Pope Francis Appoints Father Malesic as Bishop of Greensburg Diocese

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Standing before diocesan employees and members of the local media gathered at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, Pa., on April 24, Father Edward C. Malesic said he will bring hope, faith, joy, love and kindness to his Episcopal ministry there.

Bishop-Elect Malesic, 54, who has served as a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg for 28 years, was appointed by Pope Francis as bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg. He will succeed Bishop Lawrence Brandt, who submitted his letter of resignation to Pope Francis last year when he reached age 75. The announcement of Bishop-Elect Malesic’s appointment was made in the Harrisburg Diocese by Bishop Ronald Gainer on April 24.


“I am both greatly honored and deeply humbled by the decision of Pope Francis to appoint me as the fifth bishop of the great Diocese of Greensburg. This is an office that I never strove for nor expected — thus my shock,” Bishop-Elect Malesic said during the press conference.

“But now that reality is setting in, I must thank God who has blessed me so much in this life and in the priesthood,” he said. “It has been quite a journey so far and I suppose there is much more to come — and the people of Greensburg are going to be a huge part of my journey from now on. I am grateful to Pope Francis for placing his confidence in me. I do not feel deserving of it, but I am accepting of it. I love Pope Francis, and the way he has asked us all to examine and deepen our personal relationship with God. I give him my loyalty and devotion.”

The Mass of Ordination and Installation will take place on Monday, July 13, 2015, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg. His Episcopal motto, which comes from the beginning of Psalm 100, will be “Serve the Lord with gladness.”

“This is truly a joyous day for the Diocese of Greensburg as we celebrate that unbroken continuation of God’s care for our diocese through Pope Francis, the 265th successor of St. Peter and shepherd of the universal Church,” said Bishop Brandt.

“We are deeply grateful for this providential sign of the Holy Father’s solicitude for the Church of Greensburg in appointing Bishop-Elect Malesic as our new chief shepherd.”

“I personally have been deeply moved and impressed during my more than 11 years as Bishop of Greensburg by the faith of the Catholics in our four counties of southwestern Pennsylvania,” he said.

More BISHOP-ELECT MALESIC, page 5
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

On April 29, 1945, 16-year-old Ernie Gross was standing in line with other gaunt prisoners being ordered to enter the gas chambers at the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany. He knew death surely awaited him.

It had been a year since Hungarian occupiers had deported Ernie, his parents and his seven siblings from their home in Romania, first to a crammed ghetto, and then on to Auschwitz, where his parents and younger siblings were gassed and cremated.

Ernie and two older brothers were put to labor at Auschwitz for nearly a year, barely surviving on potatoes, bits of bread and meager soup before being shuttled to Dachau.

Crammed into unsanitary conditions on a Dachau death train for several days, where he watched as some prisoners died of starvation, exposure and exhaustion, Ernie had been scheduled to arrive at the gas chamber on April 28. However, heavy fire from Allied forces in the area caused the train to stop, and Ernie was able to escape and join his surviving brothers.

Young Ernie looked up at the sky and imitated the words of a newspaper article that Mr. Greenbaum told the crowd at Lancaster Catholic of a newspaper article that Mr. Greenbaum told the crowd at Lancaster Catholic: “They’re going to be put into an empty building, they’ll take off their clothes, and they will be gassed and immediately they will die. Then they will be shoved into the crematorium.”

Mr. Greenbaum told the crowd at Lancaster Catholic: “I’m 90 years old. In ten years, none of us will be left to tell our story.”

“I Don’t Even Have a Name”

As the ten members of the Gross family prepared to disembark the train at Auschwitz in May of 1944, they watched as other prisoners were split into two lines—one veering to the left, and one veering to the right.

Ernie, 15, watched as his parents and younger siblings before him were sent to the left. Then, an older prisoner asked Ernie his age. The prisoner advised Ernie to tell the Nazi guard that he was 17, so that he could go with his older brothers into the line that split to the right.

“If you say you’re 15, you’re going to go with your parents and younger siblings,” Mr. Gross recalled the prisoner’s words. “They’re going to be put into an empty building, they’ll take off their clothes, and they will be gassed and immediately they will die. Then they will be shoved into the crematorium.

Young Ernie looked up at the sky. It was completely obliterated from the smoke pouring from the crematorium.

More HOLOCAUST, page 6

The Catholic Response

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

...we ask all Christians to join us in meditating on the catastrophe which befell the Jewish people and on the moral imperative to ensure that never again will selfishness and hatred grow to the point of sowing such suffering and death. Most especially we ask our Jewish friends, whose terrible fate has become a symbol of the aberrations of which man is capable when he turns against God, to hear us with open hearts.

(We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah)

The Holocaust Remembrance Day program hosted by Lancaster Catholic High School on April 16 allowed the entire school community and guests to give pause for reflection on the atrocities of the Shoah, and the Church’s response to it.

The captivating and emotionally-charged program opened with the drama club’s performance of “I Never Saw Another Butterfly,” a one-act play based on the lives of several children and their teacher who survived living conditions in the ghetto at Terezin, where they spent time before most of them were sent to die at Auschwitz.

In-class sessions on the Holocaust presented by Lancaster Catholic’s Christian service classes bookended the day, which featured a catechetical session by Bishop Ronald Gainer on the Church’s response to the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, a presentation from the Anti-Defamation League, reflections on St. John Paul II, a prayer service and a choral selection.

Bishop Gainer, during his presentation, spoke of the question frequently asked during times of catastrophe: Where was God? It’s a question often asked during discussion of the Holocaust, he said.

“I would say, from our Christian lens, that God was on those trains. God was in those barracks. God was with the people when they walked into what they told were showrooms but were gas chambers. God was with the dead in the ovens,” Bishop Gainer said. “God was there. That’s who our God is: present to us in our suffering, present to us in our death.”

The Bishop read excerpts from Nostra Aetate, the Church’s declaration on its relationship with non-Christians. This document of the Second Vatican Council denounces hatred and persecution aimed at the Jewish people, communicates the false idea that the Jewish people were responsible for Jesus’ death, and promotes dialogue with the Jewish people to build a communion of fraternity.

He also read passages from “We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah,” a 1998 document by the Catholic Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, which calls on Catholics to remember the atrocities and to repent for past errors.

“We do not have to remember? If we forget, if we hear people say it didn’t happen, if we don’t keep alive the facts before ourselves and the world, then the fear of repetition becomes more and more real,” Bishop Gainer remarked.

The Holocaust Day of Remembrance was generated in large part from the desires and ideas of Lancaster Catholic students, noted Deb Waters, Director of Campus Ministry. The program also offered catechesis and reflection for those who will visit Auschwitz next summer as part of the diocese’s World Youth Day pilgrimage.

