Relics of the Saint of Auschwitz

The relics of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest who gave up his life in the Auschwitz concentration camp so that another prisoner could live, came to the diocese this month as part of the largest tour of his relics ever in the United States. As this year marks the 75 years since the saint’s death, the Franciscan Friars Conventual of the Our Lady of the Angels Province, are sponsoring this cross-country pilgrimage.

The bronze reliquary houses strands of St. Maximilian’s beard. Its base is in the shape of Poland, with thorns arising from it. Also growing forth from the base are two flowers – a white lily to represent St. Maximilian’s purity, and a red tulip to represent his martyrdom. The saint’s relics are encapsulated in a small disc intertwined by the Franciscan cord.

The relics were brought to Mother Cabrini Church in Shamokin and St. Patrick Church in Trevorton while in the Diocese of Harrisburg. A simpler version of the relic traveled to the State Correctional Institution in Coal Township for inmates to venerate.

St. Maximilian, canonized in 1982, is the patron saint of prisoners, journalists, families, the pro-life movement, and the chemically addicted.

See page 9 for St. Maximilian’s story, and coverage of the relics’ visit to Mother Cabrini Church.

Prayer to St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Maximilian, amidst hate and imprisonment, you brought love into the lives of fellow captives and sowed the seeds of hope amidst despair.

You bore witness to the whole world by word and deed that “love alone creates.”

Heavenly Father, You inflamed St. Maximilian the friar and priest with love for the Immaculate Virgin, and filled him with zeal for souls and love of neighbor.

Through his prayers, grant us to work strenuously for Your glory in the service of our sisters and brothers, and so be made comfortable to Your Son until death.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

© Franciscan Friars Conventual, Our Lady of the Angels Province

Pope Offers Prayers for Those Affected by Fort McMurray Wildfires

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has added his name to the list of people offering prayers for Canadians affected by the massive wildfires that have led to the evacuation of Fort McMurray, Alberta.

In a May 6 letter to Bishop Paul Terrio of St. Paul, the pope said he “was saddened to learn of the destruction and distress caused by the extensive fires around Fort McMurray.’’

The pope said he was praying “for all the displaced, especially the children, who have lost their homes and livelihoods” and asked God to bless civil authorities and those coordinating the evacuation and providing shelter for the nearly 90,000 people left homeless. He also asked for strength and perseverance for those who are battling the fire.

More ALBERTA WILDFIRES, page 3

World Must Respond to Islamic State Genocide Actions, U.N. Conference Heats

CNS/ALI MUSTAFA, EPA

By Daphnie Vega
Catholic News Service

While religious freedom in much of the Middle East is under siege and the civil war in Syria seems to have no end in sight, Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, and others called the United Nations to action.

The U.N. plays a crucial role in securing the future of the region, particularly for people being tortured, kidnapped and killed because of their religious beliefs, Anderson said during a daylong conference April 28.

Anderson’s presentation came during one of three panel discussions at the conference sponsored by the office of the Vatican’s permanent observer to the U.N. and joined by In Defense of Christians and other organizations focusing on human rights abuses in the Middle East.

Presiders included people who experienced or witnessed atrocities being committed against religious minorities.

An injured boy stands amid rubble outside his home in 2014 after airstrikes in Aleppo, Syria. The Melkite Catholic archbishop of Aleppo has asked for support for his war-torn city and thanked the Knights of Columbus and other organizations for speaking out about the genocide of Syrian Christians and other religious minorities.

Led by remarks from Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Vatican’s permanent observer to the U.N., the event had an intensely sensitive agenda.

A 278-page report submitted to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that was co-authored by the Knights of Columbus and the group In Defense of Christians in March outlined what it called “genocide” being carried out against religious minorities.

More CONFERENCE, page 10
If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

The Knights of Columbus is a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and neighbor.

They help meet the needs of those in the local community, provide “Coats for Kids” and “Food for Families,” support programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities, aid victims of natural disasters and other catastrophic events local and worldwide, donate wheelchairs to people without mobility at home and abroad, and save lives through initiatives such as the “Ultrasound Program.”

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. They volunteer time to serve parishes and communities, and by working together, they were able to donate more than $1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

Unity and fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communities, protect the well-being of the Catholic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life’s journey. The Knights of Columbus offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith by living the example of a charity that evangelizes and by personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights makes the most of its brotherhood.

Make a stand among them, and you can discover how easy it is to make a difference in your life and that of others.

Visit www.kofc.org/join, and look for Knights of Columbus in your parish during membership drives through June.

Sign Up to Receive The Witness Electronically

You can read The Catholic Witness online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive the diocesan newspaper in a fast and user-friendly electronic format. Sign up, and you will receive an e-mail with a direct link to each edition as it is published.

Sign up for the e-mail service by logging on to the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page and click on “Catholic Witness E-mail Sign Up.” Once you complete the form, you will be added to our e-mail list.

Receiving The Catholic Witness electronically is a great way for college students and people who live outside of the diocese to stay in touch with the Church in Harrisburg. It’s also an alternative for those who wish to read the paper online instead of receiving a copy in the mail.

Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, contact our Circulation Coordinator, Susan Hambberger, at shambberger@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 201, with your Witness account number, and your name, address and phone number.

And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
Continued from 1

The pope’s message came via Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, through Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, the apostolic nuncio to Canada.

The Church across Alberta has offered assistance to the evacuees from Fort McMurray, Anzac, Gregoire Lakes Estate and the Fort McMurray First Nation. Alberta officials said fire conditions remain extreme in the province due to low humidity, high temperatures and winds, and that residents of Fort McMurray should not expect to return home “for an extended period of time.”

In a letter to parishioners in the Edmonton Archdiocese, Archbishop Richard Smith said Catholics are “shocked and saddened by the sudden destruction caused by the wildfire” and asked Catholics for prayers.

The archdioceses of Edmonton and Grouard-McLennan planned special collections on two weekends to assist Catholic parishioners in the two Fort McMurray parishes and the Fort McMurray Ministerial Association. The Calgary Diocese planned a collection in parishes May 14-15.

Archbishops Smith and Gerard Petipas of Grouard-McLennan encouraged Catholics to also consider making direct donations to relief for fire victims through the Red Cross. Those donations will be matched by the provincial and federal governments.

Ukrainian Bishop David Motiuk of Edmonton also encouraged people to donate to the Red Cross.

The Edmonton Archdiocese responded to a request for chaplaincy and asked Catholics for prayers.

As firefighters fought to save Fort McMurray from a wildfire that threatened to destroy the northern Alberta city, a bishop gave thanks that there had been no loss of life.

Bishop Terrio issued a statement last night, build a ‘better Fort McMurray’,”

The entire neighborhood of Beacon Hill appeared to be lost, according to local officials, while the fire had spread to other neighborhoods.

Bishop Terrio said that as the full extent of loss and damage becomes to be known, the whole community would be called upon to help rebuild and resettle the city. The diocese had a second collection at all Masses May 7-8 as a first step for the relief effort and to support all those who lost their homes.

