Cardinal William H. Keeler
1931–2017
In a society where many consider marriage vows to be contrary to human freedom, the “self-aholic” lifestyle leads to incalculable unhappiness; ultimately the human heart, created by God, thirsts to give and receive love, Bishop Ronald Gainer told some 400 Christian leaders and ministers at the “Bringing Church Home: Reimagining the Family on Mission” conference held March 16 and 17 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

“In the end, nothing else can quench this human thirst but the merciful love of God in Christ Jesus,” he said.

Bishop Gainer was among a number of some 20 plenary speakers and workshop presenters at the ecumenical conference, which welcomed members of various Christian churches in an effort to rethink their ministry to families.

In the opening plenary session on the centrality of the family in the New Evangelization, Bishop Gainer remarked that, “Jesus, who is the way of love, is the foundation and source of Christian spouses to love each other just as he loves us, the Church, and to bear witness to that love as a beacon to others of God’s love in the world, which is the family’s mission.”

In the early Church, families formed little Churches in the home, and members grew in faith and love in these domestic Churches as they shared their lives and their relationships with Christ.

As a Church, the family is “a fundamental place for encounter with Jesus Christ,” as members discover who they are and proclaim the Gospel in word and in deed, Bishop Gainer said.

The domestic Church is a place of prayer and worship, through the prayers that family members offer throughout the day.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness
The domestic Church is also a Eucharistic community, as family members encounter Jesus in their daily break - his self-forgetting love of others, the threefold office of priest, prophet and identity as disciples of Jesus, all of the gestures of love which flow from their God.

Visible the Eternal Word manifests the mystery of ultimate reality of God. They are a symbol of the in - Without speaking. They communicate, make visible and be involved in divine experience and so they can communicate, make visible, and be involved in the mystery of God’s love, which is the Trinity. They are bodies that make visible the Eternal Word without speaking. They are a symbol of the intimate reality of God. They are images that help to discover and manifest the mystery of God.

In a world that is increasingly hostile to the Church, the family can show the Church’s true nature of being a place of welcome, Msgr. Bonetti said. Amore communities are such a reflection of fraternity, as couples and families invite others into their homes to share the presence of Jesus Christ in everyday life.

“What are our doubts? What are our real fears? What are our real wounds? Plug them in right here,” Christopher West urged Christians during his plenary session. “Reimagine the possibilities of tapping in to the Resurrection in the way we understand ourselves, our relationships and our families.

“If we are to re-imagine the family in terms of its mission, and we’re only thinking with our own imagination, we are going to fall way short. To re-imagine the mission of the family, we have to think with the mind of Christ,” said West, an expert and teacher on St. John Paul II’s “Theology of The Body” and founder of the Cor Project, which proclaims the beauty of God’s plan for life and sexuality.

To re-imagine the family, we must first re-image God as male and female, West said.

“We have to speak in terms of nuptial theology. Our bodies, as male and female, reveal nuptiality, the call to spousal union,” he said.

Society is blind to the meaning of sexual difference, West said. Yet, “It is in the sexual differences that we see life-giving love in our bodies.”

“So often than not, we are raised with a view of the human person that tells us that the spirit is good and the body is bad,” he said. “But St. Paul tells us in Scripture that those parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the parts that deserve the greatest honor.”

He urged efforts to recover the original splendor of God’s plan for man and woman.

“If we are to re-imagine the mission of the family, we must reverse the effects of the Fall through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. What was the first effect of the Fall? ‘I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself.’ We have to reverse that: ‘I was at peace because I knew He loved me, so I exposed myself and look what He loves us as we are,’ he said.

Echoing the conference’s recurring theme that the family is not a problem but a solution, Rev. Dr. Tony Baucum, Rector of Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax, Va., spoke of his congregation’s journey into domestic Church ministry, and its subsequent revitalization.

The journey included three key moments of understanding: family, nuptial theology and ecumenism.

“The Scriptures tell us that family is important. Through Jesus, the family is revitalized so that He can transform it. He orders the family to the love and the Kingdom of God. The family is no longer an end in itself,” he said.

Nuptial theology – the second key to his congregation’s journey – is the core of the Bible, Rev. Dr. Baucum remarked.

“The Bible begins with a wedding in a garden and ends with a wedding in a garden. It is a love story. God is the jilted lover, and he is pursuing his runaway bride,” he said.

Through the lens of nuptial theology, one realizes that the love of God is the most powerful force in the world, he said.

Of the third key of his congregation’s formational journey – ecumenism – Rev. Dr. Baucum spoke of the ecumenism of the family, urging that Christians look into their own families for opportunities to make connections.

“No matter what tradition you come from, you have family, and you want your family to flourish, you want your marriage to flourish,” he remarked.

He mentioned the 15 Amore groups in his congregation, where families are working as agents of the love of Christ.

“He orders the family as couples and families invite others into their homes to share the presence of Jesus Christ in everyday life. The family is the center of unity. In the family, there is the composition of differences in harmony: male and female; young and old; self-sufficient and dependent; educated and non-educated; sick and healthy; believers and non-believers; people who practice and people who don’t practice. The family extends its strengths, its unifying ability, and expands around, not excluding anyone,” Msgr. Bonetti relayed.

“In the family, unconditional self - giving is what surprises the most, amazes and always reveals in a special and unique way the love of God. This self-giving concept can become a real instrument for evangelization,” he said.

We have Christ’s power to propel us in this direction, said Catholic lecturer and author Christopher West. He turned to the message in Ephesians 3:20: Christ’s power at work in us is able to do far more than we can imagine.

He urged efforts to recover the original splendor of God’s plan for man and woman.
Thy Kingdom Come

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, a friend of mine gave me a gift of an icon that Jody Cole wrote. Jody is a local artist whose work depicts various kinds of icons. She lives and works within our diocese. The icon that I received depicted the Visitation; the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth during the later stage of Elizabeth’s pregnancy. What struck me the most about the icon was that Mary was clothed in bright red-orange rather than her traditional blue. Under her bright orange mantle was an under-covering that was blue in color.