In the days after the program, “The students continued to react to the raw honesty of the speakers,” Mrs. Waters said. “They were captivated by real people speaking to them about their real experiences. There have been many conversations about forgiveness and how you are able to offer forgiveness in the face of such an atrocity, and our responsibility for our fellow brothers and sisters.”
Diocese Acknowledges National Merit Scholars

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Four diocesan school students who have been named as finalists in this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program are being honored during a special luncheon with Bishop Ronald Gainer and staff of the Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools on April 21 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

This year’s finalists are Will Spaar and Chris Shatzer of Delone Catholic High School, Thomas Thole of York Catholic High School, and Patrick Walsh of Lancaster Catholic High School.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for high school students to receive recognition and college scholarships. Nearly 1.5 million students enter the program each year. To become a Finalist, a student must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test. The student must also complete an application and essay detailing their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Will Spaar of Delone Catholic High School has earned the Master of Ceremonies title from seven years of serving as an altar server. He also volunteers with the after-school recycling program, and has assisted in clearing and creating trails at the Broad Brook Scout Reservation as part of his Order of the Arrow. Will is a member of the Kairos VI Core Team, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and the OMNI Club, and has been in the top 10 percent of his class throughout high school. He plans to attend Franciscan University to pursue a degree in English or software design.

Chris Shatzer of Delone Catholic High School is a first-place winner in “Writer’s Today, Author’s Tomorrow,” a recipient of the 2014 Daughters of American Revolution Award from winning the essay contest, a key member of the Speech and Debate Team, editor of the school’s annual publication, a participant in the school’s theatrical productions, a member of Inquire, and has been in the top ten percent of his class throughout high school. He plans to attend either Gettysburg or McDaniel College in the fall to pursue a degree in political science and international relations.

Father Michael Messner has returned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus rectory in Lancaster County to the parish, where he continues his recovery from a fall in February. The transfer took place on April 18.

While remaining under doctor’s care, Father Messner maintains a schedule that includes physical, occupational and cognitive therapy three times per week. While remaining under doctor’s care, Father Messner maintains a schedule that includes physical, occupational and cognitive therapy three times per week.

Prayers for his continued recovery are welcomed and encouraged.

Note from Msgr. Kujovsky’s Family

The family of Msgr. Thomas Kujovsky wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent Mass cards and condolences after his passing. We are grateful for the kindness and compassion extended to us.

Sincerely,
Ann Kury and Family

Father Messner Returns Home

Diocesan News Release

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While remaining under doctor’s care, Father Messner maintains a schedule that includes physical, occupational and cognitive therapy three times per week. He is able to walk short distances and has not yet returned to driving a vehicle. Although he is very much looking forward to resuming his parish ministry, there continues to be no firm date for that to take place. According to Msgr. Richard Youzt, parish Administrator Pro-Tem, “Father Messner is very slowly easing his way back into ministry. He very much is looking forward to being active in the life of the parish.”

Prayers for his continued recovery are welcomed and encouraged.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

May 1 – Confirmation, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lewistown, 7 p.m.
May 2 – Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, Selinsgrove, 10 a.m.; Main Celebrant and Homilist at Floral Offertory to Mary, Vietnamese Community, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
May 3 – Confirmation, Seven Sorrows BVM Church, Middletown, 3 p.m.
May 5 – Ordination of Bishop-Elect John Stowe, Lexington, KY.
May 7 – Confirmation, St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
May 8 – Confirmation, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Berwick, 7 p.m.
May 9 – Confirmation, St. Columbia Church, Bloomsburg, 10 a.m.
May 11 – Confirmation, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Mount Carmel, 7 p.m.
May 12 – Golden Apples Award Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, 6 p.m.
May 13 – Closing Address to Diocesan Schools via Zoom Conference, 10 a.m.; Theology on Tap, Anne Bailey’s Irish Pub, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.
May 14 – Main Celebrant and Homilist at Mass on the Feast of the Ascension, Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, 9:45 a.m.
May 16 – Diocesan Ordinations, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

Ordinations to Diaconate and Priesthood

EMILY M. ALIBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

In this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program stand with Bishop Ronald Gainer, center, and Father Edward Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education, left. Finalists from left are Thomas Thole of York Catholic High School, Will Spaar and Chris Shatzer of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, and Patrick Walsh of Lancaster Catholic High School.

Diocesan high school students who are finalists in this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program include: Thomas Thole of York Catholic High School, Will Spaar and Chris Shatzer of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, and Patrick Walsh of Lancaster Catholic High School.

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Ordinations to Diaconate and Priesthood

With praise and gratitude to Almighty God, the Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the ordinations of

Steven John Arena
Samuel Isaiah Dubois
John Michael Kuchinski
Richard Joseph Mowery
Brian Thomas Olkowski

to the Order of the Diaconate

To the Order of the Presbyterate

With praise and gratitude to Almighty God, the Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the ordinations of

Donald Haug Bender, Jr.
Ryan Michael Fischer
Matthew Robert Laritz

to the Order of the Presbyterate

Ordination to the Priesthood

Through the imposition of hands by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
The Cathedral of Saint Patrick
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA
A Glimpse of
The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia is a community of approximately 475 Catholic women religious who choose a Gospel way of life lived in community and uphold a long and honored tradition of loving God and being in relationships through loving service.

We are committed to the needs of others, especially the economically poor, the marginal, and the oppressed. We are willing to take the necessary risks to be a healing, compassionate presence in our violent world, especially for women, children, and those who have no voice.

In 1855, Mother Francis Bachmann founded the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Her legacy includes her inspiring counsel, which is still relevant today. She said, “There is no risk, no gain,” and “as long as God does not stop giving to us, we shall not stop giving to the poor.” Mother Francis’ ideals remain as a challenge and an inspiration to all who continue the journey of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

Along our journey, we have sought to be faithful to Mother Francis’ goal of serving the people of God wherever a need existed. Today our sisters minister in the United States in approximately 19 states, as well as in Haiti, Ireland, and Africa. We serve in a variety of ministries and settings: prayer ministry; health care; education at all levels; parish and diocesan ministry; spiritual and pastoral care; service to the elderly, the homeless, the poor, persons with AIDS, and immigrants and refugees; counseling; advocacy; and leadership in national religious organizations.

Although changing circumstances in society and in the Church have inspired the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia to find new ways of proclaiming the Good News of God’s faithful presence in the world, their mission has remained constant: to live the Gospel message in the unique spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, faithful to the vision of Mother Francis Bachmann. Accompanying our sisters on this journey are Franciscan Companions in Mission, more than 400 Christian women and men who share in and live out the spirit and mission of the congregations, within their own vocation and lifestyle.


Consecrated Life: Looking to the Future with Hope

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Many, many years ago, when I was a novice, the sisters in formation were invited to The Forum in Harrisburg for a choral presentation called El Shahda. This musical “play” traced salvation history through the lives of Abraham, Moses and Mary. As the memory of the specifics of the dialogue of each character has faded with time, there is one aspect I can remember that still causes me to pause. Moses describes his perspective of an awesome God whose right hand is magnificent in power and magnificent in holiness (Exodus 15:6-11). Through song and the spoken word, the actor portraying Moses summarized his experience of God who is intrinsically involved with all of creation and specifically concerned with the life of His chosen people. At the end of his section, he describes going up Mount Nebo and looking at a great distance at the coming of the Promised One. At the crest of this great mountain range, he gazes into the Promised Land and into the future as the fulfillment of scripture is reached (Deuteronomy 32:48-50). As he does so, he is filled with joy in the knowledge that God does indeed fulfill His promises!

