Rosary for Religious Freedom

As part of the Catholic Church’s continuous efforts against the violations of religious freedom in the Department of Health and Human Services’ health care reform mandate, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden led a live recitation of the Rosary March 23 from the studios of Holy Family Radio WHYF AM 720 in Shiremanstown.

Several dozen people filled the station’s main lobby to join the bishop in prayer for the intention of preserving and defending religious liberty. The HHS mandate would force Catholic employers to pay for abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception. The Catholic Church continues to object against this regulation.

The United States Bishops and the Bishops of Pennsylvania have issued statements regarding continuous efforts to defend religious liberty, and have called upon all people of faith to join in prayer and penance for religious liberty. The state’s bishops have also called for March 30 to be a day of prayer, fasting and abstinence.

See page 2 of this edition for the U.S. Bishop’s statement, and visit www.hbgdiocese.org/conscience for other materials on this topic, including the Pennsylvania Bishops’ statement that appeared in the March 16 issue of The Catholic Witness.

See page 7 for a feature story on Holy Family Radio.

In Mexico, Pope Benedict Says Social Change Will Come with Revival of Faith

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Visiting Latin America for the second time in his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI offered a message of hope for social progress rooted in a revival of Catholic faith.

The overriding message of the pope’s public statements during his three days in Mexico, March 23-26, was that this troubled country, and the region in general, cannot solve their problems – which include poverty, inequality, corruption and violence – by following the prescriptions of secular ideologies.

Instead, the pope said, peace and justice in this world require a divinely inspired change in the human heart.

“The first job of the Church is not to save us,” the pope said in his homily during an outdoor Mass at Guanajuato Bicentennial Park March 25. “We must have recourse to the one who alone can give life in its fullness, because he is the essence of life and its author.”

Echoing his earlier critiques of liberation theology, a Marxist-influenced movement that found prominent supporters among Latin American Catholics during the 1970s and ’80s, Pope Benedict told reporters accompanying him on the plane from Rome that the “Church is not a political power, it is not a party ... it is a moral reality, a moral power.”

Yet the pope made it clear that he was not encouraging believers to withdraw into a private kind of piety uninvolved with worldly affairs.

“The first job of the Church is More CHANGE, page 15
On March 14, the U.S. Bishops issued a statement regarding continuous efforts against the violations of religious freedom in the HHS health care reform mandate forcing all employers to pay for abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden has strongly endorsed the statement, reiterating that it “reaffirms our commitment to address the HHS mandate’s attack on the most fundamental civil right guaranteed by our Constitution.”

The following is the text of the Statement of the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The statement is also available online at www.hbsdioceces.org/conscience.

The Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, gathered for its March 2012 meeting, is strongly united and intensely focused in its opposition to the various threats to religious freedom in our day. In our role as Bishops, we approach this question prayerfully and as pastors—concerned not only with the protection of the Church’s institutions, but with the care of the souls of the individual faithful, and with the common good.

To address the broader range of religious liberty issues, we look forward to the upcoming publication of “A Statement on Religious Liberty,” a document of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. This document reflects on the history of religious liberty in our great Nation; surveys the current range of threats to this foundational principle; and states clearly the resolve of the Bishops to act strongly, in concert with our fellow citizens, in its defense.

One particular religious freedom issue demands our immediate attention: the now-finalized rule of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that would force virtually all private health plans nationwide to provide coverage of sterilization and contraception—including abortifacient drugs—subject to an exemption for “religious employers” that is arbitrarily narrow, and to an unspecified and dubious future “accommodation” for other religious organizations that are denied the exemption.

We begin, first, with thanks to all who have stood firmly with us in our vigorous opposition to this unjust and illegal mandate: to our brother bishops; to our clergy and religious; to our Catholic faithful; to our brother bishops; to our Catholic faithful; to our Jewish and interfaith allies; to women and men of all religions; and to our great ministries of service to our neighbors, and our own institutions. This is not about the Church wanting to force anybody to do anything; it is instead about the federal government forcing the Church—of its faithful and all but a few of its institutions—to act against our Church’s teachings, and with the care of the souls of the individual faithful, and with the common good.

Second, we wish to clarify what this debate is—and is not—about. This is not about access to contraception, which is ubiquitous and inexpensive, even when not provided by the Church’s hands and within Church’s funds. This is not about the religious freedom of Catholics only, but also of those who recognize that their cherished beliefs may be next on the block. This is not about the Bishops’ somehow “ban- ning contraception,” when the U.S. Supreme Court took that issue off the table two generations ago. In- deed, this is not about the Church wanting to force anybody to do anything; it is instead about the fed- eral government forcing the Church—consisting of its faithful and all but a few of its institutions—to act against its Church’s teachings, for a matter of principle: the position to universal health care, which has been a concern of the Bishops’ Conference since 1919, virtu- ally at its founding. This is not a fight we asked for, but one forced upon us by government on its own timing. Finally, this is not a Republican or Democratic, a conservative or liberal issue; it is an American issue.

So what is it about?

An unwarranted government definition of religious freedom. The mandate makes an extremely narrow and limited definition of what HHS deems a “religious employer” deserving exemption—employers who, among other things, must hire and serve primarily those of their own faith. We are deeply concerned about this new definition of who we are as people of faith and what constitutes our ministry. The introduction of this unprecedented definition of faith communities and their ministries has replicated this same carve for religious freedom. Government has no place defining religion and religious ministry. HHS thus creates and enforces a new distinction—alien both to our Catholic tradition and to federal law—between our houses of worship and our great ministries of service to our neighbors, namely, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the students in our schools and universities, and others in need, of any faith community or none. Cf. Deus Caritas Est, Nos. 20-33. We are commanded both to love and to serve the Lord; laws that protect our freedom to com- ply with one of these commands but not the other are nothing to celebrate. Indeed, they must be rejected, for they create a “second class” of citizenship within our religious tradition. When one finds limited to the wonderful array of Catholic groups and institu- tions that enliven our civil society; to our ecumenical and interfaith efforts; to women and men of all reli- gions (or none at all); to legal scholars; and to civic leaders. It is your enthusiastic unity in defense of religious freedom that has made such a dramatic and positive impact in this historic public debate. With your continued help, we will not be divided, and we will continue forward as one.

10th Anniversary of Girl Scouts

Mass with Bishop Joseph P. McFadden
April 15 at 2 p.m., Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of Girl Scouts, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will celebrate Mass at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on Sunday, April 15. The Mass will begin at 2 p.m. and will be followed by a reception and display of Girl Scout paperwork and memorabilia. Catholic religious emblems earned by Girl Scouts in the Diocese of Harrisburg will present on the altar.