Bishop Gainer Resumes Duties

Bishop Ronald Gainer has resumed his normal schedule of activities following an 8 day hospitalization last month for a digestive disorder. After a diagnosis was reached, he was placed on the appropriate medication and discharged for a period of additional rest. His physical condition is much improved and a complete recovery is expected.

He is truly grateful for all of the prayers and good wishes that he has received during his hospitalization, saying, “I was greatly touched and humbled by the outpouring of concern and prayers that were offered for me.”

Alberta Bishop Grateful for No Deaths

As firefighters fought to save Fort McMurray from a wildfire that threatened to destroy the northern Alberta city, a bishop gave thanks that there had been no loss of life.

St. Paul Bishop Paul Terrio, whose diocese includes Fort McMurray, also said in a May 4 statement that the city’s St. Paul Church is rumored to have been destroyed in the blaze that forced the evacuation of the city’s entire population the previous day. There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries.

Bishop Terrio said that with the community still in shock from the damage in Fort McMurray, “Let us give thanks to our Lord and God that, with some 60,000-70,000 people evacuated from the community in a matter of hours, there has been no loss of life.”

“Really, this in itself constitutes a major achievement,” the bishop said. “I want to thank and commend all the security and firefighting services, the public authorities but especially the good people of Fort McMurray. Once again, the people of Fort McMurray have rallied together and reached out to help and protect each other.”

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

- May 14 – Confirmation at St. Joseph Church, York, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- May 15 – Confirmation at St. John the Baptist Church, New Freedom, 3 p.m.
- May 16 – Confirmation at St. Rose of Lima Church, York, 7 p.m.
- May 17 – Celebrate Mass and Visit Classrooms, Seven Sorrows BVM School, Middletown, 10 a.m.
- May 21 – Adult Confirmation, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- May 22 – Adult Confirmation, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 12:15 p.m., St. Catherine Labouré Church, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.
- May 24 – Celebrate Mass for Monsignor Topper’s 80th Jubilee, St. Catherine Labouré Church, Harrisburg, 2 p.m.
- May 25 – Groundbreaking of St. Andrew Church, Waynesboro, 9:30 a.m.; Saint Baccalaurate Mass for Bishop McDevitt High School, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- May 27 – Trinity High School Graduation, Trinity High School, Camp Hill, 7 p.m.
- May 29 – Celebrate Mass in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the St. Margaret Mary Adoration Chapel, Harrisburg, 11:15 a.m.

Catholic News Service

People wait at a roadblock May 7 as smoke rises from wildfires near Fort McMurray, Alberta. Pope Francis has added his name to the list of people offering condolences to those affected by the massive forest fire that has led to the evacuation of Fort McMurray.
Merciful Love of a Parent

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Recently, as I was traveling through the state of Pennsylvania and surfing radio stations, I heard a story of merciful love that could be seen in the heart of a parent.

The radio station host was recounting an experience she had while visiting with a friend named Sue, who was a mother of a six-year-old girl, “Mary.” Sue gently knocked on the door and found her daughter on her bed, crying. On the floor next to her bed was a broken statue that apparently had fallen over. The radio host stood out in the hallway and watched the interaction.

Sue went over to Mary and whispered, “Hey, there, can we talk?” To which Mary sat up and a stream of tears could be seen on her cheeks. Sue said, “What’s going on?” Mary cried, “I bumped my bed and it bumped the table and the angel statue did a somersault and broke.” Still whispering, Sue said, “Oh, I see. You know, when you screamed, ‘I hate you!’ my heart did a somersault and broke, too. Your statue can be fixed with glue, but there is no glue that can fix my heart.”

Mary’s eyes became like saucers and her lower lip began to quiver. Tears streamed once again as she buried her face in her mom’s lap and wailed out loud. The host of the radio program said that she saw Sue bite her lower lip so she wouldn’t smile, and then looked up at her with such tenderness that her eyes began to fill with tears as well.

Sue waited for Mary’s cries to lessen. When they did, Sue pulled Mary up and caressed her face in her hands. She looked directly into her eyes and said, “Even though those words hurt my heart, and you can never take them back, I will always love you. I am your mother. I will love you forever.” The stream of tears began again. “I am sorry, Mommy!” Sue kissed Mary’s forehead and motioned to the radio host to come into the room. The three of them picked up the pieces of the statue. Taking them downstairs, Sue re-paired the statue with Mary at her side. When the repair was complete, she handed the repaired statue back to her daughter with these words, “Let this be a reminder to you that angry words can break people’s hearts. The next time, no matter why, you tell me that you hate me, you will be punished. But, no matter how many times you hurt my heart, my love for you never changes, just like Jesus’ love for us.”

I thought of this story as I read in the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: “...the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as of that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a “visceral” love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.”

God’s merciful love is the glue that He gives us to mend the broken parts of our lives; the parts of our lives that have been broken by sin. His merciful love is a never ending river which refreshes and gives life to our very being. Just as Mary in our story above was open to her mother’s correction as well as the lesson, we must be open to the grace which our God hands us every day. He hungry for us!

It is my prayer that during this special time of jubilee, each of you would take time to experience this mercy of God’s love found within the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The list of times available in your local parish can be found on: http://www.hbgdiocese.org/parish/find-masses-confessions-and-devotions/Penance/

God bless you all!!!
Witness History:
A Look Back at 50 Years of Photos

The Catholic Witness remembers in a particularly special way this month Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, Tenth Bishop of Harrisburg. Bishop McFadden was born on May 22, 1947, in Philadelphia and was ordained to the priesthood on May 16, 1981, in the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in his home city. He was appointed as the Tenth Bishop of Harrisburg on June 22, 2010, and installed that same year on August 18 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

In a cherished image shown at left, captured by photographer Emily M. Albert, Bishop McFadden reflects on the Passion during the Palm Sunday celebration in 2013.

On May 2, 2013, the diocese was shocked and saddened with the news that Bishop McFadden had died of heart attack in Philadelphia, where he was attending a meeting of the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania. He was 65.

A week of prayer services and liturgies followed, as shown below in a photo by photographer Chris Heisey as seminarians serve as pall bearers to accompany the bishop’s coffin into St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg for the Rite of Reception of the Body with Solemn Evening Prayer. The funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Name of Jesus Church and burial in the Bishops’ Circle at Holy Cross Cemetery in Harrisburg.

“Pray for me as I pray for you.” ~ Bishop Joseph P. McFadden

Feeding The Faith
Tom Meister, Saint Patrick Parish, York
American Chop Suey

Ingredients

- 1/2 lb. (2 cups) dry elbow macaroni
- 3/4 cups chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. ground beef or turkey (or mix the two)
- 2 cups diced tomatoes
- 1 cup sliced fresh or canned mushrooms

Prepare pasta according to package directions, drain and set aside.

In 4-quart non-stick pot, sauté onion, green pepper and garlic in butter or margarine for 5 min.

Add flour, salt and pepper and stir until well blended.

Add ground meat and cook 10 minutes until browned and blend with flour mix.

Add tomatoes and mushrooms and cook 10 min. or more.