I could not help thinking of this when I read Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter on Consecrated Life. In this, Pope Francis announces, “embrace the future with hope!” He then lists the difficulties that the global Church experiences today as the headlines portray: “… Decreasing vocations and aging members; … economic problems stemming from the global financial crisis; issues of internationalization and globalization; the threats posed by relativism and a sense of isolation and social irrelevance.” We could easily throw up our hands and scream, “What’s the use? The problems are greater than we can solve! I am afraid of what the future brings.” Pope Francis reminds us that we are called to live the virtue of hope, “the fruit of our faith in the Lord of history, who continues to tell us: ‘Be not afraid … for I am with you’ (Jer 1:8).”

The opposite of fear, I believe, is hope. Pope Francis goes on, “This hope is not based on statistics or accomplishments, but on the One in whom we have put our trust (cf. 2 Tim 1:2), the One for whom ‘nothing is impossible’ (Lk 1:37). This is the hope which does not disappoint; it is the hope which enables [us] to keep writing [our] history well into the future. It is to that future that we must always look, conscious that the Holy Spirit spurs us on so that he can still do great things with us.”

Hope is a virtue which I like to define as Having Optimism that Potentials are Everywhere. With this perspective, what we are experiencing, I like to think, is a moment of transformation, an instance of Christ coming into our lives in a new way. Pope Benedict XVI, in Spe Salvi, On Christian Hope, says it this way, “The one, who has hope, lives differently: the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life … To come to know God—the true God—means to receive hope.” (2,3) The person who lives with the virtue of hope is fed through the power and strength of Eucharist. It is when we consciously and actively participate in the Eucharist that we come closest to “Christ our Hope!” (1 Tim. 1:1)

So with Moses, we can stand on the crest of the Appalachians and look forward to the future of the Church and the change it will bring. The opposite of hope, I believe, is despair. Pope Francis says, “Despair is a stain that attaches itself to the whole life of the Church.” (2,3)

To reiterate what I stated above, if we are to live the Gospel message, we cannot live in a vain, shallow, apathy that is contrary to the mind of Christ. In the Word of God, we are given the foundation that is necessary in order to live a life of faith. In the Gospels, in the Words of Christ, we are given the foundation that is necessary in order to live a life of faith.

The Wonders of the Word

The Catholic Witness • March 1, 2015

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The Catholic Witness
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer: Archbishop and Pryse Bishop
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continued. “I am confident that you, Bishop-Elect Malesic, likewise, will find that this diocese and its people are exceptional in their commitment to their faith and their love of the Church. I know your new spiritual family will have a special place in their hearts for you.”

The Diocese of Greensburg was established in 1951, and includes Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties. It has a Catholic population of 148,937 in 78 parishes.

“You will be my needed collaborators,” Bishop-Elect Malesic told the flock in Greensburg. “Together, we will work to build up the Kingdom of God in our diocese.”

“Now, you are most likely wondering, who is this guy from Harrisburg… In short, as Pope Francis said of himself, I too am a fellow sinner. But because I am a fellow believer I have also received the mercy of God – I want to proclaim that,” he said. “God is good. With God, there is mercy and fullness of redemption. I am very much looking forward to celebrating the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy, recently announced by Pope Francis. Plain and simple, I am a disciple of Jesus. I believe that he gives life – and I believe that he gives peace. I believe he founded the Catholic Church I love so much. I believe that he gives life and I believe that he is with us now and in a special way he is sending the Holy Spirit upon us to create us anew. He is the source of my joy.”

Bishop-Elect Malesic was born August 14, 1960, in Harrisburg to Joseph A. and the late Elizabeth Schatt Malesic, and was raised in Enhaut. He is a 1978 graduate of Central Dauphin East High School and a 1980 graduate of Central Pennsylvania, Ohio. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Harrisburg by then-Bishop William H. Keeler on May 30, 1987.

He has served in various pastoral assignments in the Diocese of Harrisburg. He was the assistant pastor at St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland from 1987-1989 and at St. Rose of Lima Parish in York from 1989-1992. While in York, he also served as the Catholic Campus Minister of York College of Pennsylvania.

He was appointed to full-time campus ministry in 1992 and served for four years at Millersville University. In 1993, he was also appointed to campus ministry at Franklin and Marshall College in nearby Lancaster. In 1996, Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo sent him to study Canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He received his licentiate in Canon Law in 1998 and has served the Diocesan Tribunal in various capacities, including Auditor, Adjutant Judicial Vicar and Secretary for Canonical Services. He was appointed Judicial Vicar in 2006. He has resided at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg and at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicburg. While living in Mechanicburg, Bishop-Elect Malesic also served the spiritual needs of the students of Messiah College in Grantham.

In 2004, he was appointed to Holy Infant Parish in York Haven first as administrator and later as pastor. He has guided that parish for the last 11 years and is currently overseeing the relocation and construction of a new church and parish center, which is scheduled for completion in 2016.

Bishop-Elect Malesic has served the following boards, committees and organizations: Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, Continuing Formation of Clergy Commit-tee, Seminarian Review Board, Diocesan Presbyteral Council, College of the diocese to become a bishop of Administrative Board, and the Youth Protection Committee of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

“The people of the Diocese of Harrisburg have formed me in my faith from my early childhood and in the priesthood,” Bishop-Elect Malesic said during the press conference. “Every parish and community that I have lived in and served has taught me something more about what it means to be a Christian. I am grateful. I especially want to thank the Tribunal Staff of Harrisburg and the staff and people of Holy Infant Parish in York Haven, the place where I have served as pastor for the past 11 years. I will need them more than ever over these next few weeks and I promise to bring back some Pittsburgh Steelers memorabilia. Perhaps Terrible Towel or two.”

Bishop-Elect Malesic is the fifth priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg to be appointed Bishop and the second since 2011. The first was Bishop Lawrence F. Schott, who served as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Harrisburg from 1956 until his death in 1963. Cardinal William Keeler, retired of Baltimore, was named as an Auxiliary Bishop for the diocese in 1979. In 2004, then-Father Kevin C. Rhoades became the third priest of the diocese to become a bishop of Harrisburg. The fourth appointment of a Harrisburg priest was Bishop William Walterscheid, who was named Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh in 1974.

“You are also as unknown to me as I am to you,” Bishop-Elect Malesic said to those of the Greensburg Diocese. “But I know that people are inherently good, that if you love them they will normally love you back. And if you challenge them, they are often up to the challenge. I believe that there are people with deep faith everywhere, and I expect I will find great faith within the four counties that make up the Diocese of Greensburg, just as I have found it over and over again in the Diocese of Harrisburg.”

(Find more resources and coverage of the appointment at www.hbgdiocese.org and www.dioceseofgreensburg.org.)
Holocaust

Continued from 2

“I did not have time to digest what this prisoner told me,” Mr. Gross recollected his European accent still heavy. “When it was my turn to state my age, I froze because I was so scared. I told the guard I was 17, and he believed me.”

Ernie and his older brothers were sent to work—mindless physical labor intended to kill the body and the spirit. They were ordered to shave all the hair from their bodies and wear only prison clothes; Ernie’s were emblazoned with his identification number: 71366.

“Not only did I lose everything, now I don’t even have a name,” he said.