For more information, contact the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804, ext. 327, or oyamy@hbsdioceces.org.

Beginning Experience Weekends

April 27-29, 2012 and November 9-11, 2012
Camp Hebron, 957 Camp Hebron Road, Halifax, PA 17032

Beginning Experience weekends are an approved Roman Catholic Program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move toward this successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

Check the Diocesan Web site, www.hbsdioceces.org, and go to the Marriage and Family link, or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team at 717-512-2718 or harrsburgebe@gmail.com.

The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

A number of persons have indicated interest in attending a weekend in 2012. A weekend is often offered the weekend after a 6 month period following a loss of a spouse or marriage. Many have attended a weekend after a much longer period has elapsed and found the weekend most helpful. Grief has no schedule. Please contact the Team to explore when a weekend might be most helpful to you.
Registration form, contact Debbie Black at mvdb01@verizon.net or Minnie, Luncheon, Fair Trade and Religious Items Sale

faith in Christ through this adversity. He lost his entire family in a flash flood, and who speaks about his faculty at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Registration fee is $25. Reservation deadline is April 9. For Exhibits and Raffles, Prayer Shawl Displays, Infant and Toddler Morning Keynote Speaker: Father Leo E. Patalinghug, author of April 23 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg All women are warmly invited ~ You do not need to be a member of a Parish CCW to attend.

Mass Celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden

Morning Keynote Speaker: Father Leo E. Patalinghug, author of "Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life," and a member of the faculty at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Afternoon Speaker: Robert Rogers, a husband and father who lost his entire family in a flash flood, and who speaks about his faith in Christ though this adversity.

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Concern for the Poor and the State Budget

By Joelle Shea
Special to The Witness

We know that the Gospel instructs us to care for the poor in our community. In fact, Catholics are renowned for their service to low- or no-income Pennsylvanians, assisting with hundreds of thousands of needy brothers and sisters each year through our charities.

What we may not consider is how quickly we could become members of that bracket. The ongoing economic recession has proven that many of us could be one layoff, one medical emergency or one missed paycheck away from needing assistance from our neighbors.

As the state budget is debated in Harrisburg, there are two programs that should receive funding because of the important work they do in assisting those in need.

First, the Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) offers short-term loans to Pennsylvanians who find themselves unable to repay their monthly mortgage payments due to circumstances beyond their control.

HEMAP is unique in that it does not offer grants or “bailouts.” Rather, it provides loans to Pennsylvanians who are facing foreclosure because of, among other factors, the unemployment in the current economy. Since its founding in 1983, HEMAP has helped over 46,000 families. Over 85% of these families have been able to remain in their homes for the long term while repaying their HEMAP loans.

In the 2011-2012 state budget, Governor Corbett significantly reduced HEMAP funding, in effect shuttering the program. In its May 28 notice, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency announced that it would no longer accept new applicants, but that if the funds were replenished, HEMAP may be reinstated.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) recently co-signed a letter with nearly 80 other organizations asking Governor Corbett to fund HEMAP in this year’s budget. HEMAP has been a national model which has been praised by the New York Federal Reserve Bank as a potential solution to the national foreclosure crisis. The PCC indicated that HEMAP contributed to Pennsylvania’s lower than average foreclosure rate in 2010. The banking industry has also supported HEMAP, as it allows banks to forego acquisition of many foreclosed properties that they do not want.

Another program up for elimination is General Assistance (GA). The GA program supports the most vulnerable in our Commonwealth – those who have no other income and who qualify in one of these categories: disabled or sick adults without children; domestic violence survivors; adults caring for someone who is sick or disabled; adults participating in drug and alcohol treatment programs; or children living with an unrelated adult. In most counties, the monthly GA benefit amount is $205, a sum that has not been increased since 1990. Fewer than 1 in 200 Pennsylvanians receive this benefit, but for those that do, it is a lifeline. The GA program truly helps the poorest of the poor, those who have no income and who are in seemingly desperate situations. To them, this small amount of money is critical to survival.

“Both of these programs have proven to help those in need and their continuation is necessary for providing a sound, reasonable safety net in Pennsylvania,” said Father Michael Quigley, director of the Pastoral Concerns Department, “We ask that Governor Corbett and the state legislature ensure that those in need are recognized during this budget debate through the restoration of HEMAP and GA.”

Report Card

As I travel across the diocese visiting Catholic schools, I have often been asked, “Sister, how are we doing?” Or, “If you would give a grade to the schools and our use of technology, what would it be? What best practices in using 21st century learning have you seen in the diocese?” And, “Are we really doing a great job, or what?”

My response, with a smile that goes ear to ear and a great flourish of my hands, I am such a happy pig in mud! Every single teacher and all of our schools are doing amazing things in the classroom, and in the corner of the school through the use of technology. Our students are happy and learning amazing things.

We have come such a long way since our journey on the WAN! I already love the new technology in our schools and are excited about what the year ahead will bring.

I feel like a proud aunt applauding her relatives when writing of the amazing talent that is present in our schools! Through the use of technology, the teachers and students in our diocese have reached out across the diocese and the globe! Students and teachers have shared learning, made friends, and discovered what is unique and what is similar around the world.

In St. Leo the Great School in Lancaster, students taking Spanish classes have international pen-pals with Spaniards who are learning English. The connecting of students across the globe reminds me of Pope Benedict’s message for the World Communications Day: Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age, June 5, 2011: “I would like to invite Christians, confidently and with an informed and responsible creativity, to join together in the creation of relationships which the digital era has made possible. This is not simply to satisfy the desire to be present, but because this network is an integral part of human life. The web is contributing to the development of new and more complex intellectual and spiritual horizons, new forms of shared awareness.”

The shared awareness that Pope Benedict speaks of knows no bounds in our diocese. One teacher from St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville journeyed to Japan and her students skyped with her as she shared pictures and cultural tidbits about Japan. A student at St. Joseph’s Villa School in Gettysburg skyped with students in Vietnam. The Vietnamese students wanted to practice using English. What better way than practicing it with their peers who speak English.

Skype was also used between a child recovering from surgery and her classmates. Students from Sacred Heart School in Lancaster journeyed through the convalescence of their classmate as well as keeping abreast of what was new in the school. Who would have thought that going to school would actually cheer up an ailing student?

Scientists from the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling collaborated with St. Brendan School in Harrisburg to create the first live broadcast of a research vessel. Students participated in research that was being conducted along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, 1,000 miles northeast of the Bahamas, by Jennifer Magnusson, and Dr. Dorothy Liu, University of Louisville microbiologist, and chemical lab technician, Mike Bertold. The session lasted for 45 minutes and was a great experience for students to see science at its best.