Pour over pasta and toss well.

Serves 6.

Send Us Your Recipes and Stories!

With our “Feeding the Faith” series, The Catholic Witness is looking to support family meal time by sharing family recipes in upcoming editions, as well as scripture and “food for thought.” Do you have a significant dish and memory to share with us?

You may mail a copy of the recipe and your thoughts to 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or email it to witness@hbgdiocese.org.

My Uncle Frank took early retirement from a factory job and went to work full-time in his own kitchen. This was his favorite meal to bring to anyone who was ill, had a death in the family or just needed some love. The ingredients are easy to keep on hand. It’s quick to prepare and it’s a soul-warming comfort food.
Master Class at Trinity High School Educates Students in Musical Theater

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

The auditorium at Trinity High School in Camp Hill looked like an episode of “So You Think You Can Dance” on a recent Thursday morning, as three lines of students filled the stage, each swinging their arms and kicking their legs to the sounds of Ragtime the musical.

At the front of the stage was the instructor for the morning, Jillian Van Niel, a touring Broadway performer and teacher from Broadway Connection Master Class. Trinity’s concert choir students and teacher Caroline Oszustowicz hired the performer to teach a two-hour instructional class in place of their planned trip to New York City to the National Catholic Choral Festival that, due to unforeseen circumstances, had to be cancelled.

The students had fundraised all year for the intended trip, selling blankets made by a student’s mother and taking turns manning the ticket table at the girls’ basketball home games and at home wrestling matches.

“If I really want to applaud them because even after their trip had been cancelled, there was a chunk of games left and they still wanted to continue doing what they committed to doing,” noted Mrs. Oszustowicz, who said the idea for a visiting performer originated from a student with interest in musical theater.

After doing some research, Mrs. Oszustowicz found the Broadway Connection Master Class, and the timing was right as the musical Ragtime was on tour at the Hershey Theater and the cast had a member involved in the Master Class program. Though her students are singers, Mrs. Oszustowicz hopes the students take away a more comprehensive idea of what it takes to be in theater and to perform; that it’s not just about a really good voice, but also dancing and acting.

On April 28, the students were given the opportunity to learn a choreographed dance from Ragtime in several sections, until the end when they tied each part together. Smiles were on each of their faces, and often after a more difficult move was successfully formed, one could hear voices of excitement commenting how fun it was. At the end of the two-hour session, Ms. Van Niel opened up a question-and-answer session for the students. She shared some inside secrets of the theater world and what it takes to make it – including hearing and accepting the word “no” quite often. She brought her audition binder to show the students how prepared they have to be to go on an audition, sharing her headshots, resume, and music she keeps on hand.

Maura Consedine and Kirby Povilatis are the students who brought the Master Class idea to their teacher. Maura is excited about Broadway and thought this would be a great way to work with someone who does it for a living. Both Maura and Kirby were in Trinity’s rendition of Grease this year.

Kirby commented on the complexity of the dance they learned. “It’s definitely a lot more intense than what everyone thought, but I think it’s a really good glimpse into what the cast has to do multiple times a week.”

Mrs. Oszustowicz opened the workshop to students outside of the concert choir as well, welcoming teachers to bring their students to watch or even for a few to participate. The students in the Chinese as a foreign language class used the opportunity to further do a spatial study in different rooms of the school. One student, Sean Good, a basketball player for the ‘Rocks, decided to participate in the dance instruction, though not a dancer. He said, “I always liked dancing, but had never been in a choreographed dance like this. It was a lot of fun to be here today with my friends who do dance.”

Not only can these students sing and now dance, but they are acting out their Catholic faith using the talents gifted to them from God. This year, they decided to perform service projects, calling them “The Choral Works of Mercy.” This project set a goal to perform concerts that would benefit or serve as works of mercy following the Corporal Works of Mercy. The spring concert was called “Music of the Waters, Give Drink to the Thirsty,” and featured music with a water theme.

At this concert, they hosted the St. Patrick Foreign Mission Team, who sold water with the profits benefiting the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica. The concert and sale of water netted a donation of $483.

For the 2016-2017 school year, plans are in the works for a trip to the Cumberland County Prison to hopefully sing for Mass, and a concert at Vibralife Rehabilitation Center.

For more information, on Trinity High School visit www.thsrocks.us.

SAVE THE DATE
Fishers of Men Dinner
To benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg
Friday, October 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
at the Cardinal Keeler Center 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg
Cost is $150 per plate
$80 per plate of six or $1,000 per table of eight.
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations
717) 657-4804 ext. 282
www.hbgdiocese.org/vocations
Resurrection Catholic School Eighth Grader Wins Full-Ride to Lancaster Catholic

Resurrection Catholic School student Jisela Teron has been awarded the Dennis M. Cook Memorial Scholarship, a full-ride to Lancaster Catholic High School. Lancaster Catholic High School Admissions Director Kyla Hockley made the announcement following the weekly school Mass April 21. The award came as a surprise to Jisela, who was spontaneously applauded by her classmates and other school students.

The scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman student who demonstrates an aptitude for studies and has a personal desire for a Lancaster Catholic education but lacks the financial resources necessary to pay tuition.

“I was worried about where she would go to high school. She’d got-
ten used to the smaller school at Res-
urrection,” said her mother, Sandra Parra.

Her mother said it was hard to keep the news about the award secret, but she, her mother and her sisters did. As a member of the choir, Jisela was already at the front of the church when the announcement was made. She dropped her book and got a hug from a classmate as reality set in.

“She absolutely deserves the achievement,” said Resurrection Catholic School Principal Brenda Weaver. “She works hard and is very talented.”

(Submitted by Donna Walker, Marketing Director, Resurrection Catholic School.)

Diocesan Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

The following diocesan high school student-athletes have signed letters of intent to continue their academic education and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Information was submitted by their respective high schools.

Kiersten Reed, York Catholic High School, basketball at McDaniel College, Westminster, Md.
Ryan Ratcliff, York Catholic High School, football at Misericordia University, Dallas, Pa.
Paul Weisser, York Catholic High School, full academic scholarship, track at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.
Eddie Smith, York Catholic High School, lacrosse at Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, Pa.
Joe Bauhof, York Catholic High School, football at the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio.
William Amidon, Lancaster Catholic High School, football at King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Alexi Driendl, Lancaster Catholic High School, lacrosse at Widener University, Chester, Pa.
Shawn Henry, Lancaster Catholic High School, baseball at Point Park University, Pittsburgh.
Bayley Janamis, Lancaster Catholic High School, baseball at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, Pa.
Michael Jarvis, Jr., Lancaster Catholic High School, soccer at Misericordia University, Dallas, Pa.
Joseph Lobeck, Lancaster Catholic High School, wrestling at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.
Christopher Myers, Lancaster Catholic High School, cross country and track and field at Elizabethtown College.
Tyler Robinson, Lancaster Catholic High School, baseball at Frederick Community College, Frederick, Md.
Annielse Schredler, Lancaster Catholic High School, basketball at Hobart and William Smith College, Geneva, N.Y.
Allison Warren, Lebanon Catholic School, basketball at Bryn Athyn College, Bryn Athyn, Pa.
Katie Laughman, Delone Catholic High School, volleyball at Millersville University.
Sarah Senft, Delone Catholic High School, beach and indoor volleyball, Spring Hill College, Alabama.
Cassie Rickrude, Delone Catholic High School, softball at McDaniel College, Westminster, Md.
Amber Johnson, Delone Catholic High School, volleyball at Philadelphia University.
Nick Gemmell, Bishop McDevitt High School, basketball at Rosemont College, Rosemont, Pa.
Shaneil Johnson, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at Albright College, Reading, Pa.
Dylan Heisey, Bishop McDevitt High School, track and field at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.