Thinking that these colors had a deeper significance, I did some reading. I was surprised to find that in icons, the red-orange means diversity and the under-covering, being blue or green, symbolizes humanity. This is a direct reference of Luke 1:35, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the Power of the Highest will overshadow you.” “Well,” I thought, “that makes perfect sense!” Mary’s mantle is that color because she experienced a unique touch of the Divine when she became the mother of Jesus.

As I continued to ponder this, I was driving from my convent in Camp Hill to the diocesan office in Harrisburg on the way to work. As I drove over the Susquehanna River, the sun was just below the horizon, causing the sky to be transformed to a magnificent red-orange. As I traversed over the bridge, I noticed that the river reflected the same amazing color. I was completely encircled by an iridescent orange. The very particles of the air seemed to sparkle that color. Immediately, I thought of the icon and how Divine Life truly is present here on earth! Let me explain.

Each time we pray “Thy Kingdom come,” in a sense God whispers back, “Wait for it… Wait for it… Look for it… Look for it… See it… See it… But… It… It… It… It… comes through Christ’s return as well as the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. (CCC 2818) That’s the “See it” element. In short, we refer to two aspects of the Kingdom of God; the final coming of God and the present here on earth! Let me explain.

The complete fulfillment of the Kingdom refers to the final coming of God which lies ahead of us. That’s the “Wait for it” aspect. Yet, today, this very Kingdom that is not here is “brought near through the Word incarnate, it is proclaimed throughout the whole Gospel, and it has come in Christ’s death and Resurrection. The Kingdom of God has been coming since the Last Supper and, in the Eucharist, it is in our midst.” (CCC 2816) That’s the “Look for it” element. In short, we refer to two aspects of the Kingdom of God; the final coming through Christ’s return as well as the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. (CCC 2818) That’s the “See it” part!

“The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 14:17) Since the Kingdom is present here and now, though not fully, it is the role of the Holy Spirit to assist all of us in distinguishing between the growth of the Kingdom of God and the progress of culture and society.

“Man’s vocation… his duty, [is] to put into action in this world the energies and means received to serve justice and peace.”(CCC 2820) This is only part of the building of the Kingdom of God.

Think about this way. The Holy Spirit gives us the perception of actually seeing the touch of God’s grace in our world. He actually allows us to see the touch of God’s grace in our world. He actually allows us to see the touch of God’s grace in our world.

On Good Friday, a pontifical collection is taken up in every parish in the United States. Catholics will gather to contribute to the annual collection with the intent of supporting ministries and works in the Holy Land; largely under the direction of the Franciscans.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to Christians and others who have been displaced by the war in Syria. Vatican Information Service recently stated that Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, addressed a letter to all bishop worldwide in view of the collection for the Holy Land:

“Presently, there are millions of refugees fleeing Syria and Iraq, where the roar of arms does not cease and the way of dialogue and concord seems to be completely lost. Senseless hatred seems to prevail instead, along with the helpless desperation of those who have lost everything and have been expelled from the land of their ancestors. If the Christians of the Holy Land are encouraged to resist, to the degree possible, the understandable temptation to flee, the faithful throughout the world are asked to take their place in heart.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers a direct opportunity for parishes to be witnesses of peace. Their support is a sign of Christian unity, which helps protect the faces and lives of those Christians and others who are continuing to suffer in the Holy Land. This annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection unites all Christians with the Holy Land.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports parishes, Catholic schools and religious education in the Holy Land. It also preserves the sacred shrines for pilgrims and provides assistance, including housing and food, for the poor and needy.

Last year’s Good Friday Collection provided support for the Holy Land in these ways:

- Provided emergency funds to the people in Syria and Iraq
- Supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, theological institutions
- Helped keep 16 schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students
- Funded university scholarships for 295 students
- Provided 398 homes benefiting Christian families
- Helped rehabilitate over 100 homes for Christians families
- Provided senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Created more than 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land
- Preserved 74 sanctuaries and shrines from the life of Jesus and the prophets
- Supported over 100 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- The Custos of the Holy Land, Father Francesco Patton, OFM, said, “It is important that the Christians all over the world support the church in the Holy Land, so we can continue our work.

The Good Friday Collection will be taken up in parishes on April 14. To learn more, visit http://myfranciscan.org/good-friday/.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 92nd Annual Convention

“Joined in Christ”
Monday, May 1, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, 4000 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg
All women of the Diocese are cordially invited to attend.

Principal Celebrant and Homilist:
Father David Dannerke, Diocesan Vicar General
Concelebrated Mass with Priests and Deacons of the Diocese

Keynote speaker: Maribeth Stewart
President-Elect, National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)
Vice President General, World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations (WUCWO)

Afternoon workshops:
Linda Plummer – Director of Morning Star Pregnancy Center; “Rescue the Next Generation”

There will be a meditation room, exhibits, religious and Fair Trade items, a silent auction to benefit the Scholarship Fund and a closing prayer service.

Cost: $25 – includes registration fee, continental breakfast and lunch.
Registration and continental breakfast from 9-9 a.m.
Registration deadline is April 17, 2017
Contact Linda at 717-939-5629 or linda.hartzell@comcast.net
Cancellations must be received by April 24, 2017

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Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

- April 1 – Diocesan Men’s Conference, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg.
- April 4 – National Merit Scholarship Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon.
- April 5 – Catholic Charities’ Soup Salad and Sermon luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon.
- April 6 – Morning Star Pregnancy Services Annual Banquet, Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill, 6:30 p.m.
- April 9 – Diocesan Celebration of World Youth Day on Palm Sunday, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 3:30 p.m.
- April 10 – Priests’ Afternoon of Reflection, St. Lawrence Chapel, Harrisburg, 1:45 p.m., Chrism Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.
- April 13 – Mass of the Lord’s Supper, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.
- April 14 – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, and Confessions, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, noon.
- April 15 – Easter Vigil Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 8 p.m.
- April 16 – Easter Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.