Classes have collaborated through the use of video conferencing. Seniors from De- lone Catholic High School in McSherrystown are teaching Spanish to kindergarten students at Sacred Heart School in Harrisburg. This group gives the seniors required service hours and the kindergartners exposure not only to the Spanish language but also to the Spanish culture. A presenter discussed Three Mile Island and the benefit of nuclear power with the fifth grade students from Good Shepherd in Camp Hill. St. Patrick in Carlisle and St. Joseph in York. The presenter and the students were all amazed over the technology and the way everybody could interact. Learning that took place was not just about nuclear power, but the “dance” of technology that this modality creates.

The video conference learning experience was hosted by the Trinity High School Physics class and the fifth-grade classes from Catholic School in Harrisburg, St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg, Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill and St. Theresa School in New Cumberland. The physics class shared with the grade schoolers the process of actually building a hot air balloon. The grade school students learned about these aspects and watched how the physics students performed them. Both groups will come together on the actual launch day!

The vision of 21st century learning and teaching is not just about connecting with our students but also about teaching skills that are relevant in today’s business world. Students interact with the computer similar to their great grandparents’ use of a steno pad or a brief case. Second graders in St. Joseph’s, Mechanicsburg, love to use an online reading program that reads to them and asks them to answer comprehension questions about what they have heard. In many of our schools, students and teachers interact with smart boards, smart projectors, wireless notebooks, i-pads, kindles and nooks, online games that reinforce curriculum skills, and class and personal wikis, blogs and podcasts, thus providing a learning experience that has a global flavor. In Resurrection School, Lancaster, students using “Arcos,” a social networking tool, collaborate on class work and school projects. St. Margaret Mary’s fourth and fifth graders are blogging about internet safety and their learning experience. The list goes on and on.

Whenever I visit any school within our diocese, I marvel that our teachers model and reinforce what the Diocesan Department of Education states in their mission statement: learning is fun and that we believe that can actualize the full human and spiritual potential of all people, calling them to discover, internalize, proclaim, and live the Gospel message and to grow in faith.”

Let me add, “Right on!”

(Christian Charity Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the School WAN Coordinator for the Diocese of Harrisburg.)
Faith and Life

New Evangelization also begins with Confession, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Confession can help Catholics build lives filled with hope and holiness, which are needed for effective evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“New evangelization, therefore, also starts from the confessional,” he told confessors and other participants attending a course sponsored by the Apostolic Penitentiary – a papal court that handles issues related to the absolution of sin.

New evangelization “draws its life blood from the holiness of the children of the Church, from the daily journey of personal and communal conversion to adore ever more deeply to Christ, he said in his address.

There is a strong link between holiness and the sacrament of reconciliation, he said.

The true conversion of a person’s heart that has opened itself to God’s transformative power of renewal “is the driving force of every reform and it translates into a true evangelizing force,” the pope said.

The sacrament of reconciliation reminds people of God’s limitless capacity to “transform, illuminate all the dark corners and continually open up new horizons,” he said.

Through confession and God’s mercy, the repentant sinner becomes a new person who is “justified, par- doned and sanctified,” who can become a grace-filled and more authentic witness to God’s love, he said.

“Only he who lets himself be deeply renewed by divine grace can carry in himself, and therefore proclaim, the Gospel news,” he said.

“Thus each confession, from which each Christian will emerge renewed, will represent a step forward for new evangelization,” he said.

Given the “educational emergency” in today’s world, in which relativism has eroded any sense that people can gradually come to know the truth and experience the truth of God, “Christians are called to proclaim with vigor the possibility of an encounter between people of today and Jesus Christ.”

God became human precisely to be able to be close to all people so that they could see and hear him, he said.

That is why the sacrament of reconciliation helps a person open his or her heart and let God in. The certainty that Christ is near and will be there for humanity even when burdened by sin “is always the light of hope for the world,” said the pope.

Bishop McFadden’s Lenten Pastoral Letter
Return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s Lenten Pastoral Letter promotes a renewed approach to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The letter was published in the Feb. 17 edition of The Catholic Witness and is also available online at www.hbgdiocese.org.

In the letter, the bishop writes that “it is the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation that is the ordinary and sure means of forgiveness for us when we are separated from God and from one another because of our sins. In sacramental confession, the Father restores to us the life He has poured into our hearts and claims us once more as His beloved children. It restores the graces of our Baptism and prepares us for an increase in grace and virtue in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.”

The diocesan Web site also includes a variety of resources on the sacrament, including background and Church teachings well as helpful guides on examination of conscience and how to go to Confession. Find these resources by clicking on the Lent icon at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Good Friday Collection Supports Christians in the Holy Land

As a pontifical collection requested by Pope Benedict XVI, the annual Good Friday Collection unites all Christians to support Christians in the Holy Land. The collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace and to help protect the Holy Places.

Pope Benedict XVI has made the Holy Land a priority of his pontificate. Franciscans and others in the Holy Land are housing and feeding the poor, providing formation and education, maintaining shrines and parishes, and conducting pastoral ministry.

Franciscans have been serving in the Holy Land for nearly 800 years. It is their task to:

• Offer pastoral care for 29 parishes and provide spiritual direction for pilgrims
• Operate schools – often at no charge to students, regardless of religion or nationality
• Care for the poor by providing housing and health care
• Maintain and care for the shrines and chapels
• With violence and instability plaguing the Middle East, the shrinking Christian community there struggles to remain in the land of Christ’s birth, death and resurrection. As escalating vio-
With meetings at the White House and testimony before Congress, Archbishop William E. Lori, appointed March 20 to be the next archbishop of Baltimore, has been one of the most visible faces of the U.S. Catholic Church in recent weeks. As archbishop of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, he has been leading their efforts to fight what he calls encroachments on the religious freedom enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, especially from the Obama administration’s requirement that most religious employers provide free contraceptives to their employees through their health insurance plans.

“If we neglect to watch the situation, then we will not be able to make our voice heard on important issues,” he said, “and we will have neglected our religious liberty and serving the common good of society from a chair once occupied by John Carroll.”

As someone involved in the leadership of the Church over the years, he said, “it was hard to miss that there’s been an erosion of religious liberty over time – sometimes through laws, sometimes through court decisions and sometimes through the increasing secularity of the culture.”

Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., to be the new archbishop of Baltimore. The Vatican announced the appointment March 20. Bishop Lori is pictured during a Feb. 16 hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

One never knows what goes into an appointment,” he said, “but I would have imagined that he would live there. “I think it’s very important we are there not only representing the interests of the Church,” he said, “but looking for all the ways in which we can serve the common good.”