Maria Mosquera, Bishop McDevitt High School, soccer, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.
Cole Gerula, Bishop McDevitt High School, baseball, Coppin State University, Baltimore, Md.
Bryce Hall, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at the University of Virginia.
Joe Joe Headen Jr., Bishop McDevitt High School, football at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va.
Kevin Johnson, Bishop McDevitt High School, baseball at Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Md.
Osman Kamara, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at the University of West Virginia.
Nick Lekitis, Bishop McDevitt High School, lacrosse at Gwynedd-Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, Pa.
Alex Marsico, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at Lock Haven University.
Kayla Mealy, Bishop McDevitt High School, field hockey at Alvernia University, Reading, Pa.
Joe Mione, Bishop McDevitt High School, baseball at Gwynedd-Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, Pa.
Braden Weachter, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at East Stroudsburg University.
Kobay White, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at Boston College.
Kyre Calli, Bishop McDevitt High School, football at Lackawanna Junior College, Scranton, Pa.
Emily D’Amico, Trinity High School, soccer at Messiah College, Grantham, Pa.
Amanda Knaub, Trinity High School, soccer at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, N.J.
Griffin Smith, Trinity High School, lacrosse at Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
Bradley Buchter, Trinity High School, diving at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
Jack Vukelic, Trinity High School, basketball at Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.
Jordan Wyant, Trinity High School, swimming at Bloomsburg University.
Kimmi Szajnak, Trinity High School, swimming at West Chester University.
Erin Meagher, Trinity High School, softball at Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.
Newman Club at York College Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

This academic year, the Newman Club of York College of Pennsylvania is celebrating its 50th anniversary as the Catholic student organization on campus.

At colleges and universities, Newman Clubs are named in honor of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890), a convert to Catholicism from the Church of England, and one of the great minds of the 19th century who was known as a prolific writer, persuasive preacher and Catholic apologist.

The Newman Movement in the United States began three years after the cardinal’s death, when a graduate medical student from the University of Pennsylvania gathered with several counterparts and a parish priest to examine ways of offering ongoing enrichment and support to Catholic students. Through their efforts, the Newman Apostolate was established.

“CCM is important to me because it gives me a connection to a priest on campus. It would be rough to go through college without having a priest on campus to talk to and connect with,” said student Tanner Zalud.

“Newman Club brings students together to form friendships while helping each other grow in faith,” observed Katie Nuzzo.

The Newman Club was introduced at York College in 1965, with John Pauley as its first president and “Father N” its first chaplain. Since then, it has continued to promote the Catholic faith and enrich Catholic students on campus.

“Radically Catholic, radically proud. A little spot of paradise on campus,” student Mark Freidhoff said of Catholic Campus Ministry at York College.

“Catholic Campus Ministry is important to me because being involved in a community like this keeps me grounded,” said current Newman Club President, Shannon VanDaniker. “I feel safe and confident to express my religious belief in this community. Catholic Campus Ministry has helped me form a better relationship with God.”

In celebration of its 50th anniversary this academic year, members of the Newman Club at York College gathered in Brougher Chapel on Ascension Thursday, May 5, for a solemn Mass, followed by an anniversary dinner. Bishop Ronald Gainer was to have celebrated the Mass, but was unable to because of health concerns; Father Carl Tancredi, current chaplain, served as celebrant and homilist.

“It is important that Catholics know that their Church leaders want them to see the Catholic Church present at their institution of higher learning,” Father Tancredi told The Catholic Witness. “The Catholic Church supports multi-cultural education and experiences. The CCM cooperates with all organizations on campus to show its Catholicity is there with all religions of the world, and it seeks to continue to share the message of Jesus Christ by its love of life and learning and is there for them in their need and time of crisis.”

At York College, the Newman Club holds regular Masses, socials, retreats and community service efforts. The club advisor is Carol Goc.

Student Daniel Shemonski expressed the significance of the Newman Club’s mission “to help form the faith of college students in a time of their lives as they prepare for adulthood.”

“Newman Club is important to me because it makes me feel at home while I’m on campus by creating friendships, connecting to the community, and by strengthening my faith with God,” said Matthew Cates.

Father Carl Tancredi celebrates Mass in Brougher Chapel for the Newman Club students on May 5.

Above: A little girl quietly looks on during Mass in Brougher Chapel May 5 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Newman Club at York College.

Left: A young woman serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion during the Mass.
Relics of St. Maximilian Kolbe, ‘Saint of Auschwitz,’ Serve as Inspiration for Charity

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Prisoners held captive by the Nazi regime in the concentration camp at Auschwitz during World War II were commonly punished for the actions of their fellow inmates. If one person was caught stealing bread or slacking in hard labor, for example, fellow inmates on the block could expect to pay the price.

So was the case in late July 1941, when ten men were randomly selected to be punished because one of their fellow inmates was suspected to have escaped from Auschwitz. Among the ten selected was Franciszek Gajowniczek, a former sergeant in the Polish army, husband, and father of two teenage sons.

“What will become of my family? My poor family!” Gajowniczek cried as he and his companions were sentenced to the starvation bunker.

Hearing Gajowniczek’s trepidation and grief, a fellow inmate stepped forward to the camp overseer and offered to take his place.

The inmate, who would give his life for his fellow prisoner, was Father Maximilian Kolbe, a member of the Franciscan Friars Conventual, known as the “Saint of Auschwitz.”

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe this year, the Franciscan Friars Conventual of the Our Lady of the Angels Province are sponsoring a pilgrimage of his relics, which were in the Diocese of Harrisburg earlier this month.

They traveled first to Mother Cabrini Church in Shamokin, and then to St. Patrick Church in Trevorton. A simpler version of the reliquary was also taken to the State Correctional Institution in Coal Township by Conventual Franciscan Father Steven Frenier, pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Coal Township, and Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Susan Born, Chaplain at SCI Coal Township.

Conventual Franciscan Father James McCurry, Minister Provincial of the Our Lady of the Angels Province, recounts the story of St. Maximilian Kolbe during Mass at Mother Cabrini Church in Shamokin on April 30. In his homily, Father McCurry explained that St. Maximilian knew of Shamokin because of his friendship with three Franciscans who ministered there. He had met the priests while they were in Rome in 1900s.