They faced hunger, routine beatings and hard labor every day of their year at Auschwitz. Those who couldn’t keep up with the walk to the work sites, or who were deemed as not producing enough effort digging trenches, carrying boulders or shoveling dirt were killed on site.

At the podium on the stage in Lancaster Catholic’s gym, Mr. Gross held up a plastic 12 oz. cup for all to see.

“This held our food for one day—either some soup at night, or half a potato, if we were lucky. Other times, we ate only potato skins. And for me, at the time, even the skin of a potato tasted just as good as a slice of pizza with extra cheese tastes to you,” he told the students.

He held up a sample loaf of bread, eight inches long, at most. “This was not for one person,” he said. “We had to divide it into eight pieces to share with eight people.”

In late April of 1945, Ernie and his two brothers were ordered with other prisoners to board a boxcar, which would take them to Dachau. The Third Reich, on the verge of defeat, was moving prisoners to camps deeper within Germany.

The days-long train ride resulted in death for many, including one of Ernie’s brothers.

Arriving at Dachau on April 29, little did the surviving prisoners know that freedom awaited.

Liberation and Truth

Don Greenbaum joined the United States Army in 1943, at the age of 18. He served in the 283rd Field Artillery Battalion as a radio technician and forward observer, riding in front of the army to spot German positions and relay them to the battalion.

On Nov. 9, 1944, the jeep in which he was riding was destroyed by German fire, and Mr. Greenbaum spent several weeks in a hospital. He would be awarded the Purple Heart.

After recuperating from his injuries, he was sent back into action, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge in General George Patton’s Third Army.

Then, in late April of 1945, Mr. Greenbaum was among the troops ordered to destroy a German supply depot located outside of Munich. It was during this mission that they encountered the unspeakable horrors at the Dachau camp.

“A mile from the depot, we came across a tremen-

dous odor that, to this day 70 years later, I can still recall. Then we found 15 boxcars of dead bodies, just thrown in like pieces of wood,” Mr. Greenbaum said. He was 20 years old when he came upon Dachau.

“We just couldn’t imagine what this was. For us, there had been no mention of a concentration camp or a death camp, but there it was,” he said.

American troops didn’t encounter SS members or Nazi guards, as they had received word of the advancing troops and so fled the camp.

“At Dachau, we found men like Ernie, weighing 85 or 90 pounds,” Mr. Greenbaum said. The troops calmed on those behind them to bring soft food, blankets and medical supplies.

“And then we went on,” Mr. Greenbaum said—of military positioning and of life after World War II.

“The next week, the war was over, and we went home. Most of us went to college, got married, had children,” he said.

As for Ernie, he spent time in a displaced persons camp for several months to recuperate and—with any luck—find family members. Of the ten members of the Gross family who were torn from their home in Romania a year earlier and sent to Auschwitz and Dachau, Ernie, two brothers and one sister survived.

Survivors who were orphaned and under the age of 21 were eventually relocated through a program to the United States. Ernie arrived in New York City in 1947 and then moved to Philadelphia, where his father’s three sisters lived.

As wife went on, Mr. Gross and Mr. Greenbaum both buried their memories of the Holocaust, until circumstances motivated them to speak earnestly about the mass genocide.

“Mr. Gross was first moved to share his story after the death of first wife, to whom he had been married for 19 years. She too had spent time in a concentration camp, but neither she nor her husband shared their experiences with each other, or with their own children.

Mr. Greenbaum began sharing his memories to any- one who would listen after he heard news reports of people claiming that the Holocaust never happened.

“To this day, I can’t accept that intelligent men would go home at night, kiss their kids, have dinner with their wife, and go to sleep knowing that the next day they would kill innocent people again. But it did happen,” Mr. Greenbaum said.

“I just couldn’t understand how mankind could do this to mankind,” he continued. “It was horrific, and unfortunately it’s happening again in the world. We want to spread the word so that this does not happen again.”

Late last month, to observe the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau, Mr. Gross and Mr. Greenbaum went to Germany, accompanied by the German History Channel as part of a documentary.

They told the crowd at Lancaster Catholic that they were unsure of how they would feel returning to the site that once held such horrors, but they knew they would have an important message to share.

“I want to tell the world that we have to love each other, and that’s what works to make this world a bet- ter place,” Mr. Gross said. “To hate never works. It turns into crime, crime turns into violence, violence turns into murder. We all have to love each other—no matter who we are, what we look like. That’s the only thing that works.”
Bishop Gainer invites you to join him on a journey of prayer and healing for our families in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The journey begins by attending one of the eucharistic evenes of reflection and adoration (dates & locations below) and culminates in a diocesan conference on the family on Saturday, July 11, at Bishop McDevitt High School. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**CHRIST — TRUE HOPE OF THE FAMILY**

*Catholic Witness* • 7 corproject.com

Four opportunities to attend:

- June 1 at Saint Leo the Great Church, Lancaster
- June 2 at Saint Pius X Church, Selinsgrove
- June 3 at Saint Joseph Church, Hanover
- June 24 at Saint Margaret Mary Church, Harrisburg

**FAMILY, BECOME WHAT YOU ARE!**

**Diocesan Conference with Bishop Gainer, Christopher West, and Jason Clark**

Saturday, July 11
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg

Free admission. All sessions are 7-9 p.m.

**Bishop Ronald Gainer** will speak about the significance of Pope Francis’s visit to Pennsylvania for the World Meeting of Families and how families in the Diocese of Harrisburg can participate and prepare their hearts for this historic event.

**Christopher West**, best-selling author and world-renowned presenter of Catholic teaching on marriage and the family, will demonstrate how a “eucharistic understanding of the family” offers true hope for us to overcome the many challenges we face in today’s world.

**Jason Clark**, musician and worship leader, will start the evening in song and provide music during the time of eucharistic adoration that will conclude the evening.

**Lunch will be provided. Concludes with Sunday Vigil Mass with Bishop Gainer.**

For more information or to register visit hbgdiocese.org/journey or call 717-657-4804 x317

**A Journey toward the World Meeting of Families for the Diocese of Harrisburg**
Cardinal George

Continued from 1

said. “He offered a life joined to the cross of Christ; a life of faith, hope, conviction and courage; a soul devoted to prayer; a brilliant mind in love with God, a vision of the New Jerusalem. Because he gave these things and more away, he took them with him to meet the Lord. ... What Francis George received, he handed on to us. So has it ever been in the church, and so shall it ever be, now through you and me.”

At the end of the Mass, Archbishop Cupich offered words of condolence and support to Margaret Cain, Cardinal George’s sister, and the rest of his family. He thanked the dignitaries who attended, including Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, for their support, and thanked the media for carrying the services surrounding the cardinal’s death to a wider audience. Rauner declared April 23 “Francis Cardinal George Day” in Illinois.

The Mass ended with Archbishop Roger L. Schweitz of Anchorage, Alaska, a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the order to which Cardinal George belonged, offering the final prayer of commendation, imploring God to “open the gates of paradise to your servant.”

Then his casket was carried out of the cathedral by a group of pallbearers made up of priests ordained by Cardinal George in the past two years. Overall, the cardinal ordained 222 priests for the archdiocese.