Archbishop Lori said he expects that religious vocations will be one of his priorities in Baltimore, building on the work of his immediate predecessors. During his tenure in Bridgeport from 2001 to the present, 35 priests were ordained and 39 seminarians are currently in formation. Eight orders of women religious and a new religious institute were all welcomed into the Diocese of Bridgeport under his leadership.

The new archbishop hopes to embrace a wide variety of tools for communication, including print, electronic media and social media.

“This is where the young people are,” he said, “this is where some of this new evangelization is driven forward and this is where you sometimes find people interested in giving their lives to a vocation as well. These are all instruments of the Gospel.”

In addition to his work on religious liberty, Archbishop Lori has been active on other issues within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 1995, when he became an auxiliary bishop in Washington. He served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse (now the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People) and was instrumental in drafting the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” He also serves on the committees on doctrine and pro-life activities and the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

In 2005, he was elected supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, a post he continues to hold. He writes a series of monthly articles for the Connecticut-based organization’s magazine, Columbia.

During his episcopacy in Bridgeport, Archbishop Lori launched several initiatives in support of Catholic education, vocations, Catholic Charities and evangelization.

In 2004, he announced a major restructuring of the Diocese of Bridgeport’s 37 Catholic schools, which educate more than 11,000 children. Archbishop Lori noted that he has visited the archbishop’s residence on Charles Street “many times,” but never imagined that he would live there.

“Anyone who knows what goes into an appointment,” he said, “but I would have to say the very thought of teaching the faith, promoting and defending religious liberty and serving the common good of society from a chair once occupied by Archbishop John Carroll is very humbling and I hope it will be a source of great strength and great grace for whatever the Church calls me to do.”

(Contributing to this story was George P. Matysek Jr. in Baltimore.)
Radio, folds her hands in prayer as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden blesses the radio station March 23.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Eleven years ago, Betty Girven was sitting in her Lancaster home, wishing more people could hear what she was listening to on her radio. A broadcast of the Catholic Radio Association (CRA) had moved Girven to act on her faith and begin working toward a goal of bringing Catholic radio to the Diocese of Harrisburg.

The board also secured an attorney, and with publicity and site-searching, Holy Family Radio is a nonprofit organization that relies on listener support. The station will hold its first Radiothon April 25-27, working with the Catholic Radio Association to raise money for both the CRA and Holy Family Radio. Tune in from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on those three days to live on-air guests.

Mr. Neatrour has worked in the radio business for 37 years, as a disc jockey, program director and salesman. He connected with Ms. Girven in October 2010 as the board was seeking someone to help them purchase a station. They found it in Shiremanstown, a hamlet adjacent to Harrisburg.

From the outset, the goal of the Board of Directors was to establish a diocesan station. “It’s not Holy Family Radio station. It’s the Diocese of Harrisburg’s station.”

Since the on-air debut in August, awareness of Holy Family Radio has gradually spread by parish announcements and via word-of-mouth. As the inaugural year progresses, its board members and supporters continue to seek ways to publicize the station and to expand its range.

Currently, the station is seeking several acres of land to build its 340-foot tower in order to increase its signal strength. In conjunction with that search, and to continue to raise funds for the station, Holy Family Radio will host a Radiothon April 25-27. The fundraiser will feature three 11-hour days of live guests and unique programming. Details will be available on Holy Family Radio’s website as the dates draw near.

“For the station exists for the greater glory of God,” Ms. Girven said, pointing to its slogan: “Nourishing Our Catholic Faith, Sharing Our Faith with Others.” Her goal has always been to share the Good News. She started 11 years ago beside the radio in her home, and continues today from the WHYF studios.

April 1: This week’s Catholic Perspective is a special edition featuring an update on the Health and Human Services Mandate and the March 23 rally for Religious Freedom held in Harrisburg. On that day, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden lead a recitation of the Rosary in a live broadcast from Holy Family Radio WHYF AM 720 for the intention of religious liberty. The recording of that Rosary, done on a Friday and featuring the Sorrows Mysteries, is featured in this week’s program.

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Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese of and WHYF AM 720. This new radio ministry has many needs and opportunities for volunteers both on the air as well as off the air. Find out more by calling (717) 525-8110 or visiting www.yourholyfamilyradio.com.

The program is heard Mondays and Fridays at 12 noon on WHYF AM 720 and on Sunday mornings on WLAM-AM 1390, Lancaster at 7:30 a.m.; WHYL-AM 960, Carlisle, at 8 a.m.; WHYR-AM 1280, Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WKOJ-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIZE-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WVEC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available online at www.OldiesRadio1620.com at 6:30 a.m. or for download at www.bghdiocese.org.

Catholic Art and Media

For Holy Family Radio, Station’s Focus is Broadcasting, Nourishing Catholic Faith

A rosary lies near a headset in the studio at Holy Family Radio in Shiremanstown, where Bishop Joseph P. McFadden led a recitation of the Rosary for the intention of religious freedom.

A Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities

Saturday, April 14 at 5 p.m.
St. Peter Church, 1840 Marshall Drive, Elizabethtown
Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, Principal Celebrant

St. Peter Church is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. A sign language interpreter and assisting listening devices are available. Requests for materials in Braille and large print and other accommodations should be made to Kate Nerl at 717-657-4804, ext. 317 on or before April 1.

Catholic Perspective Radio

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Winning 30 games in a basketball season usually means that you are hoisting trophies along the way. And for the Lancaster Catholic Crusader girls’ that is exactly what happened as they captured the program’s record 10th Lancaster Lebanon League title, its 15th District 3 Class AAA trophy, and it had a chance to capture a fourth state title for the vaunted program.

But to do that they needed to beat two-time defending champs Archbishop Wood in the state final at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State University on March 24. The Lady Vikings quickly jumped to a 9-1 lead in the first two minutes, using great half-court defense and precise execution in their fluid passing game offense to neutralize a Crusaders’ team who did not play their best, nor were they 100% healthy either.

The outcome was never in doubt, 52-33, and it marked a drastic change for the Crusaders, who had beaten a very talented Prep Charter team in the state semifinal to reach the final in State College. In that penultimate game played in the Philadelphia suburbs, Lancaster Catholic scored 90 points in an up-tempo game that featured outstanding clutch shooting and a frenzied pace that suited the Crusaders perfectly. Though they could not stop McDonnell’s All-American and Rutgers-bound Kahleah Cooper who poured in 41 points, the Crusaders had an answer for every question the Lady Huskies asked. Every time Prep Charter stepped on the gas, the Crusaders stepped on it more.