Conventual Franciscan Father James McCurry, Minister Provincial of the Our Lady of the Angels Province, recounts the story of St. Maximilian Kolbe during Mass at Mother Cabrini Church in Shamokin on April 30. In his homily, Father McCurry explained that St. Maximilian knew of Shamokin because of his friendship with three Franciscans who ministered there. He had met the priests while they were in Rome in 1900s.

“It’s quite an honor and blessing to have St. Maximilian’s presence here,” Conventual Franciscan Father Martin Kobos, pastor of Mother Cabrini Parish, told The Catholic Witness. The Conventual Franciscans who minister in the Diocese of Harrisburg trace their province’s roots to Poland, he said.

The current pilgrimage is the largest tour of the saint’s relics ever mounted in the United States, having begun at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, Md., in January and concluding there on St. Maximilian’s feast day, Aug. 14. By the conclusion of the pilgrimage, the relics will have visited 38 sites along the east coast and Canada.

Conventual Franciscan Father James McCurry, Minister Provincial of the Our Lady of the Angels Province, was the Mass celebrant and homilist on April 30 during the relics’ visit to Mother Cabrini.

“Relics remind us that saints were real human beings with hair, skin, bones and blood,” he said. “We venerate relics to connect with the real person behind them – now proclaimed by the Church to be in Heaven, from where he or she remains interested and involved in our lives.”

‘Martyr of Charity’
A short yet powerful biography by Father McCurry – Maximilian Kolbe, Martyr of Charity – offers an account of St. Maximilian’s life, and is the source of information offered here.
Serving the pastoral needs of the Pontifical Swiss Guard means to care for the spiritual development of a very special parish,” the guard’s chaplain said. “My first role is to accompany them, to be both brother and father and encourage their human and spiritual growth, aware that being here in Rome, in the center of universal Catholicism, is a unique experience for them that opens new horizons on the Church,” Father Thomas Widmer said.

The 31-year-old Swiss priest spoke to L’Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, May 4 as the Swiss Guard prepared for the annual swearing-in ceremony for new recruits.

Father Widmer was named by Pope Francis as chaplain of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in December 2015. The soldiers are responsible for guarding all entrances into Vatican City State and keeping watch over the pope and his residence in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

They also provide security and ceremonial services during liturgical events and visits of heads of state and other dignitaries to the Vatican.

However, Father Widmer said their mission isn’t limited to solely providing security but also includes “deepening their faith and to experience the Church closer to the Roman pontiff.”

To do this, Father Widmer regularly gives catechesis to new recruits to help them understand the “meaning, the fidelity and the sense of giving their lives” so that they are true Swiss Guards.

The swearing-in ceremony held May 6 every year marks the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss guards lost their lives defending Pope Clement VII in the Sack of Rome. Only 42 guards survived. Holding the ceremony on the anniversary is meant to remind new recruits of the seriousness of their commitment.

Another key aspect in the spiritual life of the Swiss Guards is in carrying out works of mercy. Volunteers often accompany Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, to prepare and distribute food to the poor and homeless.

Through their physical and spiritual training, Father Widmer said he hopes to develop their formation and achieve their “human and spiritual maturation.”

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

Swiss Guard Recruits Pledge to Protect the Pope with their Lives

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

With their left hands clutching a standard and their right hands raised with three fingers open symbolizing the Holy Trinity, 23 new Swiss Guard recruits pledged to “faithfully, loyally and honorably” serve and protect the pope and, if necessary, sacrifice their lives for him.

The pageant of the annual May 6 ceremony did not lessen the solemnity of the occasion that marks the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss Guards lost their lives defending Pope Clement VII in the Sack of Rome.

The ceremony in the Vatican’s San Damaso courtyard is meant to remind new guards of the seriousness of their commitment on the anniversary of their predecessors’ death.

Father Thomas Widmer, chaplain of the Swiss Guard, read to the new recruits their oath to protect the pope and the College of Cardinals when the See of St. Peter is vacant.

Following the proclamation, each of the new recruits spoke to the Lord and the assembled guards as he is called by the oath through the intercession of “God and ... his saints.”

At an audience May 7, Pope Francis urged the new recruits to use their service as an opportunity “to grow in faith, experience the universality of the Church and experience brotherhood.”

“You are called to live your work as a mission that is part of the Church, a complete and authentic apostolic person that is not possible without ‘faith in the Lord of life, without faith in the resurrection.’

“Sustained by this faith in the risen Jesus and strengthened by the joyful experience that the Lord gives life in its fullness, I invite you dear guards, to have the courage to be witnesses in today’s world despite the difficulties,” the cardinal said.

A new Swiss Guard recruit matches forward during the swearing-in ceremony for 23 new recruits at the Vatican May 6. New recruits are sworn in every year May 6, commemorating the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss soldiers died defending the pope during an attack on Rome.
The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a congregation founded by St. Katharine Drexel, announced that it will sell its historic motherhouse in Bensalem, Pa. The 44-acre property also contains the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel and the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

At a future date, St. Katharine’s tomb will be moved to the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

The decision, according to the sisters, is part of the care of retired sisters.

“I am happy to share that I have guaranteed archdiocesan support for the sisters as their plan unfolds over the next few years,” he said. “They’ve committed to keeping the national shrine open to visitors through at least 2017. When the time is right it will be closed, so the remains of St. Katharine Drexel will be transferred to the care of the archdiocese and entombed in an appropriate location in the Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

Proceeds from the sale of the properties will be used “to challenge, in new ways, all forms of racism as well as the deeply rooted injustices in the world,” Sister Donna said.

The decision, according to the statement, will make it possible for the congregation to carry forward the vision and spirit of St. Katharine Drexel, who left her prominent Philadelphia family to establish a religious order in 1891 with the primary purpose to minister to Native Americans and African Americans. In a separate statement, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput voiced his support and prayers for the sisters. “I am also happy to share that I have guaranteed archdiocesan support for the sisters as their plan unfolds over the next few years,” he said. “They’ve committed to keeping the national shrine open to visitors through at least 2017. When the time is right it will be closed, so the remains of St. Katharine Drexel will be transferred to the care of the archdiocese and entombed in an appropriate location in the Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at their peak numbered about 600, but have dwindled to about 104 today, with more than half retired and living at the motherhouse. Most of the deceased members are buried on the Basilica property as are the parents, sisters and brothers-in-law of St. Katharine and priests prominent in the congregation’s history. The statements did not address what will become of the cemeteries.

The area of the cathedral suggested for St. Katharine’s tomb is near the altar dedicated to her at the rear of the basilica. The altar was donated by St. Katharine and her sisters Elizabeth and Louise in memory of their parents, Francis and Emma Drexel.

St. Katharine Drexel was born Nov. 26, 1858 into Philadelphia’s wealthiest family. She left everything to her foundation in 1914 and devoted considerable fortune to the Native and African American missions.

She died March 3, 1955 and was canonized Oct. 1, 2000. The National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel and the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Bensalem, Pa., will be sold, it was announced May 3.

Iowa Priest Donating Kidney to Longtime Friend, a Religious Brother

By Dan Russo

Christian Brother Stephen William Markham and Father Scott Bullock already shared a strong spiritual bond as two men who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ as a consecrated religious and a priest.