Following Mass a funeral procession, which included four buses of mourners, made its way to All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois, where Cardinal George requested to be buried in his family plot. Other Chicago cardinals and archbishops are buried either at Mundelein Seminary or in the bishops’ chapel at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

In a move reserved mostly for U.S. presidents, a portion of the Kennedy Expressway was closed just before rush hour so the procession could travel past Cardinal George’s home parish and school, St. Pascal, in the city’s Portage Park neighborhood. Students from the school waved to the procession as it passed and other mourners lined the route to the cemetery.

More than 200 people greeted the procession at All Saints, including a homeschooling group that held a sign reading “Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.”

“We loved Cardinal George,” said Wanda Glitz, who came with the group. “We just wanted to come and say goodbye and honor him as he comes to his final resting place.”

(Martin is a staff writer and Doriga is editor of the Catholic New World, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago.)

Bishop Visits Selinsgrove Center

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass for the residents of Selinsgrove Center in Snyder County on April 15. The state-owned facility serves 250 people in various living areas, supporting residents with daily living, social skills, medical care and vocational training.

Michael Garner was among several residents who served the bishop during Mass as an altar server. Other residents presented the gifts and created a prayerful congregation at the Mass in the center’s chapel.

A reception was held after Mass where residents and administrators could meet the bishop and Father Daniel Powell, who serves as chaplain at the center and is pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Selinsgrove.
World Mission Rosary
“Give the World a Great Big Hug”

To people of a certain age, those words may ring a bell. Bishop Fulton Sheen created the World Mission Rosary in 1951. Sheen had a famous television show watched by about 30 million people every week, “Life is Worth Living,” and was the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1950-1966.

Bishop Sheen loved the missions, visited them often, and encouraged people to be generous to the missions and especially to pray for them. By linking the colors of the beads with a different mission area in the world, Sheen used to say that when you had finished praying the World Mission Rosary, you had given the world a great big hug!

Each set of beads on the World Mission Rosary is a different color. To pray the World Mission Rosary, think about each area of the world each time you start a new set of beads. There are also special missionary intentions that may be prayed with each decade.

The World Mission Rosary and the Missionary Childhood Association

The Missionary Childhood Association, whose motto is “children helping children,” is the Harrisburg Diocese’s official mission project for our diocesan children. Educators in our diocesan schools and parish religious education programs teach our children that by our baptism, we become members of a family—the family of the Church. Family members have responsibilities, and our responsibility is to share faith.

Some people fulfill this responsibility by actually going to mission countries to bring the Good News of Jesus to our brothers and sisters who are most in need. But most of us are missionaries by prayer and sacrifice.

Missionary spirit begins with prayer. Every person is able to offer prayers. Prayers lead to sacrifices. Every person can offer up suffering, temporary or chronic, for those who suffer daily in mission lands. Every person can give up something with the intention of sacrificing for the missions.

The World Mission Rosary encourages our children (and us!) to pray for the missions.

To "give the world a great big hug." For more information about the World Mission Rosary, or to volunteer as a rosary maker, or if you are a teacher/catechist who would like to obtain World Mission Rosaries to teach your students about the missions, please contact the Diocesan Missions Office at (717) 657-4804, ext. 240, or email missions@hbgdiocese.org. (Karen Harding is the Diocesan MCA Coordinator and administrative assistant for the Missions Office.)

Rosary Makers

When the Missions Office first posted the notice in parish bulletins in the fall of 2013, I wondered if we would get a response. We wanted to provide World Mission Rosaries for all of our diocesan children as a means of teaching them how to pray for children in the missions. However, it was much too expensive to buy the finished rosaries. Instead we were able to purchase the raw supplies for corded rosaries at a fraction of the cost of a finished rosary. The challenge was to find volunteers to put them together.

The office phone rang off the hook almost immediately. We heard from a variety of people, from rosary groups who make them by the hundreds, to folks who have a knack for crafts and wanted to give it a try. But most had not heard of the World Mission Rosary, so I had to begin by explaining what it was and why we wanted to re-introduce it to our diocesan children.

Those who had not made rosaries before needed to teach themselves the craft. It all comes down to the knot. Knots separate the Ave, or Hail Mary, decades from the Pater, or Our Father, beads, and attach the centerpiece and the crucifix. The knot must be perfectly made, or the rosary falls apart. There’s a handy plastic knotting tool that costs just 20 cents which allows the makers to tie a neat, tight knot—but it can be tricky. Once that skill is mastered, the rest falls in place, except for the occasional miscount of beads. One gentleman told me that before the knotting tools were available, they used to make their own out of the spines of broken umbrellas. He showed me his, which was cut to size, filed smooth, and imbedded into a wooden handle. It has served him well for decades. How ingenious!

When the first package of beads arrived, my next challenge was to divide them into the right number of each color to match the number of rosaries each person volunteered to make. The bags resembled sacks of colorful Tic-Tacs but are not easy to sort, as they tend to roll everywhere. I took a batch home one evening and began to count and, careful as I was, some ended up on the floor. I’m sure there were a few dog hairs in that packet. Then I sent the materials out to the volunteers and waited.

Finished rosaries started coming back. Some needed a little work by trimming uneven ends and occasionally shortening the cord. More than a few arrived in a tangled bunch. We began filling up plastic bins with bundles of rosaries. But even more amazing than the sight of all those colorful rosaries were the stories I began to hear from the rosary makers. There were several mothers who worked with their children on Confirmation and service hours. Another mother and her college daughter competed to see who could make the most rosaries during summer break. One woman works together with her husband, who is recovering from a stroke and uses a walker. She recently heard from another woman who does the same with her sister. Beads traveled to the Outer Banks, where a volunteer made rosaries during vacation. Several makers told me they found that the time knotting and stringing beads was a perfect time for prayerful reflection. One woman provides her own supplies and brings in beautifully crafted rosaries with metal links. Another woman, who has made more than 1,200 rosaries to date, had trouble in the beginning as the knot skill was eluding her. However, she persisted because, as she said, “I would not let a knot beat me!” (Last fall, we began offering the rosaries to our diocesan schools and quickly went through our supply. As more rosaries are completed, we’ll be sharing them.)

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To all the volunteers who helped, we thank you heartily!

As I sort and package the finished rosaries, I see them as a metaphor of our own imperfections. We too have rough ends and tangles; but in our faith, God trims our rough ends, straightens out our tangles, and makes our inner colors shine in a beautiful array as our prayers reach out to “give the world a great big hug.”

Today is for Asia, where the sun rises first each day.

Red is for the Americas, where missionaries journeyed “on fire” with faith in Jesus

White is for Europe, home to the Pope, clothed in white

Blue is for the islands of the Pacific, surrounded by the ocean waters

Green is for Africa, with its many trees and plants.

“Wanted: Rosary Makers”

By Karen Harding
Special to The Witness

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Celebrating Scouts

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated a Mass for all Scouts and their families on April 19 at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill, and presented some 130 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with the religious awards they have earned in the past year.

Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Harrisburg is under the auspices of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, which supports the diocesan Scouting committees with resources, booklet and emblem/recognition programs for Scouts and Scout leaders.