It would have taken a flawless game – taking care of the basketball and great perimeter shooting – to beat the defending champs. Lancaster Catholic just ran out of gas for that final journey.
March is the time of year the Fighting Irish girls’ basketball team makes its annual remarkable run though the PIAA state Class AA playoffs. Year after year, 6 of 7 to be exact, the Fighting Irish have made it to the state final. Looming in that final is usually a stellar team that brings Division I recruits, size, quickness and a Western Pennsylvania battle-tested game résumé to boot.

This year was no exception, as York Catholic ran into a team that was just better in most phases of the game. With great size and backcourt speed, the Lady Rebels of Seton-LaSalle were undefeated for a reason. They could shoot. They could defend. They could rebound on both glasses. They were a very good basketball team who deserved to win.

Though the Fighting Irish had a chance to put a nervous Seton-LaSalle squad in an early 9-0 hole if it had not missed two point blank lay-ups, the game was never in doubt after that brief moment and ensuing 17-3 run that forced the Irish to play catch-up the rest of the way. When you shoot 16-62, go 4 for 19 from beyond the arc, that’s a tough road to travel to win against a team that scored 71 points against you with three bigs in the paint at six feet or taller.

And the road traveled by the Fighting Irish was a long one as they traveled to Hamburg, Pottsville and State College for their final three state games. That’s more than 700 miles on a bus, and it’s a testament to this program’s grit that they do this every year.

You can take nothing away from the Fighting Irish, who are used to playing on the big stage. Few schools can boast of four state titles for a program and seven straight District 3 gold medals.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

March is the time of year the Fighting Irish girls’ basketball team makes its annual remarkable run though the PIAA state Class AA playoffs. Year after year, 6 of 7 to be exact, the Fighting Irish have made it to the state final. Looming in that final is usually a stellar team that brings Division I recruits, size, quickness and a Western Pennsylvania battle-tested game résumé to boot.

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You can take nothing away from the Fighting Irish, who are used to playing on the big stage. Few schools can boast of four state titles for a program and seven straight District 3 gold medals.
Nationally-known educational technologist Kevin Honeycutt presents the phrase "Learn to love to learn" to diocesan educators at the annual technology conference in Harrisburg. Today's students are being prepared for jobs that don't yet exist, and so they must learn to love to learn, he said.

Teachers, principals and educators gathered together at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg March 27 to be inspired by technology.

At the technology conference, educators listened to several keynote addresses by experts in the field. Honeycutt used Twitter as an example as a way to keep up with the transformation of education. He only keeps positive educators on his Twitter account, people who can help him in a pinch when he might not be as educated on a topic.

Remember that time in sixth grade when x=2 and xy+2z=x, and the teacher explained it at least three times and then asked if there were any questions. When you were lost, did you raise your hand? Most kids don’t want to admit in front of their peers that they don’t get it, but just think if that teacher had been able to record themself and placed the day’s lesson on YouTube. Would you have found some way, whether your home computer or the library computer, to watch and re-watch that lesson? I would have. These are the ideas Mr. Honeycutt emphasized.

Teachers are in an era of "tradigital" he said. They were taught a traditional way to educate but must transform it to the digital era. Mr. Honeycutt used Twitter as an example as a way to keep up with the transformation. He only keeps positive educators on his Twitter account, people who can help him in a pinch when he might not be as educated on a topic.

He encouraged them to use social media as a community of resources and encourage their students to do the same, to teach them about the possibilities that social media has to be permanent, and instead of being afraid of it, to help them build their profiles that will earn them scholarships. After all, our youth are building digital legacies, he said.

The day's events were further filled with questions and answers, more keynote addresses, and a learning time to find new tools to educate the youth. As the diocese's schools have been growing into the era of technology, they have been preparing for jobs that don’t yet exist, and so they must learn to love to learn, he said.

The St. Theresa Lady Saints of New Cumberland and the Harrisburg City Catholic boys team won the Harrisburg CYO Diocesan Championships in March. St. Theresa won over Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg, by a score of 33-30, while Harrisburg City Catholic defeated the Holy Name boys 39-34.

St. Theresa’s win was the team’s eighth diocesan championship since 1990. They advanced to the state championship tournament on March 23 in Greensburg, Pa., where they finished with a tournament record of 2-1. The Harrisburg City Catholic boys will advance to the state CYO tournament starting April 15 at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa.

Ashley Buchter, a two-time state gold medalist, will return next year to Trinity as a senior and will have her game face on. “I’ll listen to my coach and will be working hard over the summer,” Ashley commented about her state return next year. Though Ashley came home with the gold again, she did have some competition this year, but she was ready. By adding an inward double, a reverse 1 ½ with a 1 ½ twist and her front 2 ½ pike, the gold medal was a lock with a final score of 482.80; the 39.20 score on her inward double and the 2.8 degree of difficulty clinched the gold for Ashley. “It feels really good to have worked so hard and it is a real bonus to have it pay off.” Ashley commented that she didn’t add any more practice in her routine in anticipation for states but was more efficient at her practices and was sure to listen to her coaches carefully, “because they really know best how to make you better.”

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

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“Learn to love to learn” to diocesan educators at the annual technology conference in Harrisburg. Today’s students are being prepared for jobs that don’t yet exist, and so they must learn to love to learn, he said.
Team O’Neil: Four Sisters Score with CYO Basketball

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Gloria O’Neil pulls on her Good Shepherd Rams jersey and laces up her sneakers. A third-grader at the novice level of CYO basketball, she’s a player who loves to shoot. Her most memorable experience of her young career is the game in which she scored her first basket.

Beneath the basketball hoop in the driveway of her family’s home, she battles again with her older sisters, all members of the CYO program at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill.

There’s fourth-grader Caroline, Gloria’s teammate; sixth-grader Annabelle, who is on the junior varsity level; and eighth-grader Madeleine, a varsity player who will enter Trinity High School in the fall. Sure, there’s sibling rivalry when the girls pick up the ball—the constructive kind where third-graders like Gloria resp on the rewards of watching and playing with older sisters.

And yes, there’s competition.

“I love shooting!” Gloria piped up when asked what she enjoys most about CYO basketball. “I like going after the ball and scoring. But no more amassing points and wins, Gloria and her sisters say, CYO basketball is about sportsmanship, teamwork and faith.

In 1930, CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) began as a way of involving young people in the life of the Church through athletics. Faith-based values are at the heart of CYO. “We train in prayer and faith,” said Mrs. O’Neil.