Correction
Coverage of the district basketball champions in the March 17, 2017, edition incorrectly spelled names of student-athletes Tim Edwards of Trinity High School and Jania Wright of York Catholic High School. The Catholic Witness apologizes for the error, and again congratulates all students on their achievements.

Clergy Appointments
Bishop Ronald W. Gainer has made the following appointments:

Effective January 31, 2017
- The Reverend Robert F. Berger from Pastor, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown, to retirement.

Effective Immediately
- The Reverend Raymond J. LaVoie from deployment with the Army National Guard to Administrator Pro-tem, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown.

The following Boards and Committee have been reconstituted:
All appointments are for a three year term.

Seminary Review Board:
Very Rev. David L. Danneker, VG, Ex-Officio
Rev. Joseph F. Gotwalt
Rev. John C. Kemper, PSS
Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Lawrence
Rev. Thomas J. Rozman
Very Rev. Jonathan P. Sawicki, VF

Continuing Formation Committee:
Very Rev. David L. Danneker, VG, Ex-Officio
Rev. Msgr. William J. King
Rev. James E. Lease
Rev. Lawrence J. McNeil
Rev. Dwight D. Schalline
Very Rev. Neil S. Sullivan, VF

Priests’ Retirement and Benefits Board:
Very Rev. David L. Danneker, VG, Ex-Officio
Rev. Msgr. William J. King
Rev. Lawrence J. McNeil
Rev. Alfred P. Sceski
Rev. Chester P. Snyder
Pope Recognizes Miracle Attributed to Fatima Visionaries
By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has approved the recognition of a miracle attributed to the intercession of two of the shepherd children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, thus paving the way for their canonization. Pope Francis signed the decree for the causes of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto during a meeting March 23 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, the Vatican said.

The recognition of the miracle makes it likely that the canonization ceremony for the two children will be scheduled soon. The cardinals and bishops who are members of the congregation must vote to recommend their canonization and then the pope would convene the cardinals resident in Rome for a consistory to approve the sainthood.

Many people are hoping Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony during his visit to Fatima May 12-13. The pilgrimage will mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

Francisco and Jacinta’s cause for canonization was stalled for decades due to a debate on whether non-martyred children have the capacity to understand heroic virtues at a young age. However, in 1979, St. John Paul II allowed their cause to proceed; he declared them venerable in 1989 and beatified them in 2000.

Their cousin Lucia entered the Institute of the Sisters of St. Dorothy and, later, obtained permission to enter the Carmelite convent of St. Teresa in Coimbra, where she resided until her death in 2005 at the age of 97.

Following her death, Pope Benedict XVI waived the five-year waiting period before her sainthood cause could open. Bishop Virgilio Antunes of Coimbra formally closed the local phase of investigation into her life and holiness Feb. 13, 2017, and forwarded the information to the Vatican.

Also March 23, Pope Francis signed other decrees recognizing miracles, martyrdom and heroic virtues in six other causes, the Vatican said.

The pope also approved the vote to canonize three young Mexican martyrs, known as the child martyrs of Tlaxcala, who were among the first native converts in Mexico. Known only by their first names – Cristobal, Antonio and Juan – they were killed in 1529 for rejecting idolatry and polygamy in the name of their faith.

In addition, Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing the martyrdom of Franciscan Claretian Sister Rani Maria Valtail, who died in 1985 after being stabbed 54 times, apparently because of her work helping poor women in India organize themselves. With the signing of the decree, a date can be set for her beatification.

As part of his work with what is now the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Keeler developed a reputation for effectively building interfaith bonds. He is particularly noted for his work in furthering Catholic-Jewish dialogue. He was appointed moderator of Catholic-Jewish Relations for the USCCB. As a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Archbishop of Baltimore, the cardinal worked to bring the hope of Christ to the priesthood. In a 2005 interview with the Catholic Witness, he recalled visiting his grandfather’s farm in Illinois when the local Catholic pastor stopped by for a visit – pointing to the solemn praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, concluding with Benediction of the Parish’s 12:15 p.m. Mass. At 3 p.m. Bishop Gainer will lead those gathered in the Mind Mass on Sunday, April 23 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. This custom takes place in the Rectory of the Cathedral.

Among the cardinal’s many accomplishments in the Baltimore Archdiocese, Archbishop Lori highlighted “the wonderful visit of Pope St. John Paul II to Baltimore in 1995, the restoration of the Basilica of the Assumption and the creation of Partners in Excellence which has helped thousands of young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods to receive a sound Catholic education.”

“When I would visit the cardinal at the Little Sisters of the Poor (in Cardinal Keeler’s retirement), I gave him a report on my stewardship and told him many times that we were striving to build upon his legacy – a legacy that greatly strengthened the Church and the wider community,” Archbishop Lori said.

Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and its school, St. Mary’s, and graduated from Lebanon Catholic High School in 1948. He received a B.A. from St. Charles Seminary in Overbrook, Philadelphia, in 1952, and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, in 1956.

Father Keeler was ordained a priest on July 17, 1955, in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Rome by Archbishop (later Cardinal) Luigi Traglia. He served as assistant priest at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Marysville, and its mission, St. Bernadette in Duncannon, and secretary of the diocesan Tribunal (1956-1958). In 1961, he received his doctorate in Canon Law and returned as assistant priest to the Marysville and Duncannon congregations and defender of the bond in the diocese in his episcopal term. In 1964, he became pastor at Marysville and Duncannon.


Born in San Antonio and raised in Lebanon, Pa., William Henry Keeler knew from an early age he was called to the priesthood. In a 2005 interview with the Catholic Review, Baltimore’s archdiocesan newspaper, he recalled visiting his grandfather’s farm in Illinois when the local Catholic pastor stopped by for a visit – pointing to the 4-year-old boy and announcing that he would one day become a priest.

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Keeler Was a Champion of Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue

By George P. Matysek, Jr.
Special to The Witness

Cardinal William H. Keeler was a champion of interfaith and ecumenical understanding, regarded as one of the world’s leading figures in the field. When Jewish conductor Maestro Gilbert Levine, the “pope’s conductor,” visited Baltimore in 2000 to conduct a special performance of Haydn’s “Creation” for an international interfaith musical pilgrimage, he asserted that Cardinal Keeler’s “very body is in the rhythm of interfaith.”