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting gives guidance, direction and leadership in the spiritual phase of Boy Scouting to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters in the diocese. The committee promotes religious emblem programs and holds Scouter development and training meetings, as well as an annual Boy Scout retreat in September at Camp Bashore, which includes religious activities, camp outs and outdoor Mass. The committee is also planning an inaugural summer camp for Boy Scouts from July 19-25, 2015, at Camp Tuckahoe in Dillsburg, with outdoor activities, prayer services, and programs on various saints and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

The Diocesan Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, aimed at encouraging Catholic Girl Scouts to deepen their understanding of the faith, oversees religious recognition programs for Girl Scouts and adult leaders, and offers training for adult leaders interested in Scouting. The committee also hosts several workshops each year where Girl Scouts come together to earn Catholic faith patches.

All individual Catholic Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are invited to attend the programs hosted by the diocesan Scouting committees. For information, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting/.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:


BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Julia Buitz, Margaret L. Ladonis; St. Joseph: Vito Taliana.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Dr. William S. Carr, William H. Cleecker, III.


COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Gerald Fischer, Ray GoodhBU.Th

DANVILLE – St. Joseph: Christine Chubb.

ELIZABETH TOWN – St. Peter: Anthony Fasano, Frances Paul, Mildred Tynio.

GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Victor Alvarez Delgado, Roland L. Hankey, Jr., Mary Agnes Miller.


HARRISBURG – Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Maureen Gross; St. Catherine Laboure: Evelyn Leo, Elizabeth Szuley; St. Margaret Mary: Mildred D. Tynio.


LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Nellie Kubala, Annette Pawlikowski, Shirley Clark, Susan Elder.

LEBISTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Shirley Clark, Susan Elder.

LITTLESTOWN – St. Aloysius: Emile J. Legacy.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Philomena Brown.


NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Sandra Walker.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Barry A. Getchey, Joseph A. Getchey, Mary Jane Hoy, Constance Jones, Robert Zack.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Catherine Knebel, Richard Knebel.


WILLIAMSTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Frances McNamara.

YORK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Carolyn Dorsey, St. Patrick: Michael Land, Mike Sibol; St. Joseph: Carol Selak.

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Resurrection Catholic School Announces ‘Rock the Church’

Four music groups from Lancaster city parishes will gather May 15, at 7 p.m., at St. Anthony of Padua Church to perform their favorite songs in a benefit concert for Resurrection Catholic School.

Called “Rock The Church,” the concert features the choirs and ensembles from Assumption BVM (St. Mary’s), St. Joseph, St. Anthony and San Juan Bautista parishes.

In all, nearly 100 men and women will sing pieces that reflect the diversity of the parishes, the styles of the groups and the scope of their talents. The groups include bilingual musicians who play guitars and congas, traditional church choirs accompanied by an organ, and contemporary ensembles with a modern sound.

For example, attendees will hear “Vayan al Mundo” (Cortez) by the San Juan Bautista ensemble and the rhythmic “Almejia, Almeia!” (Bermón) performed by St. Mary’s choir.

Also appearing will be the Resurrection Singing Saints, the school’s children’s choir, directed by Michael Adams.

“We are pleased to have received the enthusiastic support from the four parishes that support Resurrection Catholic School,” said Principal Brenda Weaver. “The choirs and musical groups possess amazing talent and seeing them together will be a rare treat.”

Weaver said the concert is named to align with the school’s theme for this year, which is “Resurrection Rocks.” The school also wanted to involve the community, so it chose the third Friday in May to be part of Lancaster’s Music Friday.

“Rock the Church” is free to attend, although donations may be offered. A musical CD produced by St. Anthony Music Director Bill Grabowski will be offered to the first 300 to arrive. It will include a selection of the performing ensembles’ songs.

Parish music directors are Grabowski, Anthony Wiker from San Juan Bautista, Stephanie Sands from St. Mary and Dorothea Parrish from St. Joseph.

Historic St. Mary’s in Lancaster Launches Campaign for Renovations

A special campaign effort was launched on April 25 for the benefit of Historic St. Mary’s Church (Assumption BVM), entitled, Our Enduring Legacy Campaign. It has, as its aim, raising the funds required to improve accessiblity to the historic church and to renovate campus facilities. The campaign, which officially commenced with the Kick-Off Celebration, will culminate on Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31, Commencement Weekend, when parishioners will be asked to make their campaign gift commitments.

The goal is to raise $6.6 million to complete the master plan. The project involves three phases, each costing $2.2 million. Phase 1 is the accessibility goal, giving everyone access to the church and first floors of the school and convent. Phases 2 and 3, the Education and Community Goals, include the extensive renovation of the convent and old school building, including a new social hall and a 3-stop elevator. Groundbreaking for Phase 1 is planned for after Easter of 2016.

Mount Carmel Parishioners Wear Orange as Reminder to Pray for Persecuted Christians

At all the weekend Masses on April 11 and 12, Father Frank Karwacki, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel blessed orange ribbons for parishioners to wear as a reminder to pray for Christians who are facing violence, captivity, persecution and brutality at the hands of radical terrorists. Father Karwacki also distributed a prayer to be prayed by those wearing the orange ribbons. Some members dressed in orange for the occasion.

The accompanying photo, which shows Father Karwacki, left, and Deacon Martin McCarthy, right, among parishioners, was shown nationally on the evening news.

For more information about Holy Family Radio, visit www.720whyf.com. The station – recently held a fundraiser that netted $21,968 to support the station’s month-to-month operations.

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Joy, Gratitude Mark Ordination Mass for Washington Auxiliary Bishop

By Mark Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

In a liturgy marked by joy and gratitude, Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville was installed as a new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington April 20 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

After Communion, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, who presided over the mass, called on fellow bishops to join the assembly, as they sang a hymn of thanksgiving. Then cascades of applause filled the cathedral, as Bishop Dorsonville knelt by the cardinal, smiled and walked down the center and then the side aisles, blessing the congregation.

The standing room-crowd filling the majestic cathedral included staff and volunteers from Catholic Charities, where he recently served as the vice president of mission, and the Washington Cathedral Center, where he earlier served as director. Another section of the cathedral was filled with seminarians, including those from the archdiocese’s St. John Paul II Seminary, where the future bishop was adjoint spiritual director.

Bishop Dorsonville, a 54-year-old native of Colombia, will be installed as the 10th auxiliary bishop for the estimated 270,000 Hispanic Catholics in the archdiocese.

Before the Mass, members of the Neocatechumenal Way stood at the bottom of the cathedral’s outside steps, joyfully singing songs in Spanish, accompanied by guitars, tambourines and a drum, with about two dozen people participating.

The opening process included about 125 priests and a dozen bishops, who walked down the center of the cathedral, their faces reflecting the joy of the occasion. The largest Mass celebrated in the diocese, the event enabled Cartier to cover the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass and attend a vigil Mass at three other Catholic churches.

In a homily at the Mass, Cardinal Wuerl noted that a bishop has the responsibility to lead the flock entrusted to his care. “Pope Francis tells us we are to go out, engage with people, and accompany all those we hope to bring to the Lord,” he said.