Teams join hands in prayer before games, some even meeting at half court to pray before tipoff. They send Mass cards to players from other schools who suffer the loss of a family member, and often attend the funerals of those from the CYO community.

“We’ve been in a few championships, and whenever we were, our entire team would go to Mass together and sit in the same pew,” Gloria added. “It’s very nice to go to Mass together as a team, to celebrate our faith.”

“We pray first before we play,” Gloria pointed out, reciting the words of her novice team: “Good Shepherd guide us, Holy Mary protect us, Holy Spirit give us strength. Rams on three!”

Sportsmanship and teamwork flow naturally from the faith-based atmosphere of CYO.

“What I like about it is helping out the new players and practicing with people you’ve never met,” said Madeleine. “It’s a positive program that teaches good sportsmanship. Caroline added. “You’re never treated badly, and if you get hurt, you’ll always have help. It’s very supportive.”

That’s one of the program’s characteristics that parents—like Joe and Cheryl O’Neil—truly appreciate.

“What I like to see is, when an opponent is knocked down, the girls are quick to pick them up. They’re always lending a hand, putting them on the back,” Mrs. O’Neil said. “They forget about the competition of the game and focus on helping each other.”

As a volunteer assistant for a number of years, and as a dad, Mr. O’Neil is pleased with the CYO program’s focus on sportsmanship.

“Obviously winning is important, but so is good sportsmanship,” he said. “We tell the girls to pull back if we’re up big at halftime. It’s not important to run the score up on the other team because we could very well be on the other side of the ball.”

And then there’s the family-like atmosphere that permeates through the program. It includes teachers, coaches, administrators, parents and players.

“Volunteer coaches instill basketball skills and enthusiasm in their players. “I’ve had a variety of coaches in CYO basketball, and I must say that they all know what they’re doing. They’re very good at what they do,” Caroline remarked. “All the coaches always help you out whenever you need help or something.”

The CYO program helps build supportive communities around families.

“We’re all there as a family watching the girls play. Even with four daughters on three teams, it’s never like we were wasting a Saturday or Sunday being there for three hours because we were all together supporting each other,” Mrs. O’Neil said.

Annabelle describes the O’Neils as an exceptional part of the Good Shepherd family.

“My hat goes off to them. They’ve given 100 percent to the team, the coaches and the program,” she said. “I think they set a good example of how to do something right. They’re always lending a hand with our faith and what we want the children to learn. They know they can also rely on the community to help get the girls to practice or to games. Everyone helps in other ways to get the girls to the games.”

“The faith is reinforced in the classroom, in the home and on the court. The Church, school and athletic communities support the valuable lessons. Sportsmanship is on the court, doing well in school, and giving to your community go hand-in-hand with our faith and what we want the world to see,” Ms. Balaban said.

“Let’s be all that the O’Neils are for the pilgram community at-large,” Ms. Balaban said. “The faith is reinforced in the classroom, in the home and on the court. The Church, school and athletic communities support the valuable lessons. Sportsmanship is on the court, doing well in school, and giving to your community go hand-in-hand with our faith and what we want the world to see.”

(For information on the CYO program in the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit the Youth and Young Adult link at www.hbgdiocese.org. On the youth page, select the Services and Programs tab to find the CYO page. Or, contact Richard Hinnenkamp, Diocesan CYO Director, at rhinnenkamp@hbgdiocese.org.)

Raffle to Benefit Pilgrims

The Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring a raffle to benefit pilgrims attending World Youth Day in Rio in 2013. Donation is $10 per ticket. Drawing will be held July 22, 2012, at the diocese’s World Youth Day 2013 Kick-Off Mass.

First prize: Gourmet dinner for four with Bishop Joseph P. McFadden at his residence (Chiefs: Father Joshua Brommer, date TBD) and $500

Second prize: $500

Third prize: $250

Fourth prize: Family 4 pack Hershey Park Tickets

Fifth prize: Family 4 pack Hershey Park Tickets

Sixth prize: $100

For raffle tickets, contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804 or oyyam@hbgdiocese.org.

World Youth Day, July 29-2013

Río de Janeiro, Brazil

‘Go and make disciples of all nations’ - Matthew 28: 19

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden invites you to join him and our Holy Father at World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The spiritual pilgrimage will include a two day retreat experience in Guadalupe, Mexico, and the World Youth Day activities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Diocesan group will be limited to 200 pilgrims within the ages of 16-17 (youth) and their parish group leaders and chaperones; young adults ages 18 (high school graduates)35; priests, seminarians and consecrated individuals. For information on this wonderful spiritual pilgrimage, please contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804 ext. 327, or oyyam@hbgdiocese.org, or visit our Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org/ rwdrio2013. Please be advised that seating is limited, and first round of deposits are due by May 31, 2012.
Sixth-grade brothers Carmen and Philip Andreoli participated for the first time this year, and outside of Math Counts they also enjoy playing the drums in the band, playing basketball and on the side they are learning how to play the guitar.

Eighth-grade student Caroline Hills, who has been an active participant in Math Counts for three years, swims and looks forward to joining the swim team next year at Trinity High School in Camp Hill.

Math Counts Advisor Victoria Bosso has been instructing students for 17 years, and said, “St. Theresa’s has a very good math program. Every year we have kids that score in the top 10 percent of the Catholic Math competition. Our teachers have gotten together to make sure each grade builds on the knowledge that the kids have. If the kids compete in class, they are always in the top scores.”

She continued to explain how Math Counts works.

“The students have to solve almost all word type problems. They need to use logic and math, and this knowledge is something they can transfer over in daily life.”

Her helping advisor, Robert Sheker, brings the math problems to real-life situations. Mrs. Bosso commented that Mr. Sheker, who is an architect, can show the students how he uses these word problems every day in his career.

Each year the number of participants in Math Counts can vary in size. The largest can reach up to 17 students. In order to compete in the local level, the students compete against each other in their own club. They meet once a week after school to do practice tests, but as the competition gets closer, the students compete against each other in their own club. The students request a more frequent meeting time after school. The students who participate are very competitive, and rightfully so. In order to compete, they need to score highest to continue to states.

Mrs. Bosso only can take a total of 10 students, and those ten students are narrowed down to four to compete as a team. The remaining six compete in individual competitions, and the top ten of the individual competitions participate in a countdown. Their scores can double at a time and solve flash problems, battling until the correct answer is given. The first to give three correct answers stays in the round and the next competitor steps in. The top four students then continue to states.

St. Theresa School is proud to have Thomas Claypool for 6th grade, and during the 2005-2006 school year, student Jon Banks placed 4th and continued to the state competition. The team of four this year included eighth graders Wesley Sheker, Joshua Eby, Thomas Claypool and Zachary Sowa.

