available for sale for $4. The newly renovated parish gift shop will be open during all sales and dinners. The dinners begin on March 8 and end on April 6. For info, 717-567-0545 or www.stannbyz.org.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York will be holding their annual Lenten fish dinners in the parish hall during the Lenten season with lunches and dinners served every Friday through April 7. Lunches will run from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dinners will be served from 4-7 p.m. For menus and additional information visit our Web site at www.saintroseoflimayork.org.

St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus Council 6665 in Hershey will hold a Lenten fish fry on March 10 and March 24 in the school cafeteria from 5-6:30 p.m. Baked or beer-battered fish, fried-fish cutlets or mac & cheese and coleslaw. Dessert also available.

The Knights of Columbus of St. Jude Thaddaeus Parish in Millcreek will serve its annual Lenten fish dinners in the church social hall on Fridays through April 7 from 4-7 p.m. All-you-can-eat meal includes fried and baked fish, popcorn shrimp, fried clams, French fries, macaroni and cheese, steamed tomatoes, corn, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, and puddings. A selection of homemade desserts. Pay at the door: adults $12; ages 5-12 $8; children 5 and under free.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will host its sixth annual Lenten fish fry on Fridays March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7 from 5-7 p.m. at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Get-
tysburg. Dinner in or take out. Adult, children and reduced portions available. Children under 5 eat free. Call 717-534-4048 or visit www.sfxcc.org.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual Lenten fish dinners in the social hall at 120 E. Lehman Street from 4-7 p.m. on Fridays through April 7. Cost of $9 includes baked or fried fish, French fries, pepper cabbage, roll and drink.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Knights of Columbus Council 15137 in Harrisburg will hold their Lenten fish dinners on Fridays through April 7 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the parish social hall in the lower level of the church. Dinner choices feature haddock, lightly seasoned oven-baked cod, or large breaded shrimp (combo plates available.) Half portions and fish sticks are available for the kids. Dinner includes sides of fresh coleslaw, baked potato, or French fries, plus a beverage and dessert. Adult dinners are $10 and kids’ meals are $5. Take-out meals available. Proceeds enable the council to support the needs of the parish and parish community. Stations of the Cross take place at 7:15 each Friday evening after the dinner.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Lykens is holding its annual Lenten fish fry dinners every Friday through April 7. Dinner runs from 4-7 p.m., with take-outs available. Call 717-453-9931 to order.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola is hosting din-
ers during Lent in the church social hall from 4-7 p.m. on Fridays through April 7. Menu includes seasoned baked cod, church-made baked macaroni & cheese, church-made pierogis, veggie or steak loaf, baked potato, dessert and coffee or punch. Baked fish for adults is $11, mac & cheese for adults is $10, pierogi for adults is $10, any children’s meal is $5. Eat-in or take-out. No reservations necessary. Classical acoustic guitar dinner music provided by Nate.

St. Peter Parish in Columbia will hold its Lenten fish fry on Fridays through April 7. In its 38th year, the menu features a variety of fish platters and other non-meat dishes prepared by the women of the parish. Included in the price of the fish platters are cole slaw, a dinner roll, macaroni and cheese, vegetable, French fries and coffee or tea. Homemade soup, weekly specials, a la carte items and desserts are also available. The public is invited and may eat-in or take-out every Friday through April 7, from 4-6:30 p.m.

St. Monica Parish in Sunbury will be hosting Lenten fish dinners in the parish center Friday March 3, 17 and 31 from 4:15-6:15 p.m. For information and menus, please check our bulletin at www.discovermass.com.

Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont will serve Lenten fish dinners on Fridays during Lent from 4-6 p.m. in the activity center. Dinner includes soup and salad bar, baked fish, potatoes, vegetable, coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Eat-in or take-out. Dona-
tion is $9 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under.

Lenten Dinners throughout the Diocese
(A listing of dinners is also available online at www.bhdglocatholic.org/lent. Parishes can submit their information via e-mail to communications@bhdglocatholic.org.)
Sacred Heart Students Bunjee Jump
Sacred Heart School in Lancaster is undergoing a year of exciting STEM projects after five teachers went through an intensive summer session of STEM classes. On Feb. 3, the 8th grade math class collaborated with Dr. Christina Weaver, a Franklin and Marshall College professor, to attempt a bunjee jump. Participants jumped off the 12-foot gym balcony in hopes of successfully landing on a six-inch line. Participants included the students’ favorite dolls and action figures. In preparation, students simulated jumps with their figures in the classroom from five feet. Applying an understanding of proportions, the students were able to determine the estimated number of rubber bands needed for the jump. Participants jumped off the 12-foot gym balcony in hopes of successfully landing on a six-inch line. Participants included the students’ favorite dolls and action figures. In preparation, students simulated jumps with their figures in the classroom from five feet. Applying an understanding of proportions, the students were able to determine the estimated number of rubber bands needed for the jump.