Cardinal Keeler was named a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in 1994. He also served as episcopal moderator of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs from 1984 to 1987. While leading that group, Cardinal Keeler arranged for St. John Paul II to meet with Jewish leaders and Protestant representatives in South Carolina, and attend an interfaith ceremony in Los Angeles during the pope’s 1987 visit to the United States.

After Catholics and Lutherans agreed to a Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in 1999, Cardinal Keeler and Bishop George Paul Mocko, then bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, nailed a copy of the document to the doors of the Baltimore Basilica and also Christ Lutheran Church in Fells Point.

“He knew how to listen,” said Rabbi Joel Zaiman, rabbi emeritus of Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore. “He heard. He understood, and he responded genuinely and generously. He was always available when called – wherever he was – often after hours, and generously. He was always available when called – wherever he was – often after hours.”

Cardinal Keeler’s contributions as a bridge builder, the rabbi joked that if there was such a title as “pontifex maximus,” which means “master bridge builder.” Recognizing Cardinal Keeler’s contributions as a bridge builder, the rabbi joked that if there was such a title as “pontifex maximus,” which means “master bridge builder.”

Rabbi Inger noted that one of the titles for the pope is “pontifex maximus,” which means “master bridge builder.” Recognizing Cardinal Keeler’s contributions as a bridge builder, the rabbi joked that if there was such a title as “pontifex maximus,” which means “master bridge builder.”

Cardinal Keeler suffered serious health problems in the latter years of his ministry. He underwent knee replacement surgery in 2005 and had to have brain surgery in 2006 following a car accident in Italy that resulted in the death of a friend, Father Bernard Quinn of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

In the early part of his retirement, Cardinal Keeler remained focused on many of the same priorities he had always held: promoting better relations between the Catholic and Jewish communities, celebrating Mass every day and staying in touch with friends.

In his final years, one of the U.S. Church’s great concerns was finding it difficult to find the words to express himself.

“He’s final years of illness were lived in silent, Christ-like dignity and acceptance to the will of God,” said Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien, Cardinal Keeler’s immediate successor in Baltimore, who is grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Referring to Cardinal Keeler’s accomplishments as “monumental,” Cardinal O’Brien added that he prays that the cardinal “enjoy a joyful, eternal rest in the Lord he served so generously.”

(Matysek is assistant managing editor of the Catholic Review, the news website and magazine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Contributing to this article was Jen Reed of The Catholic Witness.)
The Episcopal motto of Cardinal William H. Keeler embodied every aspect of his ministry. Evangelization was a hallmark of his service to the Church, say those who worked closely with him in the Diocese of Harrisburg. His desire to inspire the people of Harrisburg in the work of evangelization was enflashed in the Tenth Diocesan Synod, a vast undertaking in the late 1980s in an effort to bring to the diocese a greater awareness of what the Second Vatican Council sought to accomplish for the universal Church: a clarifying and deepening of the faith and a re-examination of the Church’s mission to meet the challenges of the day.

The Synod was aimed at convening the diocese in making decisions for the good of the local Church. “Bringing in opportunities for evangelization to take place was the hope for the outcome,” said Mary Ann O’Donnell, who was serving in the Office of Pastoral Planning at the time.

As she recounts, the initiative called for small groups to meet at the parish level and—after thoughtful discussion upon reflecting on diocesan-created workbooks and videos—present ideas and focus points for ministry. The parish-level results were then compiled and refined at a regional level, and subsequently collected at the diocesan level.

The parish groups met at various intervals over the course of a year and a half, and the Synod culminated with the presentation of 52 Acts that attendees ranked in order of importance. At the top of the list was the religious education of children.

Diocesan ministries were subsequently directed to focus their ministries on the top Acts, and out of the Synod came a diocesan-wide focus on the top priorities such as the education of young people, youth ministry, and evangelization.

“Ultimately, Bishop Keeler led everyone into this process of involvement and participation in a way that they could not have imagined,” Mrs. O’Donnell said of the Synod. “People in parishes were leading small groups, creating hospitality, meeting people they hadn’t met before, and thinking about how they wanted to live their faith. And that’s the whole spirit of evangelization!”

“At the final ceremony to close the Synod, everybody cheered because of the sense of togetherness and the sense of accomplishment. The Synod had involved people at every level, starting with the parishes up to diocesan administration. Everyone was represented,” she said.

Through the Synod, Bishop Keeler “wanted to evangelize and update the diocesan Church, wanting things from the Second Vatican Council to be implemented as much as possible so that people could deepen their faith,” said Msgr. Hugh Overbaugh, who worked with Bishop Keeler in his roles as Diocesan Chancellor and Diocesan Vicar General.

Serving in the Diocese of Harrisburg as priest and bishop, the work ethic of the eventual cardinal was next to none, Msgr. Overbaugh said.

“When I was his master of ceremonies and we would go out to a parish Mass or a Confirmation, he would get into the car and get on the Dictaphone and start working right away,” he said. “Once, I invited him to go with Msgr. [Thomas] Smith and Bishop [Martin] Lohmuller to the Island of St. Martin, and all during that week of vacation, he was working.”

“He worked so hard, and tirelessly,” he continued. “At times, when we would plan to have a conference in his office, his desk and office would be so full with paperwork that we’d have to move the meeting to another room.”

Despite that work effort, he was never too busy to engage the faithful on a personal level.

While serving as Bishop Keeler’s Assistant Chancellor, then-Father Kevin C. Rhoades also recalls “working” car rides during which the bishop would make phone calls and prepare homilies.

His work ethic was very evident. At the same time, I saw his pastoral zeal. He would often have us make detours to visit sick priests in the hospital or in rectories. He was always very solicitude for the welfare of our priests. He was also always reaching out to others who were sick, including those who were battling cancer. He was devoted to the spiritual and pastoral care of cancer patients.”