They finished fourth out of the 17 local middle schools, and first place of all private/non-public schools. Thomas Claypool finished 6th out of the 131 competitors, with the other 3 team members finishing in the top 25. Other Math Counts competitors from St. Theresa’s who finished respectively high within the 131 competitors were Carmen Andreoli, Philip Andreoli, Matt Zemba, Alex Zemaitis, Caroline Hills and Amanda Becker.

Wesley commented, “I practice a lot. The website for Math Counts gives a problem of the week, and we use it as part of the club and in our math class. I also practice with work sheets and run problems; it helps to fine tune my skills.”

When asked why they participate in Math Counts, the boys mostly responded that they like math, with the exception of Zachary, who even though he doesn’t love math, is happy he participates because he knows he needs math and he wants to do well in it. Being in Math Counts has made him a stronger math student.

Caroline Hills also didn’t have the love for math like some of the other competitors, but joined because her mom thought it was a good idea. However, now that she has been competing for three years, she admits mom was right. “Joining has helped me in math and I do enjoy it now. It helps me in my classes and it helped me place into Trinity’s honors Algebra class.”

Sixth grade twin brothers Carmen and Philip Andreoli competed for the first time this year. Carmen said it was a good experience and something different to do. Philip enjoyed learning more and they both look forward to trying it out again next year.

Next year will be different for Mrs. Bosso, who has up to this point been a teacher and advisor. After this school year she will retire as a teacher, but looks forward to staying on as Math Counts Advisor. “I will come back for Math Counts. I’m looking forward to having more after-school time to devote to the club. I’m anxious to do this next year; it will be a lot of fun.”

Whether mom thinks it’s a good idea, you’re looking for a different challenge, or maybe you just love math a lot, Math Counts seems to be one of the triple threats at St. Theresa’s. They are building students with broad interests and helping them excel academically.
Compiled by Jen Reed

S P I R I T U A L  O F F E R I N G S

A Lenten/Easter Cantata, “Lift High the Cross,” will be presented at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Annville March 30 at 7 p.m. Additional performances will be at Sacred Heart Church in Lebanon March 30 at 7 p.m., at St. Stan’s Church in Camp Hill April 6 at 6 p.m., and at St. Stan’s Church in Mechanicsburg April 12 at 6 p.m. A free will offering is requested for admission, however, all proceeds will be for Missionaries to the Poor. Tickets can be ordered by calling 717-652-3598.

The Mater Dei Latin Mass Community at St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg will meet Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m. and Monday and Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. Confessions will be on Monday at 5:30 p.m. There will be no Latin Mass during Lent. For more information, call 717-230-6441.

The Tri County Theology on Tap (TOT) group will host a special event with Bishop Joseph P. McFadden April 3 at Knute’s Pub & Grill in Camp Hill. The event will be a viewing of the film, “Courageous,” with a presentation by Bishop McFadden discussing “Relationship of Church and State: Does the Church really have a voice in American policy?” The event will begin at 7 p.m. and is free. To attend, please RSVP to emmalouiselower@gmail.com. To view upcoming events and connect with other young adults, visit the Tri County Latin Mass Community page at www.facebook.com/groups/475247052535260.

Holy Spirit Diabetes Services in Camp Hill offers a free monthly support group for those who have diabetes. The group is focused on diabetes education and involves members sharing their experiences. The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 6-7 p.m. in Wegman’s conference room. No registration necessary. For information, call Holy Spirit Diabetes Services at 717-763-5460. Upcoming sessions: 4/2 - Faith, 4/9 – Felt Art. DPN, will talk about diabetic foot and leg problems; May 4 – Ann Benz, CRNP, York Health & Wellness, will focus on the team approach for caring for people with diabetes.

Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Harrisburg will host a Holy Week schedule: Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week will be celebrated at St. Paul the Apostle Parish. No Holy Week Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated at St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg. A Polish luncheon fundraiser for the Silence of Mary Home will be held May 27. Tickets: $15.00. For information, call 717-757-4411.

Catholic Women’s Club of York will hold their annual Spring luncheon and fashion show April 21 at the Outdoor Country Club. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. for registration. The fashion show begins at 10 a.m. with a luncheon and an all-you-can-eat buffet. Raffle tickets will be sold at many additional prizes. First prize is $50.00 cash. The cost for a table of 10 is $50.00. For more information, call 717-746-8715-

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Wanda, the owner of Wanda’s Pit of Gold Draw Dinner will be held April 30 at the County Club of York. Hon. d’oures are served at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. with the Draw Down starting at 8 p.m. The event will feature a raffle, 50/50’s and many more prizes. First Prize is $500.00 cash. The cost for a table is $50.00. There will also be a raffle. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Sponsored by the Women of Grace.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in York will hold an Open House April 15 from 1-3 p.m. for information, call the school at 717-644-0375.

Trinity High School will host its annual Spring Social & Monte Carlo Night on April 14 from 6-10:30 p.m. This event includes a wide variety of food from area restaurants, and other events like 50/50 cash drawings, raffles, and other games featuring many one-of-a-kind items! In addition, we will be showcasing our talented students – choir, drama, dance, jazz, art, and instrumental music all collaborating, with the help of local businesses. For tickets, call the Administration Office at 717-761-2228 or visit www.trinityhs.k12.pa.us.

A spaghetti dinner will be held in the social hall of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg April 14 from 4-7 p.m. Dinner includes salad, rolls, beverage and dessert. Take-out available. Cost is $7 for adults, $4 for seniors and $3 children under 12. There will also be a raffle. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Sponsored by the ladies of the Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

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The Down East Catholic High School Tuition Assistance Fund and Non-Resident Entitlements will be held in the library at Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg. “In Two Acts” April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Gymnasium. Doors open at 7 p.m. General Admission costs $20. Tickets available at the door. A raffle will be held at the event for door prizes. A “Night of Music and Spirit” will be held May 20 at 7 p.m. in the library of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools in York. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. General Admission costs $15. Tickets available at the door. A raffle will be held at the event for door prizes.

Auben’s Pizza in the Social Hall at Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg April 14 from 4-7 p.m. Dinner includes salad, rolls, beverage and dessert. Take-out available. Cost is $7 for adults, $4 for seniors and $3 children under 12. There will also be a raffle. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Sponsored by the ladies of the Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

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

### Obituaries

#### WILLIAMSTOWN

Sister Edwin Mary Welsh
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sister Edwin Mary Welsh died in Camilla Hall, Immaculata, Pa., on March 2. She was 94.
Born Helen Welsh in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1942. During her years in education ministry, Sister Edwin Mary taught at elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in the Diocese of Harrisburg, including at St. Patrick School in York from 1958-1964. In 2006, after serving at St. Matthew School in Philadelphia for 25 years, she retired to Camilla Hall. The funeral Mass was celebrated at Camilla Hall on March 14. Burial was in the Immaculata Cemetery.