St. John Neumann Walks for Life for Ultrasound Machine
An Indoor Walk for Life took place at St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster in January in conjunction with the March for Life in Washington, D.C. More than 60 people attended the pro-life gathering, which raised $455 for A Woman’s Concern for their fund-raiser to purchase a new ultrasound machine for their new office on Chestnut Street. Attendees were able to watch the March televised from Washington, D.C. and listen to the speakers, and all felt part of the national pro-life witness.

For more information about York Catholic’s curriculum or how you can support future Chromebook funding, contact York Catholic at 717-846-8871.

York Catholic High School
York Catholic High School is a private, co-educational school located in York, Pennsylvania. The school is governed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. York Catholic offers a challenging and comprehensive curriculum designed to prepare students for college and beyond.

Inaugurates Technology Initiative
York Catholic High School was honored to receive an anonymous donation to support the beginning of a “one to one” technology initiative where each student can use an electronic device to access the Internet, digital course materials, and digital textbooks for educational purposes. The goal of this initiative is to make Chromebooks available to an entire grade level for implementation to begin with the 9th grade class in the fall of 2017. The plan includes making a device available per pupil for the remainder of their years at YCHS. York Catholic hopes to have all grade levels funded as soon as possible, with a financial plan that will sustain the program for the future where teachers will blend technology with tradition. Traditional education has allowed York Catholic to remain competitive academically and consistently achieve above state average scores and national average scores with the College Board.

More information about York Catholic’s curriculum or how you can support future Chromebook funding, contact York Catholic at 717-846-8871.

St. Catherine Laboure Knights
Earn Prestigious Award
Recently, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus awarded the St. Catherine Laboure Knights of Columbus 12811 in Harrisburg with the Star Council Award. This award is for distinction in outstanding achievements in Membership, Volunteer Service, Programs and Insurance. The award was presented by PA CAPE along with the Association of Christian Schools International, the PA Catholic Conference, the Northeast Region of the multi-state area attended the conference. The PA School Choice Champion Award is sponsored annually by PA CAPE along with the Association of Christian Schools International, the PA Catholic Conference, the Northeast Region of the multi-state area attended the conference. The PA School Choice Champion Award is sponsored annually by PA CAPE along with the Association of Christian Schools International, the PA Catholic Conference, the Northeast Region of the multi-state area attended the conference.

The plan includes making a device available per pupil for the remainder of their years at YCHS. York Catholic hopes to have all grade levels funded as soon as possible, with a financial plan that will sustain the program for the future where teachers will blend technology with tradition. Traditional education has allowed York Catholic to remain competitive academically and consistently achieve above state average scores and national average scores with the College Board. Chromebooks will allow York Catholic teachers to use 21st century tools and prepare students to consistently achieve above state average scores and national average scores with the College Board.

The plan includes making a device available per pupil for the remainder of their years at YCHS. York Catholic hopes to have all grade levels funded as soon as possible, with a financial plan that will sustain the program for the future where teachers will blend technology with tradition. Traditional education has allowed York Catholic to remain competitive academically and consistently achieve above state average scores and national average scores with the College Board.
Compiled by Jen Reed

**Spiritual Offerings**

Caeroum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey will be held on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. Father Modestus will preside. Contact: Deborah Proctor. St. Joan of Arc Church will present reception will be held immediately following the Caeroum in the cafeteria. For more information, call 717-336-0240.

**Education & Enrichment**

- **“Lent: Give Your All!”** is the theme for Theology on Tap on March 8 at 5 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption, 2402 River Church. The theme for this month is the Annunciation of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. The meal will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg. English text and sign language will be provided. A $5 cover charge includes dinner and all you can drink soda. For more information, call 717-307-2561.

- **St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster** will host their 26th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration in the Parish Hall at 7 p.m. on March 17. The event is open to the public.