Bishop Rhoades, the Ninth Bishop of Harrisburg and current Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, saw that care in regards to his own mother, who after a nine-month battle with cancer, died on October 30, 1994—the day of the announcement of Bishop Keeler’s appointment as a cardinal.

“I will always remember that he called me that day to extend his condolences,” said Bishop Rhoades. “I was surprised, given how busy he must have been that day with all the media, etc. When I mentioned this to him, he said to me, with his characteristic humility, that what I was going through was much more important than his appointment, since I was dealing with the passing of my mother into the Lord’s hands. He assured me of his prayers and Mass for my mother. I was very touched by his compassion and kindness.”

Throughout his service to the Church as priest, bishop and cardinal, Cardinal Keeler’s compassion also extended to the Hispanic community, especially in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

In 1979, he approved the purchase of a former Greek Orthodox church in York for the first Spanish-speaking church in the diocese.

“He gave them their own home, and in so doing, told the Hispanic community and the migrant community that they are important,” reflected Father Bernardo Pistone, who served as Vicar for Spanish-Speaking Catholics several years after the formation of the Diocesan Hispanic Apostolate, initiated by Bishop George Leech in 1974.

“Migrants were arriving here, the poorest of the poor, and he made them a preference.”

“Cardinal Keeler just loved the Church so much, and had a very personal relationship with Bishop Keeler as well,” Father Pistone reflected. “He wanted to make sure that we took care of all the migrants and the newly-arrived people in our diocese. Hispanic ministry in the diocese would not be where it is today without his leadership.”

Father Pistone recalled occasions in which Bishop Keeler would visit Hispanic Catholic communities when they celebrated feast days or significant milestones.

“When we would call to say that a celebration was happening, he would be there. We had someone who celebrated their 50th anniversary, and he came, and that was so special and unusual for a little Catholic Hispanic parish to have the bishop come to share in their celebrations,” Father Pistone said.

“Without question, he was motivated by the Gospel value that the poor and the marginalized have a prefer- ence in the Church. They were close to his heart,” he said.

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Parishioners in Marysville and Duncannon Delight in Special Relationship

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

For Michael Ciccocioppo, whose family members were parishioners at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville during then-Bishop William Keeler’s days there, the definition of the late cardinal’s sincerity is woven into a story of women’s silk stockings and Italian cheeses.

Mr. Ciccocioppo’s family were founding members of the Marysville parish, and when Father Keeler was assigned there as assistant pastor in 1956, the Ciccocioppo family quickly formed a relationship with him.

“My grandmother’s requests and the trading of items never bothered him, despite the effort of visiting the ladies, and making a few hours’ trip to Lanciano,” Mr. Ciccocioppo said. “He was happy to do her that favor. That’s the kind of guy he was.”

A recurring theme heard during memories shared of the late cardinal is that he remembered people, and was sincere in engaging them.

Mr. Ciccocioppo, in his various roles in working for the Church and in the pro-life movement, crossed paths with Cardinal Keeler on a number of occasions, and each time, even after years had passed, the cardinal would ask, “Michael, how is your family?” It’s good to see you!”

“It didn’t matter your state in life – whether you were rich or poor, a stately person or a person in the pew – he treated everyone with equal respect. He was a personification of Christ,” Mr. Ciccocioppo said.

Linda Auxt was just a little girl when Father Keeler was serving in Marysville, but her childhood experiences with the assistant pastor (Father Keeler served with pastor Father Martin Lohmueller – later Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia who died earlier this year) flourished into a great love and respect over the course of her life.

“I remember him as being very real, very personable,” said Ms. Auxt, a member of the Italian family, Annine, who your family was, how many kids you had.” Mr. Boyer remarked.

When Mr. Boyer’s mother, Julie, was on her deathbed in 2005, he phoned current pastor, Father John Trigilio, who was at a conference in Maryland at the time, and asked if there was any way to connect to Cardinal Keeler, as Mrs. Boyer had shared a good friendship with him.

Sure enough, the phone in Mrs. Boyer’s room at the hospital soon rang, and the cardinal was on the other end.

“She was the cardinal, who remembered her from the 1950s, giving her some peace before she died. It was truly genuine on his part,” Mr. Boyer said.

“It’s remarkable to think of how fortunate our parishes of Marysville and Duncannon are,” he said. “Father Lohmueller and Father Keeler served here together, they both became bishops, and then Bishop Keeler became a cardinal. To think that both of them came from our little parishes, and even after they left, they never forgot us.”
As in His Life, All Welcomed at Cardinal Keeler’s Funeral Mass

By Erik Zygmont
Special to The Witness

Mourners from near and far, and all walks of life and various creeds, filled the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Homeland, Md., March 28 for the funeral Mass of Cardinal William H. Keeler, 14th archbishop of Baltimore. Thirty prelates, including six cardinals, and dozens of priests and deacons mourned Cardinal Keeler, who died March 28 at 86, and commended his soul to God.

In his homily, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, described the “indomitable, friendly, ever-unflappable gentleman of faith, William Cardinal Keeler,” who took to heart a bit of advice to priests from St. John Paul II: “Love for Jesus and his Church must be the passion of your life.” “He not only knew the quote, he lived it and radiated it,” Cardinal Dolan said.

The liturgy included a message from Pope Francis, delivered and read by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., in which the pope expressed his condolences for the loss of the “wise and gentle pastor.”

The readings and Gospel held special meaning for the cardinal, who chose them himself.

In the first reading, Moses exhorts the Israelites to “love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, your whole being, and with your whole strength” (Deut 6:5).

The cardinal’s episcopal motto, “Do the work of an evangelist,” came from the words of second reading: “But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry” (2 Th 2:4).

The Gospel described Jesus’ call to his first Apostles, Peter, Andrew, James and John, who left their work as fishermen to follow him.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Archbishop Lori, the main celebrant, thanked members of the cardinal’s family “for sharing Cardinal Keeler with us all these many years, and sharing him so generously.”

He also thanked the Little Sisters of the Poor, who operate St. Martin’s Home, “For welcoming him into your home as you would welcome Christ.”