Very soon, they also will be connected by blood.

Come June 16, or thereabout, Brother Markham is scheduled to receive a kidney from his friend through transplant surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Since March 2015, Brother Markham, 72, a native of Richardsville, Iowa, near Dubuque, has been dependent on dialysis to survive. A flare-up of chronic glomerulonephritis, a kidney disease he has had since age 14, caused his organs to fail. The surgery is expected to end the treatments.

Brother Markham remembers clearly the day he learned about his donor.

“It was a very humbling but very good feeling. It didn’t sink in until I got to dialyze that day,” he recalled.

“Father Scott and I had lunch the other day and I tried to say to him, there’s just no way [I can thank him enough. He said, ‘You have thanked me.’”

Both are asking for prayers that the Providence of God in his disease and in the donation.

“I’m conscious of the fact that I am receiving something that the odds are that it will only be better,” he said. “I’m nervous about the whole thing in that [Father Bullock] is giving up something that is working well for him.”

Now retired and living in Balltown, Iowa, Brother Markham is expected to spend several weeks in recovery at a special facility at Mayo.

Father Bullock, now in his 50s and in good health, is expected to recover at home after a few days at Mayo before being released. Full recovery could take up to six weeks. Father Bullock’s brother priests have agreed to assist with his sacramental duties. Women from the Seven Sisters prayer ministry at his parish have agreed to assist with home care.

Both are asking for prayers that the surgery will go well. After the transplant, Brother Markham will be required to take anti-rejection medicine for the rest of his life, but otherwise will be able to live normally. He considers that a small price to pay for the opportunity to receive a healthy kidney.

“There are no words to be grateful enough for all the support,” he said. “I’m grateful to Father Scott and all the others who have shown their generosity and love. I’m eternally grateful to God for many blessings.”

St. Katharine Drexel Shrine, Blessed Sacrament Motherhouse Put up for Sale

By Lou Baldwin

The Catholic News Service

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a congregation founded by St. Katharine Drexel, announced that it will sell its historic motherhouse in Bensalem, Pa. The 44-acre property also contains the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel and the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

The decision, according to the congregation, is part of the care of retired sisters.

“At a future date, St. Katharine’s tomb will be moved to the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

The decision, according to the president of the congregation, said in a statement that a portion of the proceeds from the sales will support two care homes for retired sisters.

As her order prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary in July, she said the sisters are also “serving some of the most vulnerable people in the United States, Haiti and Jamaica.”

Proceeds from the sale of the properties will be used “to challenge, in new ways, all forms of racism as well as the deeply rooted injustices in the world,” Sister Donna said.

The decision, according to the statement, will make it possible for the congregation to carry forward its work, she said.

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The real life story of a harrowing escape from the Rwandan genocide and the 40-year history of a Catholic evangelist fighting against the Russians.

Relics

Continued from 9

St. Maximilian was born Raymond Kolbe in the village of Zduńska Wola, Poland, on Jan. 8, 1894. He was the second of five sons. His two youngest brothers died in infancy. Raymond’s parents – Juliusz and Marianna – belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis, and instilled in their sons a love for Church and country. Frequently, the family visited the national shrine of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, home of the Black Madonna, the queen of Poland.

When Raymond was about ten years old, he saw a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary while praying in his parish church of St. Matthew’s. Our Lady offered him a vision of two crowns: a white one of purity and a red one of martyrdom. Young Raymond accepted both, and thus the relicary carrying his relics is decorated with a white lily and a red tulip.

Raymond joined the Franciscan Order in 1907 at the age of 13. His older brother Francis and younger brother Joseph would also join the order, although Francis did not persevere with his religious vocation and died instead in the fight for Polish freedom.

While their sons were in the seminary, Juliusz and Marianna received ecclesiastical permission to separate and take perpetual vows of celibacy so that he could join the Franciscans and she could continue the convent of contemplative nuns. Juliusz, however, did not continue with the Franciscans, and instead joined to fight the Russians.

Raymond was given the name Maximilian during his investiture, and was ordained on April 28, 1918. He became devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Conception, and soon began to seek ways of evangelizing the people.

In his lifetime, he founded the Militia Immaculata, an evangelization movement of young people in Poland and Japan. At the time, it was the largest religious community in the world, with more than 700 friars.

Father Kolbe also published countless pieces of literature, a daily newspaper with a circulation of more than 230,000 and a monthly magazine with more than one million subscribers.

Upon the Nazi invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, Father Kolbe sought his barber, Brother Kamil, to get rid of his beard so as to be less conspicuous to the invaders. Brother Kamil placed the beard in a cloth for preservation, but the barber complied, but, instead of shaving, he burned the beard, and the barber was saved.

The friars probably suspected Maximilian’s sanctity at that time and were rather enterprising in keeping his hair, since his body was eventually cremated at Auschwitz,” Father Kolbe observed. “Because of their forethought, we now have his hair as a relic.”

On Sept. 19, 1939, the Nazis arrested Father Kolbe and ransacked the friary, looking at religious statues. The priest would be released on Dec. 8, and he set out to resume publication of his magazine. What would be the only wartime edition of his magazine was published for December 1940/January 1941, and included an article entitled Truth. The article, which asserted that there can only be one truth, and that it is found in the faith, drew the ire of the Nazis. Father Kolbe was arrested again on Feb. 17, 1941. He was known for sharing his bread rations and bolstering the faith of his fellow inmates.

When Father Kolbe stepped forward to take the place of Franciszek Gajowniczek in the starvation bunker in July of 1941, the Nazi overseer asked him who he was. Father Kolbe replied, “I am a Catholic priest.”

Gajowniczek’s life was spared, and Father Kolbe and nine others were led to the “Block of Death,” where they were locked away without food or water. In the final days, he led the prisoners in hymns and in the recitation of the Rosary, which emanated from the bunker’s small window.

On Aug. 14, two weeks after the ten prisoners entered the starvation cell, four of them remained barely alive – including Father Kolbe. They were administered a lethal injection of carbolic acid, the injection in their bodies were carried away. Father Kolbe’s body would be cremated the following day, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Nazis used as a dumping ground for the bodies a marsh about a mile from Auschwitz in a town called Harmęże. With the fall of Communism in 1989, the Franciscan Friars Conventual opened a small chapel on land there to build a church, and, during construction, came to realize that the town had its own coat of arms – a field with two crowns.

“Hence, St. Maximilian Kolbe’s lifelong journey of the two crowns literally ended at that date,” Father McCurry’s book concludes, “where, by the love of God, he exchanged the white and the red for one.”

Franciszek Gajowniczek was liberated from Auschwitz by the Allies, after spending more than five years in German concentration camps. He was reunited with his wife, however his sons died before his liberation in a Soviet concentration camp in 1945.

On Oct. 10, 1982, St. John Paul II canonized St. Maximilian Kolbe as a “Martyr of Charity.” Among those in attendance for the canonization was Franciszek Gajowniczek. He died in 1995 at the age of 93.