Sister Isabel Mary Griffin
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sister Isabel Mary Griffin died in Camilla Hall, Immaculata, Pa., on March 10. She was 86.
Born Elizabeth Griffin in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1942. During her years in education ministry, Sister Isabel Mary taught at elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in the Diocese of Harrisburg, including at St. Edward’s in Shamokin from 1955-1957. Our Lady’s in Mount Carmel from 1968-1959, and at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg from 1965-1967. In 2006, after teaching Theology at Immaculata College for 40 years, Sister Isabel Mary retired to Camilla Hall. The funeral Mass was celebrated at Cambridge Cemetery. The funeral Mass was celebrated on March 14. Burial was in the Immaculata Cemetery.

### Sessions on Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System Available

Introductory Sessions of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System and Na-ProTECHNOLOGY®, a means of monitoring one’s reproductive and gynecologic health, are held regularly throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg. The system is applicable to all reproductive categories including breastfeeding and pro-menopause. In addition to achieving or avoiding pregnancy, this system can help in evaluation and treatment of infertility, recurring miscarriage, abnormal bleeding, ovarian cysts, pelvic pain, PMS, and perimenopausal symptoms.

Registration is required. For more information regarding sessions in the Lancaster area, contact Lancaster Care for Women’s Health in Camp Hill or The Center for Women’s Health in Colonial Park, please contact SpiritFertilityCare Services at 717-909-4044 or fertilitycare@sh.org. For more information regarding sessions in the Lancaster area, contact Lancaster Care for Women’s Health at 717-669-8484 or laurie.weitzel@gmail.com.

### Men’s Weekend Planned

#### Malvern Retreat House

Somatics is the frantic pace of life can leave us little time to deal with things of real value in our lives. For these reasons, our retreat allows you the time to address the really important issues in life.

Real Value in our Lives Retreat

Sessions on Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System

- The 5th annual National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16. This day was designated to bring awareness to advance directives and living wills. These important documents represent what healthcare choices you’d like or not if you were unable to communicate due to an accident or illness.
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Trust in God to Help Change Society, Pope Says in Mexico’s Heartland
By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service
Celebrating Mass in the Catholic heartland of Mexico, Pope Benedict XVI told a nation and a continent suffering from poverty, corruption and violence, to trust in God and the intercession of Mary to help them bring about a "more just and fraternal society."

"When addressing the deeper dimension of personal and community life, human strategies will not suffice to save us," the pope said in his homily during the outdoor Mass at Guanajuato’s historic and cultural spot of the 1810年开始的独立战争，the pope marked the 400th anniversary of the country’s Virgen of Charity of El Cobre.

Catholic charities in Cuba have become more visible in recent years, sometimes in cooperation with agencies of the state. After half a century of communist government and decades of official atheism there, Pope Benedict could hardly find more powerful evidence for the inadequacy of secular solutions than the Church’s growing role in caring for Cuba’s poor.

Change
Continued from 1

to educate consciences,“ he said, “both in individual ethics and public ethics.”

Christian hope, the pope told an audience that included Mexican President Felipe Calderon, does not merely console the faithful with the promise of personal immortality. The theological virtue of hope, he said, inspires Catholics to "transform the present structures and events that are less than satisfactory and seem immovable or insurmountable, while also helping those who do not see meaning or a future in life."

The practical expression of this inspiration, the pope said, is the Church’s extensive charitable activities, which "uplift the who suffer from hunger, lack shelter, or are in need in some way in their life."

That point seemed particularly relevant to the second half of Pope Benedict’s Latin America visit, to Cuba March 26-28, where he marked the 400th anniversary of the country’s Virgen of Charity of El Cobre.

At Mass, Pope Recognizes Cubans' Struggles, Calls Freedom a Necessity
By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service
Celebrating an outdoor Mass on his first day in Cuba, Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged the struggles of the country’s Catholics after a half century of communism and described human freedom as a necessity for both salvation and social justice.

The pope spoke March 26 in Antonio Maceo Revolution Square, in Cuba’s second-largest city. He had arrived in the country a few hours earlier, after spending three days in Mexico.

The Vatican had said the square would hold 200,000 people and it was full, several thousand also filled the streets leading to the square. Cuban President Raul Castro, who welcomed the pope at the airport, sat in the front row for Mass.

Before the pope arrived in the popemobile, the original statue of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Cuba’s patroness, was driven atop a white truck through the cheering crowd. The statue then was enthroned near the papal altar.

"Obedience to God is what opens the doors of humanity, and which better reflects the foundation of charity," Pope Benedict said. "Redemption is always this process of liberation, the pope said. "It is a process of liberation from sin and impotence."

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Students at St. Joseph School in York marked the feast day of their patron saint in memorable fashion March 19 with a pastoral visit from Bishop Joseph P. McFadden.

The visit took on added significance, as the school community shares the same feast day as the bishop. The bishop began the day with Mass at St. Joseph Church, telling the students about the virtues of St. Joseph, the Jewish carpenter called by God to be Mary’s husband and Jesus’ earthly father.

“St. Joseph was always trying to be good, do good, to be righteous – that’s the way we should try to be,” the bishop said. “What we learn from St. Joseph is to pay attention to God. He did. And just like St. Joseph, if we are good, listen to God, we too will get help with our particular vocation for our lives,” he told them.

For the students in the PreK-6 school, the bishop’s visit was a highlight of their annual observance of St. Joseph’s feast day, where fathers and grandfathers are especially invited to sit behind the students for Mass, and where they join their pre-kindergarteners for a carpentry project to celebrate Joseph’s life.

Two weeks prior to the bishop’s visit, students at St. Joseph School were among some 50 classrooms who connected via Elluminate as the bishop read to them on Read Across America Day, and the virtual encounter generated additional excitement for the pastoral visit.

“The students know his face and they’ve heard his voice, and so it’s a wonderful opportunity for them to welcome him here,” Principal Patricia Byrnes told The Catholic Witness.

And the students were greatly prepared to welcome Bishop McFadden. His visit marked the second time that a bishop has visited the school.

“It’s a time when the teachers do instruction in the classrooms on the role of a bishop, and that’s a good opportunity for the students to learn more about the Office of Bishop,” Mrs. Byrnes said. “I want the kids to know their shepherd and to follow him.”