“And in particular,” the archbishop said, “I’d like to thank Sister Lourdes for her special loving care.”

The sisters received a standing ovation.

The archbishop also reflected on the last four or five years of Cardinal Keeler’s life, drawing a parallel between it and the “grand silence,” a former seminary tradition which called for silence from 9 p.m. every evening until Holy Mass was said.

“Over these last four or five years, nature gradually imposed on Cardinal Keeler what we might term a ‘grand silence,’” the archbishop continued, adding that, though it was a “heavy burden,” the archbishop was “impressed by the cardinal’s silence, for even in his silence, William Henry Keeler maintained a beautiful dignity” rooted in his person and manifested in his friendships and care for the church.

Furthermore, Archbishop Lori said, the cardinal’s final “grand silence” was a new part of his formation, “a crucible where his priestly heart was purified for the job of seeing God face-to-face.”

Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and archbishop emeritus of Baltimore, offered the final commendation, and Cardinal Keeler’s eight pallbearers carried his remains out of the cathedral, where deacons, priests, bishops and cardinals chanted “Salve Regina.”


Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, a former priest and bishop of the diocese; and Bishop Edward Maleisi of Greensburg, a former priest of the diocese, offered the final commendation, and Cardinal Keeler’s eight pallbearers carried his remains out of the cathedral, where deacons, priests, bishops and cardinals chanted “Salve Regina.”

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It was not the most popular rule, the archbishop remembered, “and rumor has it there were many infractions – I wouldn’t know about that.”

Nevertheless, Archbishop Lori said, the grand silence was valuable as a time of prayer and rest which “taught the important lesson of preparing for the job of seeing God face-to-face.”

“The most important lesson, the archbishop continued, adding that, though it was a ‘heavy burden,” the archbishop was “impressed by the cardinal’s silence, for even in his silence, William Henry Keeler maintained a beautiful dignity” rooted in his person and manifested in his friendships and care for the church.

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A funeral procession brought his remains to their final resting place, the Baltimore Basilica. (Erik Zygmont writes for the Catholic Review, the news website and magazine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.)

Bishops connected to the Diocese of Harrisburg concelebrate the Mass of Christian Burial. At far left is Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid of Pittsburgh, a former priest of the diocese. In the center is Bishop Ronald Gainer, current Bishop of Harrisburg; and to the right of him are Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, a former priest and bishop of the diocese; and Bishop Edward Maleisi of Greensburg, a former priest of the diocese.
‘Teamwork Makes a Dream Work’

Lebanon Catholic Beavers Surge for Program’s Third Basketball Championship

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Exuberantly running onto the floor of Hershey’s Giant Center to celebrate their PIAA state championship in the girls’ Class A finals on March 24, the Beavers of Lebanon Catholic jumped into each other’s arms and then did what they’ve done before each game on the road to the finals – embraced in a team huddle.

“It feels great to get this [state championship] with the best team and the best coach ever,” junior forward Alexis Hill said as members of the media descended upon the team.

“It’s been a good journey, and I’m proud,” said Hill, who finished the game with 20 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Beavers to a 55-43 win over the Juniata Valley Hornets, securing Lebanon Catholic’s third state title in girls’ basketball.

The Beavers, 24-8 on the season, rolled through the District 3 and PIAA playoffs, besting opponents by at least 20 and sometimes 30 or more points in each game.

But Coach Patti Hower’s team was challenged in the semis and in the finals, forcing the Beavers to dig deep – “Teamwork Makes a Dream Work,” their motto says.

Against Jenkintown in the state semifinals March 21, Lebanon Catholic held a 28-16 lead at the half, but the Drakes – the District 1 champions out of the Philadelphia area – charged back with speedier second-half play and with foul trouble on the part of the Beavers, and pulled within two. But Hill’s success at the foul line in the waning moments sent the Beavers to Hershey.

On the championship stage, Lebanon Catholic found itself contested again, as Juniata Valley capitalized on four consecutive turnovers to take a 6-0 lead before the Beaver faithful could collect their breath.

If Coach Hower’s starting five were worried, they didn’t show it.

Hill took over, converting turnovers into points, and then making a home at the baseline to snag offensive and defensive rebounds. Her teammates quickly followed suit, holding Juniata Valley to three points in the second quarter.

Lebanon Catholic led 20-10 at the half.

Juniata Valley opened the third quarter with an authoritative run to quickly cut the Beavers’ lead in half, and a bit of foul trouble and missed shots at the line kept the Hornets within seven points of Lebanon Catholic for most of the fourth quarter.

But the Beavers would not be stopped, as Hill’s put-back after a missed foul shot on the back end of a 1-and-1 stretched the Beavers’ lead to 8 with less than a minute to play.

Destiny for the program’s third title in school history (the others were in 1992 and 1995) awaited.

The Championship Team

#3 – MaKenna Purcell, Sophomore
#12 – Alaina Kline, Junior
#13 – Sami Hatzfeld, Freshman
#14 – Jessica Ambriz, Freshman
#15 – MiKayla Woodward, Sophomore
#20 – Hannah Callihan, Junior
#22 – Neesha Pierre, Junior
#23 – Alexis Hill, Junior
#24 – Jasmine Turner, Junior
#31 – Jayden Shellehamer, Junior
#32 – Celine Mars, Junior
#34 – Leah Pastal, Senior
#44 – Abriana Eisenhauer, Freshman

“Both of these last two games were our tougher games this year,” junior guard Neesha Pierre said. “But we’re a fighting team, and so even though we had challenges from Jenkintown and Juniata Valley, we had no problem digging deep to do what we needed to win.”

Pierre said that, following last year’s run to the state semifinals, and winning a third district title in a row this season, Lebanon Catholic Beavers Surge for Program’s Third Basketball Championship.

Jubilant Lebanon Catholic School students celebrate together winning the PIAA state championship in Hershey.

Junior Alexis Hill scores a key basket against the Drakes of Jenkintown in the PIAA Class A eastern final played at Garden Spot High School. Hill played the final ten minutes of the game with four fouls and dropped several crucial foul shots in the game’s tense last few minutes.