Addressing the new bishop, the cardinal promised that, “Our prayers, the prayers of all the clergy, religious and faithful of this diocesan Church are, at this moment, for you and your ministry. As you face the challenges of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, you will be constantly supported by our diocesan community. May we see in you the hands of God at work in the lives of God’s Elect, with organ and brass accompaniment.”

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Playing Organ for New York Teams is Sports Heaven for Church Musician

By Gregory A. Shemitz

Catholic News Service

Paul Cartier, an organist at Our Lady of Hope Church in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, finds himself in sports heaven at this time of the year.

In addition to his parish duties, Cartier plays the organ for Major League Baseball’s New York Yankees and the National Hockey League’s New York Islanders.

With baseball season and hockey’s post-season underway, Cartier is a busy man, driving between his two parishes in Uniondale, Hempstead and his job at Our Lady of Hope in Carle Place, Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, and Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale.

He also averages more than 15 hours a week as a volunteer commissioner, firefighter and emergency medical technician with the South Hempstead Fire Department.

Cartier’s schedule was even more hectic when he held a full-time position as a Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controller, a job he retired from in January.

A lifelong sports fanatic, the 56-year-old musician admits to “living a dream,” getting paid to play the organ for his two favorite professional teams. “I have a pinch myself,” he told Catholic News Service during an interview conducted in the organ loft at his parish church. “There are probably a lot of people who wish they could be in my shoes.”

“Now that I’m retired, my job is to go to the stadium or the arena. Can it get better than that?”

Cartier has been an organist at Our Lady of Hope since the parish was founded in 1989. In recent years, he’s played primary and in the pre-game festivities. “The energy at that game took care of itself,” explained Cartier, who was one of the Islanders’ organists when the team won four straight Stanley Cup championships in the early 1980s. “I was all pumped, the place was packed. The fans were screaming before the team came onto the ice.”

Cartier’s biggest thrill as an organist came in 2009 when he was at Yankee Stadium for New York’s World Series-clinching victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 6. “That was fun,” said Cartier, who rode on a float during the team’s championship parade down Broadway in New York City. He and other organists were given World Series rings.

Cartier’s affiliation with the organ began at an early age. When he was 11, he attended a service at his family’s parish. The music director, impressed with his command of the instrument, allowed him to play at a Saturday vigil Mass.

“I was on the eve of my 11th birthday, and I was nervous as heck,” Cartier said of his church debut, adding, “I really couldn’t reach the pedals too well at that point.”

The audition was a success, earning Cartier the Saturday night assignment, which he held for seven years until he began college at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

After a year at Dayton, Cartier decided to return home to Long Island, where he enrolled at Hofstra University in Hempstead. He graduated from the school with a bachelor’s degree in music education.

While at Hofstra, Cartier played the organ Sunday mornings at United Methodist Church of Uniondale and at St. Shar- thoa, a half-mile away, at 11:45.

Despite his frenetic schedule, Cartier – who was honored by the Diocese of Rockville Centre for 35 years of service as a music minister when he was only 46 – always seems to manage to get where he needs to go. “I’ve been pretty lucky,” he said. “I’ve had few conflicts.”

If asked if there are other dream jobs he’d like to pursue as an organist, Cartier said sticking around for the next two massive Wurlitzer pipe organs at Radio City Music Hall in New York during the Christmas season.

“A lot of people don’t know this, but a half-hour before the show, the organist plays for about 15 to 20 minutes,” said Cartier, smiling at the thought. “It’s something I definitely want to do.”
Pope Prays for Quake Victims, Urges Solidarity

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis offered his prayers to all of those affected by a deadly earthquake in Nepal, encouraged rescue and emergency workers in their efforts and sent an initial donation of $100,000.

More than 4,300 people were known to have been killed and an estimated 1 million people were left homeless after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake hit a mountainous region near Kathmandu April 25. The devastation included not just buildings collapsing from the tremors, but also villages being buried by landslides and avalanches triggered by the quake and aftershocks. The number of casualties was expected to be much higher as rescue teams tried to make their way into more remote areas.

“I pray for the victims, those wounded and for all those who suffer because of this calamity,” Pope Francis said after reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square April 26.

Before leading people in praying the Hail Mary together, he expressed his hope that those affected by the disaster would “have the support of fraternal solidarity.”

The Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which promoted and coordinated charitable giving, announced April 28 that Pope Francis had sent “a first contribution of $100,000” to assist the victims.

The money, it said, “which will be sent to the local church, will be used to support assistance efforts underway on behalf of the displaced” and others impacted by the quake.

The papal donation is meant to be “a first and immediate concrete expression” of the pope’s personal concern for all the quake’s victims, Cor Unum said, adding that bishops’ conference and Catholic charities from around the world already have taken an active role in helping survivors.

The money “will be deeply saddened to learn of the earthquake” and the damage it caused, a telegram sent April 25 by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, to Bishop Paul Simick, apostolic vicar of Nepal.

The pope expressed his prayers and solidarity, and “he offers encouragement to the civil authorities and emergency personnel as they continue their rescue efforts and assistance to those touched by this tragedy,” the telegram said. Huge “tent cities” have sprung up in Kathmandu to shelter those whose homes have collapsed or been damaged and those who dare not return as strong aftershocks continue, Caritas Internatio nal reported in press release April 27.

“We hope to go back to our house soon, but are hesitating because of the aftershocks,” said Renuka Magaldevi, 10-year-old daughter outside her destroyed home April 27 on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal. More than 4,300 people were known to have been killed and an estimated 1 million people were left homeless after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake hit a mountainous region near Kathmandu April 25.

Vatican, LCWR Announce Successful Conclusion of Process to Reform Group

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

The Vatican approved new statutes and bylaws for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, ending a seven-year process of investigating the group and engaging in dialogue with its officers to ensure greater harmony with Church teaching.

Archbishop Sartain said April 16 with Pope Francis, the same day the Vatican announced the conclusion of the process, which included oversight for three years by a committee of three bishops.

LCWR has more than 1,500 members, who repre sent more than 80 percent of the 57,000 women religious in the United States.

Four LCWR officers spent 50 minutes with Pope Francis, discussing his apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel,” which they said has so deeply imp aced our lives as women religious and our mission in the world. Our conversation allowed us to personally thank Pope Francis for providing leadership and a vision that has captivated our hearts and embodied us as in our own mission and service to the church,” the statement said.

“From the beginning, our extensive conversations were marked by a spirit of prayer, love for the church, mutual respect and cooperation,” said a joint statement of the U.S. bishops appointed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to oversee the conference’s reform.

“After asking Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of Hart ford, Conn., in 2008 to carry out the doctrinal assessment of LCWR, in April 2012 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith called for the revision of LCWR’s statutes and bylaws. The reform, the Vatican said, was meant to ensure the conference’s fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, eutha nasia, women’s ordination and homosexuality. The orga nization’s canonical status is granted by the Vatican.

“Releasing the assessment, the Vatican had appoint ed Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle to provide ‘review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work’ of the conference and its reform efforts. Archbishop Blair and Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, were named to assist him. The process of arriving at new statutes and bylaws was not always smooth. Meeting conference officers last year, Cardinal Ger hard Muller, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, said this new reform process must continue ‘not only in the statutes and bylaws’ but on many other levels. ‘More than 20 years of inarticulate dialogue and none too little contact with the church’s teaching” has led to deeper misunderstandings,” the officials said.