St. Maximilian is the patron saint of prisoners, journalists, families, volunteers, the pro-life movement and the chemically addicted.

“St. Maximilian was one of those special people in the Church who cultivated a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother,” Father McCurry said. “He felt strongly that we are all called to use all the tools at our disposal to spread the Gospel message.”

For more information on St. Maximilian and the Our Lady of the Angels Province of the Franciscan Friars Conventual, visit: www.marytown.org or www.olaprovince.org.

Immaculee Ilibagiza and Kathleen McCarthy to Lead Divine Mercy Retreat in Emmitsburg

For those planning to travel to and from the retreat, there is an option to include “all you want to eat” dinner and evening snack on Friday; breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening snack on Saturday; and breakfast and Sunday. Cost will be $157 per person.

A package for those wanting to stay overnight on the campus will include appropriate quarters plus everything in the basic package for $237 per person. Registration forms can be obtained from and returned to Kathleen Marie Kolbe in the village of Zduńska Wola, Poland, on Jan. 8, 1894. He was the second of five sons. His two youngest brothers died in infancy. Raymond’s parents – Juliusz and Marianna – belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis, and instilled in their sons a love for Church and country. Frequently, the family visited the national shrine of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, home of the Black Madonna, the queen of Poland. When Raymond was about ten years old, he saw a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary while praying in his parish church of St. Matthew’s. Our Lady offered him a vision of two crowns: a white one of purity and a red one of martyrdom. Young Raymond accepted both, and thus the relicary carrying his relics is decorated with a white lily and a red tulip.

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Summer Adult Faith Formation Offerings

The 2016 Summer Session of the Diocesan Institute runs throughout the month of June. All offerings are open to any interested adult, including those who are pursuing catechetical certification in the diocese and those who simply wish to grow in their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Learn from home option: Webinars allow you to participate in Diocesan Institute courses in “real time” from home or to request recordings to view at your convenience. Webinar offerings are clearly marked. Visit www.hbgdiocese.org and click on the “Diocesan Institute Courses and Registration” icon on the homepage to access the complete Summer Session schedule and registration form.

The Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation provides academic and pastoral formation for Catholic laity interested in service to the Church and those seeking personal enrichment. The Institute assists the laity in their life-long journey of faith formation by providing opportunities for them to deepen their understanding of Sacred Scripture, Catholic theology and authentic spirituality, and by enabling them to develop the necessary skills to become more efficacious signs of Christ’s presence among God’s people.

For information about the Diocesan Institute or obtaining catechetical certification in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact Ryan Bolster at 717-657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

Overview of Catholic Doctrine: The Creed

What does it mean to pray, “believe in God, the Father almighty…”? What is the faith that Catholics profess? This course explores in detail the core of Christian dogma.

June 13, 15, 22, 27, and 29, 2016 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Mr. Ryan Bolster
$25.00

Introduction to Scripture

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ” as Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, “Truth Cannot Contradict Truth” between science and the Catholic Church, for it is consistent with the Catholic faith. There is, in fact, no “war” between science and Sacred Scripture,圣人圣言, the Church and the Four Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell). This course addresses:

*How we come to know God through His Revelation in Sacred Scripture
*The story of salvation history that is woven throughout Scripture
*The relationship between Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium (teaching office of the Church)
*What it means to say that Scripture is both “inspired” and “inerrant”
*Keys to a proper, scientific and historical understanding and interpreting Scripture
*How to choose a Scripture translation and tips for personal Scripture study

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ADVANCED CATEchetical CERTIFICATION COURSES

Advanced Scripture: Survey of the Old Testament

This course is meant to familiarize participants with the Old Testament. We’ll start with a presentation of some helpful Church documents as well as Near Eastern history and geography. Then we will examine the entire Old Testament – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. We will also explore some highlights of Israel’s religious life, including the Covenant, the Priesthood, and the Temple. We will conclude with a short study of the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament.

June 7, 9, 16, 23, 28, and 30, 2016 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Saint Joseph Parish, Danville
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Rev. James Lease
$50.00

ELECTIVES

Science and the Church: “Truth Cannot Contradict Truth”

This course is intended to demonstrate that what science teaches us about the world is altogether consistent with the Catholic faith. There is, in fact, no “war” between science and the Catholic Church, for it is consistent with the Catholic faith. This course will cover the following topics in four sessions: 1) How we know things and the limits of science; 2) The Catholic Church as the Midwife of Science; 3) Catholic Teaching and Cosmology—Creatio ex Nihilo; 4) Catholic Teaching and Evolution—Made in His Image; 5) Catholic Teaching and the Mind—Who has a Soul?

June 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2016 10:00 a.m. – noon
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Dr. Robert Kurland
$25.00

The Saints in Mercy

This session will explore the lives of several of the many holy men and women in the history of the Church who were transformed by the presence of God’s mercy, and who teach us how we too can be witnesses of mercy for others. St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Vincent de Paul, St. John of God, St. John Bosco, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Peter Claver, St. Gianna Beretta Molla and others all model for us how to be instruments of God’s mercy in our world.

June 21, 2016 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Mr. Ryan Bolster
$15.00

The Face of Mercy

In his Bull of Indiction announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, entitled The Face of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote that this Holy Year is “dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy” which God “continually extends to all of us.” In this session, we will explore the three main themes on which the Holy Father focuses for the Year of Mercy, namely: 1) The theological understanding of God’s mercy 2) Practical ways to live well the Holy Year 3) The pope’s particular calls for justice and conversion.

We also will consider a correct understanding of the relationship between justice and mercy. Finally, we will delve into some of the key aspects of the Divine Mercy devotion as given by Jesus to Saint Faustina and written in her diary, Divine Mercy in My Soul.

June 20, 2016 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Mr. James Gontis
$15.00

Theological Understanding of God’s Mercy

For more information, contact St. Ignatius Loyola Church at 717-677-8012, 1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, PA 17353

Saint Philip’s Parish Festival in Millersville, sponsored by the Men of St. Philip’s, will be held Thursday June 2 through Saturday June 4, featuring exciting rides, games for everyone, and sinful delicious food. This great social event brings the community together in a festive atmosphere while raising money in support of the Youth Ministry, the Cub and Boy Scouts, the parish picnic, the ever popular community Thanksgiving Meal as well as St. Mary’s Community meal and other church and community activities. Don’t miss out on the fun! For more information contact Bob Zemba at 717-330-5512 or email him at Rwzump@gmail.com. Volunteers always welcome! Saint Philip’s is located at 2111 Millersville Pike just outside of Lancaster.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Invites all women of the diocese to their

Sixth Annual Retreat
Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD
June 10 -12, 2016
(Friday evening until Sunday noon)

Retreat Master:
Father Dwight Schlaline, pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg and the many holy men and women in the history of the Church who were transformed by the presence of God’s mercy, and who teach us how we too can be witnesses of mercy for others. St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Vincent de Paul, St. John of God, St. John Bosco, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Peter Claver, St. Gianna Beretta Molla and others all model for us how to be instruments of God’s mercy in our world.