- **“What Now? The Pro-Life Consensus in the Trump Years”**—Father Paul C.B. Schenck, Respect Life Director, Diocese of Harrisburg, will present this talk on March 9 at 7 p.m. in the parish hall at 41 S. Market St. The meal will be available for $5. Contact: Rita Castellanos, 717-568-0942, or rcastellanos@yorkcatholic.org.

- **Rosary Rally**—March 11 at 10 a.m. in the parish hall at 41 S. Market St. The meal will be available for $5. Contact: Rita Castellanos, 717-568-0942, or rcastellanos@yorkcatholic.org.

- **Miracle Morning**—March 11 at 8 a.m. in the parish hall at 41 S. Market St. The meal will be available for $5. Contact: Rita Castellanos, 717-568-0942, or rcastellanos@yorkcatholic.org.

- **St. Catherine Laboure’ School registration**—Kindergarten registration is underway at St. Catherine Laboure’ School. For more information, call 717-746-7670. After the registration dates, applications must be submitted to the school from the school office and completed prior to registration. After March 18, registration dates, applications must be submitted to the school from the school office and completed prior to registration. After March 18, all applicants will be placed on a waiting list. For more information, please visit www.sclo07.org. The deadline to submit your application is May 1.

- **Lenten Parish Letter**—March 12. Parish letter will be mailed to all families by Father William C. Forney on March 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster. The letter will be held in the parish hall at 41 S. Market St. The meal will be available for $5. Contact: Rita Castellanos, 717-568-0942, or rcastellanos@yorkcatholic.org.

- **Multi-Vendor Bingo**—March 12 at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. Doors open at 11 a.m. to shop and enjoy homemade food. Games begin at 11 a.m., regular games and 3 specials. Prizes start at $5. Specials start at $15. Bas- ket raffle, bake, bid and homemade lunch. Perfect time to shop for Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and graduations. Contact: heather_od2002@yahoo.com.

- **Spring Craft Fair**—March 25 at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with 75 craft- ers and artisans. Basket raffle, bake, bid and homemade lunch. Perfect time to shop for Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and graduations. Contact: heather_od2002@yahoo.com.

- **Church Tours**—The National Shrine of our Lady of Consolation in Bath offers a mini-tour for a part-time, volunteer nurse/manager and a sonographer in the OB/Endoscopy center. For more information, contact Joellen Dodson at mjdmusic1@comcast.net for an application and details by calling the parish office at 717-233-3062.

- **Annual Deb Loss Scholarship Fund Indoor Yard Sale** on March 3. Doors open at 4 p.m. to shop for items. Perfect time to shop for Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and graduations. Contact: Joellen Dodson at mjdmusic1@comcast.net for an application.
Vocations Day Introduces St. Leo Students to Diverse Forms of Religious Life

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“As young people, I am sure you always get the question, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ – I know I did when I was your age. But, I believe, the better question is, ‘What do you think God wants you to do with the life He has given you?’…. ‘How can I bring glory to God?’ is a better way to think of it.”

Bishop Ronald Gainer offered this thought-provoking message to the students at St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown during the school’s biennial Vocations Day, which introduces students to the many forms of religious life.

Throughout the morning of Feb. 23, more than a dozen men and women in religious life – including priests, deacons and sisters – spoke to students about their call to a religious vocation and how they serve the Church.

Students were familiar with some of them, including Father Peter Hahn, pastor of St. Leo’s, Father Bernando Pistone, who lives in residence there, and Deacon Gene Vannucci, who serves the parish. But others – including religious sisters from as far as Philadelphia and Maryland – brought new habits and congregations to the students’ awareness.

“The purpose of this special day is to foster vocations and encourage students to think about religious life, because they are the future of our Church,” principal Christine McLean told The Catholic Witness. “We also want to introduce them to different forms of religious life that they might not have known about or considered before.”

Vocations Day culminated with Holy Mass with Bishop Gainer as the principal celebrant, and the day’s priest-speakers as concelebrants.

“You are a unique, special person, each one of you, and each one of you is a precious gift. It’s important to think about how God wants to use you in life,” the bishop told the students in his homily.

“Feast days of saints are beautiful examples of faithful people saying yes to God…. Often times instead of ‘Thy will be done,’” we say, ‘My will be done.’... God’s dream for us is to be happy with him in eternity in Heaven. That’s His will,” he continued.

“The Mass is the most perfect prayer we have, and Jesus wants to help us do God’s will through His presence,” the bishop said. (Learn more about St. Leo the Great School at www.stleoschool.org or call 717-394-1742.)