Junior Jasmine Turner drives the paint against Jenkintown. She drained two long three pointers to get the Beavers rolling early against the Drakes.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

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Junior Jasmine Turner drives the paint against Jenkintown. She drained two long three pointers to get the Beavers rolling early against the Drakes.
March 31, 2017

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Championship

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capturing the state championship was indeed the goal for this team.

“When we won the semifinal game this year, the desire to win states was so, so real,” she said. “I told my teammates that if we just play our game, we’ll be fine.”

Coach Hower, who earned her 700th win earlier in this, her 39th season on the Beaver bench, shared the same message.

“Before the game, I told them, ‘We’re prepared. We’ve done what we needed to do to prepare for this game – we just have to go out and execute,’” she said. “I was proud of the fact that even though we fell down early, we came back. Juniata Valley hit a couple buckets to open the second half, but we didn’t crumble.”

As the Beavers worked their way through the playoffs, Coach Hower was often asked how this year’s team compares to those of the championship teams of 1992 and 1995.

“Every team is special. Even the teams that only won 7 or 8 games – they’re all special. I’m glad I’ve stayed as long as I have, because we have good kids. They’re fun to be around, they’re very coachable. They’ve improved as a team from day one, and that’s what you look for.”

Lebanon Catholic’s starting five of Hill, Pierre, Celine Mars, Jasmine Turner and Jayden Shellehamer are set to return as seniors next year. Meanwhile, the excitement of this year’s state title continues to draw together the school’s PreK-12 community.

“We’ve loved the school spirit behind us. I just love my school so much,” Pierre said. “We look up in the stands and see kindergarteners and first graders screaming and cheering us on. I was walking down the hallway today and I saw a little girl with my number painted on her cheek. It’s so inspiring, and it brings our school community together.”

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats in English and Spanish
Confidential Retreats for those Suffering after an Abortion

English-language retreat will be held April 21-23 in York
Next Spanish-language retreat is to be determined
The program is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in the past and present, and acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion. Visit www.rachelsvineyard.org for information about the confidential retreat. Come and let the healing begin.

To register for either the Spanish or the English retreat, call 717-788-4939.
E-mail undefeatedcourage@gmail.com for the English retreat.

Rutter’s Supports York Catholic Students

Representatives from Rutter’s presented a check to York Catholic High School representing corporate support provided through their Educational Incentive Tax Credit (EITC). The state program enables talented students to study at York Catholic and offers participating companies up to 90% in tax credit.

Pictured left to right: Juden Torres ’17, Dustin Brownawell, Rutter’s; Aaron Koby, Rutter’s; Katie Seifert, York Catholic Principal; Maida Connor, York Catholic Executive Director of Advancement; and Eden Jahn ’17.

Additional corporate gifts are most welcome and will help York Catholic to attract and retain students. Please contact Maida Connor, CFRE, Executive Director of Advancement, at meconnor@yorkcatholic.org or 717-846-8871 x216 for information on these programs.

Holy Family Radio to Hold Benefit Dinner

How can you and a local Catholic radio station help with the New Evangelization that St. John Paul II called for? That will be the topic Dr. Steven Smith will deliver at a dinner to benefit Holy Family Radio on Friday, May 5 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey on Lindle Road.

Tom Russell of CBS 21 will emcee the evening and Bishop Ronald Gainer will be on hand for the opening and closing prayer. Msgr. William King will briefly recount the 10 year struggle of the founding of this independent Catholic radio ministry that is supported solely on local donations.

Dr. Smith will deliver the keynote speech, “The New Evangelization and How We and Holy Family Radio Can Help Saint John Paul II’s Call.” He is an Associate Professor of Scripture at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. where he has been training seminarians for the past nine years. A graduate of Loyola University, he is the author of “The Word of the Lord: 7 Essential Principles for Catholic Scripture Study and the soon to be released, “The House of the Lord: A Catholic Bible-theological God’s Temple Presence in the Old and New Testaments.” His audio CD, “The Resurrection of Jesus: Fact or Fiction,” has sold over 12,000 copies. He has appeared on the EWTN TV program “The Journey Home.”

Doors for the evening will open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. There will be a cash bar and silent auction. The cost per dinner is $100 per person. Sponsorships for the dinner and individual tables are available. Holy Family Radio is a 501 c3 non-profit organization.

Reservations with payment are due by April 24 and can be sent to: Holy Family Radio, PO Box 6028, Lancaster, PA 17607-6028. Information is also available online at www.720why.com.

Resurrection School Dedicates Hallway and Mural

Guests and students attending a recent hallway and mural dedication at Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster were part of a special event that honored a former student.

The hallway was named The Don Nicklaus Memorial Hallway. Nicklaus attended St. Anthony of Padua School which was located in the Resurrection building until 1991, when three city schools consolidated and formed Resurrection Catholic School. He graduated eighth grade in 1961 and passed away in 2015.

The dedication includes a sky-light mural painted by Lancaster artist Steve Wilson, who is part of the Red Raven Art Gallery.

The mural, part of the school’s 25th anniversary celebrations, tells the story of the school. It shows Resurrection’s logo, a cross with a Bible upon it and rays of light behind it. The schools that consolidated – St. Anthony, St. Joseph and Historic St. Mary – are represented with the year each school began. The oldest school was St. Joseph, which opened in 1852 in the church basement.

The ceremony was held during Catholic Schools Week as a fitting time to recognize the contribution of alumni to the school and to Catholic education. Former students and family and friends of Nicklaus attended.

In the photo, Father Daniel O’Brien is shown blessing the main hallway and newly painted mural during the Feb. 1 dedication ceremony.

### Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

**ABBOTTSTOWN –** Immaculate Heart of Mary: Bernice Cappetta.

**ANNVILLE –** St. Paul the Apostle: Carol Mersend瀏覽.

**BERWICK –** Immaculate Conception BVM: Viola Hoze, Henry “Bud” Reinbold.

**BLOOMSBURG –** St. Columba: Helen Severn.

**BONNEVAULLE –** St. Joseph the Worker: Charles Gennaula.

**CAMP HILL –** Good Shepherd: Jacqueline Affelry, Florence Roerders, Edera Smith.

**CHAMBERSBURG –** Corpus Christi: Mark Arnold Jansen.

**COAL TOWNSHIP –** Our Lady of Hope: Leonard E. Oszko.

**COLUMBIA –** Holy Trinity: Thomas Biscler, Michael Bromkoski, James Hetter.

**ELIZABETHTOWN –** St. Peter: Dorothy Laur MacDonald.

**GETTYSBURG –** St. Francis Xavier: Thomas E. Callahan, Gerard M. Hetter.

**HARRISBURG –** St. Catherine Labouré: Alice Dillen, Betty Jane Miller, Dorothy Pease; St. Francis of Assisi: Rosalba Diaz, Jorge Fuentes; St. Margaret Mary: Rosemary Ricci.

**HERSHEY –** St. Joan of Arc: Mary Horetsky, Amy Niccolini.

**LANCASTER –** Assumption BVM: Richard Townsend.

**LEBANON –** St. Cecilia: George Straniggerty, Nicholas Verna.

**LEWISTOWN –** Sacred Heart of Jesus: Ann Attivo, Dorothy Ferencz.

**LITTLESTOWN –** St. Aloysius: August J. Heilig.

**LYKENS –** Our Lady Help of Christians: John Yanoscak.

**MANHEIM –** St. Richard: Eleanor Prince.

**MCHSRYSTOWN –** Annunciation BVM: Catherine Lake, Thomas J. Livelsberger.


**MIDDLETOWN –** Seven Sorrows BVM: Vera Shipkowski.

**MOUNT CARMEL –** Divine Redeemer: Lottie C. Leschinsky.

**NEW CUMBERLAND –** St. Theresa: Harry E. Adams, Barbara Payne, Henry Shepky.

**NEW FREEDOM –** St. John the Baptist: Jerome Bradley, George R. Kurtz, III.

**NEW OXFORD –** Immaculate Conception BVM: Harriet Smaine.

**PALMYRA –** Holy Spirit: Mary E. Kunkle.

**SHIPPENSBURG –** Our Lady of the Visitation: Joseph B. Isaac.

**SUNBURY –** St. Monica: Maria Newman.

**WILLIAMSTOWN –** Sacred Heart of Jesus: Louis Readinger.

**YORK –** Immaculate Conception BVM: Michael Brueggeman; St. Patrick: Jack Walsh; St. Rose of Lima: Len Bhat.

To register for either the Spanish or the English retreat, call 717-788-4939.
E-mail undefeatedcourage@gmail.com for the English retreat.

The Catholic Word of the Lord: 7 Essential Principles for Catholic Scripture Study
The program is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in the past and present, and acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion. Visit www.rachelsvineyard.org for information about the confidential retreat. Come and let the healing begin.

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March 31, 2017

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The Diocesan Notebook
Compiled by Jen Reed

SPRITUAL OFFERINGS
Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated April 16 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Labour Church in Harrisburg. Contri-
butions for the poor will be at the door. Contact: 717-731-7371.
A Rosary Rally celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will be held May 3 at 9 a.m. in front of the shrine in Fatima, Portugal. The rally will be sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council in Trappe. Contact: 610-489-0746.

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT
The Diocese of Harrisburg has its first Padre Pio Prayer Group and you are welcome to attend. The Padre Pio Prayer Group was started through St. Padre Pio during his lifetime. A typical prayer routine includes the recitation of the Holy Rosary followed by the Padre Pio Prayer, the novena, the recitation of the Regina Coeli, the recitation of the Psalms, and a repetition of Opus Dei prayers and Additions: Healing the Hearts of the Wounded Dec. 7. Visit www.padrepio.net or call 844-644-4400.

PILGRIMAGES AND RETREATS
33 Days To Morning Glory Marian Consecration Retreat with Father Michael Greely, O.C.D., at the O.C.D. Novitiate in Wilmore, Ky., April 27-30. Includes a Papa John's coupon and one name will be chosen from those who register to attend the next Fr. Michael Gaitley DVD release. Advance registration strongly urged. Contact: 502-761-1272 or email Lagreely@ocd.edu.

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS
An Easter Breakfast Buffet will be held March 31 from 6-10 a.m. at St. Catherine Labour Church in Harrisburg. Tickets are $6 and includes a continental breakfast buffet with beverages. All are welcome for a hearty breakfast. Contact: 717-731-7371.

HEALING WOUNDS AND WARMING HEARTS

DIOCESAN NOTEBOOK
Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lewistown might be the diocese’s smallest school, but it’s big on prayer, caring and service as part of its education.

“Everyone from the alumni and teachers to the parents and students are what make this school special,” said Dr. Joseph Maginnis, principal.

One of Sacred Heart’s biggest projects is a food drive for Veterans, an effort that involves the local community in tandem with the school, located in Mifflin County, on the diocese’s northwestern edge.

Students and parents visit stores to ask for their involvement in the food drive, and leave behind empty boxes to be filled with donations. Later, they return to pick up the boxes and then bring together all the items for sorting, assembly and distribution.

“The students make such a great effort in this service project, and I can’t say enough about their care for others,” Dr. Maginnis said.

He spoke highly of Sacred Heart graduates as well, who serve on the school board, volunteer in various capacities, and are among dedicated donors “who come through for us every year.”

The school community shared the fruits of its faith-based education with Bishop Ronald Gainer on March 23, as he visited Sacred Heart to celebrate Mass and sit at the center of a question-and-answer session with the students.

“We’re excited and pleased that the bishop visited with us,” Dr. Maginnis said. “Sacred Heart School is a lovely, happy, peaceful place, and we want to share that with everyone. I’m in love with this place. The kids really make it a great school.”

(For information about Sacred Heart of Jesus School, visit www.sacredheartschool.com or call 717-248-5351.)