As the Vatican announced the conclusion of the process, it released a statement from Cardinal Muller saying his office was “confident that LCWR has made clear its mission to support its members institutes by fostering a vision of religious life that is centered on the person of Jesus Christ and is rooted in the tradition of the church.”

“Such a vision, he said, “makes religious women and men radical witnesses to the Gospel, and, therefore, essential for the flourishing of religious life in the church.”

Sister Sharon Holland, LCWR president and vice president of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was unavailable for commenting at the Vati can April 16. However, the Vatican released a state ment from her expressing pleasure that the process had reached a successful conclusion.

“The process involved ‘long and challenging ex changes’ that were ‘conducted always in a spirit of prayer and mutual respect,’” she said. The process, she said, should “ultimately lead to deeper understandings of one another’s experienc es, roles, responsibilities and hopes for the church and the people it serves. We learned that we hold in common much more than any of our differences.”

Archbishop Sartain said, “Our work together was undertaken in an atmosphere of love for the church and profound respect for the passionate witness of religious life in the United States, and the very fact of such substantive dialogue between bishops and religious women has been mutually beneficial and a blessing from the Lord.”

Conclusion of Process to Reform Group
President of North American Lourdes Volunteers Calls Women to Holiness, Service

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The President of the North American Lourdes Volunteers – an association that routinely accompanies people with serious illnesses and disabilities to the holy site of Lourdes – told the ladies gathered at this year’s convention of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) that they are both Marys and Marthas, called to serve the Church in various ways, but to serve nonetheless.

“It is an extraordinary presentation of all women to your pastors, your parish, and to your bishop. You re-present to them all of the needs of all of the women, and all of the contributions that women make to the Church,” Marlene Watkins remarked in her keynote speech.

“But you not only present the problems women face; you also present the solution,” she said.

The 90th annual convention of the HDCCW – this year hosted by the Dauphin District – was titled “Moving Forward in Faith, Service, Hope and Love.”

 Held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg April 20, it included Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer and concelebrated by priests of the diocece, including Father Joseph Gotwalt, who has served as the organization’s spiritual advisor for 25 years. An afternoon workshop celebrating 90 years of the HDCCW, prayer, service initiatives and charitable opportunities were offered throughout the day.

In her keynote address, Mrs. Watkins, a wife, mother and grandmother from Syracuse, N. Y., recounted the service opportunities and obstacles that presented themselves as she set out in service of Lourdes pilgrims in 2001.

It was at Lourdes, France, that Our Lady appeared to a young shepherd girl named Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. During a series of apparitions that year, a spring of water began to flow at the site of the grotto where Mary appeared. Here, Our Lady requested that a chapel be built, and townspeople began to flock to the site of the spring to seek miraculous healing.

The Church proclaimed in 1962 that the apparitions at Lourdes were valid, and deemed the site worthy of pilgrimage. Today, those suffering from illness continue to make spiritual journeys to Lourdes to seek healing.

Mrs. Watkins made her first pilgrimage there in 2000 with a friend. The following year, she accompanied two sick women there, and volunteered to help bathe others who came to the baths. At that time, of the 8,000 volunteers serving Lourdes from around the world, only 16 were American.

“At the end of my shift in the baths, I knelt down and prayed the Rosary. As I went to kiss the floor like Bernadette kissed the ground of the grotto, I felt a fullness in my chest. I promised Our Lady I would come back in one year, with ten holy, Catholic, American women,” Mrs. Watkins recounted.

She kept her promise, and the North American Lourdes Volunteers association was established. It is the first Lourdes Hospitality of the Americas and a Public Association of the Christian Faithful. More than 5,000 people have journeyed to Lourdes through the association, and 100,000 others have been introduced to the holy site via the virtual pilgrimages that the association presents in parishes across the country.

“I was unknown when I set out on this effort,” Mrs. Watkins said. “If you think you’re not a good enough lens, if you think you’re not clear enough for people, ask Our Lady to polish it for you,” Mrs. Watkins said. “Sometimes people don’t think we’re very good, or maybe we don’t fit. But the day that the priest or the deacon made the Sign of the Cross on your forehead, you were called to serve. Your service is to be the lens through which your bishop, your parish, your pastor and other women can see the wonder of women,” she told those gathered at the conference.

“These pilgrimages are not a good enough lens, they are not a good enough lens, if you think that you’re not able, remember that we’re called to just give that little bit that we have.

“We are at different places in our life, but each of us has a different time to serve. Your service is to be the lens through which your bishop, your parish, your pastor and other women can see the wonder of women,” she told those gathered at the conference.

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(Membership in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is open to all women of the diocese who are 18 years of age and older. Visit http://hdccw.webs.com/ or contact your parish Council of Catholic Women.)

(The North American Lourdes Volunteers welcome pilgrims as well as volunteers on their pilgrimages each year. For information on how you can make this journey of faith, or to learn more about the virtual pilgrimages, visit www.lourdesvolunteers.org.)

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Mother and Son: Pope Francis Shares Personal, Intimate Devotion to Mary

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

From Easter to Pentecost — and especially during the Marian month of May — Catholics recite the “Regina Coeli” prayer “with the emotion of children who are happy because their mother is happy” that Jesus has risen from the dead, Pope Francis said.

Although his devotion to the Mother of God is profound, it is simple in many ways: Mary is a mother to every believer; Jesus would not leave his followers orphans.

While his connection to Mary clearly is a matter of heart and mind, it is also physical. Whenever Pope Francis passes a statue or icon of Mary, he kisses it or allows his hand to rest tenderly upon it.

Honoring the Mother of God, of course, is a solid part of Catholic tradition and a mainstay in the devotion and teaching of the popes. St. John Paul II’s motto, “Totus Tuus” (“All yours”), and the large M on his coat of arms were just the most graphic elements of a devotion that led to a whole body of teaching about Mary, her role in Catholics’ faith life and the importance of praying the rosary.

Pope Francis would not have an argument with any of St. John Paul’s Marian piety or discourse. But there are differences.

“The sense of Pope Francis’ devotion to Mary is a little more personal, more intimate” than St. John Paul’s was, said Redemptorist Father Sabatino Majarono, a professor at Rome’s Alphonsianum Institute. Pope Francis expresses “that feeling that exists between a son and his mother, where I think Pope John Paul’s was more that of a subject and his queen.”

The difference, he believes, comes from their roots: Pope Francis’ Latin roots — not just in Argentina, but also from his Italian family — and St. John Paul’s Slavic, Polish culture.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI spoke of prayer in the rosary and recita, which is staffed by his brother and wrote less about Mary than his Italian family – and St. John Paul’s Slavic, Polish culture.

From his Italian family – and St. John Paul’s roots – not just in Argentina, but also from their roots: Pope Francis' Latin order to put it at the service of others, including future generations.

Pope Francis prays in front of a statue of Mary as he arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Feb. 11. The pope is deeply devoted to Mary and often expresses his devotion by praying in front of Marian statues and then gently touching them.

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