June 21, 2016 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR
Mr. Ryan Bolster
$10.00

Parish Festivals
(Information on parish festivals should be sent via e-mail to Communications@hbgdiocese.org for publication in The Catholic Witness and on the diocesan Website.)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown: You are cordially invited to a festive and enjoyable afternoon of ethnic food, music, cultural dances, theme basket raffles, silent auction and more on Sunday, May 22 at 12:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown. Featured guest emcee is Marty Rotela, a Grammy nominee singer, composer and evangelist. This event will help raise funds for much needed medicines and basic supplies that Father Marcoe and members of the mission group will take to Jamaica in early October. The festival committee will appreciate donations of food and items for the silent auction. Contact Luz Socrates at 717-873-3850 or luzsco@hotmail.com.

St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster will host its 8th Annual Parish Carnival June 27-July 2, Monday-Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday 6-11 p.m. and Saturday 5-11 p.m. at 1409 Wabank Road, Lancaster. Food-Rides-Games-Bingo-Jeanne’s Attic. Fireworks on Friday night. Entrance FREE. Parking Fee & Admission. Ride most of the rides all night long Monday-Wednesday for $12 (SAVE 40%) with a purchase of a “Discount Ride Coupon” prior to midnight June 26; go to www.stjosephcatholicclub.com/carnival for details.

The Annual Buchanan Valley Picnic will be held Saturday, August 27 from noon until dusk, rain or shine. Home cooked Family-style ham and chicken dinners will be served all day. Price is $10 for adults; $4 for children ages 6 to 12; and ages 5 and under are free. To be held at the picnic grove at the St. Ignatius Loyola Church at 1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, the picnic has been a tradition for over 175 years. Located at the quaint and beautiful hills of Buchanan Valley, historically known for the capture of Mary Jemison in 1758 by the Indians, it is an old-fashioned picnic with games for the children, bingo, music, and good food. For more information, contact St. Ignatius Loyola Church at 717-677-8012, 1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, PA 17353.

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Five Diocesan Schools Earn Middle States Reaccreditation

The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools announced recently that five diocesan schools have been reaccredited, the gold standard for measuring and advancing school improvement.

The following schools have been re-accredited by Middle States for the next seven years:
- Resurrection Catholic School, Dallastown
- Sacred Heart School, Hanover
- St. Patrick Catholic School, Carlisle
- York Catholic High School

“The accreditation process examines schools in a holistic way, supplementing student testing with inputs from school leaders, teachers, parents and students. Following the self-study, a team of volunteer educators from Association member schools conducts an on-site peer review visit to observe school operations and interview various stakeholders. The visiting team makes its recommendation to the Middle States Association Commissions, which voted to reaccredit or reaccredit more than 100 schools and school systems in 11 states and Puerto Rico and seven countries at its biannual meeting earlier this month.

Our Lady of the Angels Wins Grant for Innovative Technology Projects

The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation’s Teachers and Technology grant program, which has been offered since 2008, awards grants of up to $5,000 to schools in CenturyLink’s local service areas on behalf of teachers who have developed specific plans to innovatively implement technology in their classrooms.

Across the United States, more than 1,000 grant applications were submitted, and 314 were awarded. Grants were selected based on the impact they will have on students in the classroom and the overall innovation of the project. Our Lady of the Angels School in Columbia was awarded $4,962.90 to support purchasing LCD projectors, laptop computers and interactive whiteboards. Our Lady of the Angels School Principal Robert G. Cram, Ed.D., president of the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. “School leaders, teachers and parents are to be commended for working together to create a concrete plan focused on providing high quality education for all students.”

Elizabethtown College Campus Ministry Earns Service Award

The Elizabethtown College Newman Club, some of whose members are pictured here, received the 2016 Civic Engagement and Community Service Award for their outreach to the local community. The Elizabethtown College Newman Club was founded in 1978 to promote the values of the Catholic Church and to provide a community for students who are committed to serving the local community.
SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

All Saints Cemetery, Ettersburg will host its 28th annual Memorial Day Mass, Monday May 30 at 10 a.m., weather permitting. Mass will be celebrated on the grounds of the cemetery, all welcome. Participants are asked to bring a lawn chair for their comfort.

A Charismatic Mass with prayer for healing will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 56 W. North Street, York. The service will begin with an Ecumenical procession, led by The Spirit of Love and Mercy, Magnificant and Come See Charismatic prayer groups. For information, contact Joyce at 717-567-7243.

PILGRIMAGES AND RETREATS

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Mt. St. Mary’s National Shrine Grotto of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and the Mt. St. Mary’s National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Grace, St. Nicholas Church, 1001 Main Street, Lehighton. From 4 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 8, a special “pledge of allegiance” will be held on the basilica lawn. If you have a group of 25 or more who would like to do the tour, the shrine staff will be happy to accommodate. Contact Chris Arnold at 717-379-6041 or carnold@womenofgrace.com to attend the presentation or to request a flyer detailing the trip.

Tour the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Mt. St. Mary’s National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Grace at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22. This shrine is located at 1001 Main Street, Lehighton. For more information call Chris Arnold at 717-379-6041 or carnold@womenofgrace.com.

Come out to the annual Memorial Day Mass, Monday May 30 at 10 a.m. at St. Nicholas Church. To register: visit the website at: www.thsrocks.us/support-trinity/special-events/lauren-day-foundation/.

Registration: The St. Francis Xavier Parish of the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Gawronski Golf Tournament at the Mayapple Golf Club. The cost of a registration fee is $150 per golfer. The fruits of this tournament are a fund-raiser for our local Catholic radio station, WHYF, Holy Family Catholic Women.

For more info, call Phil at 717-274-0684.

On Monday, May 6, Holy Spirit–A Geisinger Affiliates will host a golf fair at the Colonial Park Mall, Harrisburg. From 8 a.m. to noon, expect hearty food, golf, free blood pressure and body mass index tests, a raffle prize for local charities, door prizes, and other items. For more information about the clinic, please visit www.holy spirit-hospital.org. The clinic will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the Colonial Park Mall, Harrisburg. For more information, call 717-207-9245.

The presentation or to request a flyer detailing the trip.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Mt. St. Mary’s National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Grace, St. Nicholas Church, 1001 Main Street, Lehighton. From 4 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 8, a special “pledge of allegiance” will be held on the basilica lawn. If you have a group of 25 or more who would like to do the tour, the shrine staff will be happy to accommodate. Contact Chris Arnold at 717-379-6041 or carnold@womenofgrace.com to attend the presentation or to request a flyer detailing the trip.

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For more info, call Phil at 717-274-0684.
A Pilgrimage Site for the Year of Mercy

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Conewago

“Conewago belongs to America, not merely to a parish or a diocese because it was the gateway through which passed the saintly founders and zealous missionaries who carried the light of the true faith eastward and westward into the frontiers of our land, long generations before the founding of our beloved nation.” ~ Bishop George L. Leech, in 1937, on the occasion of the sesquicentennial of the building of the church.

Lovingly known as the “Conewago Chapel,” the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Conewago Township, Adams County, is the oldest Catholic Church in America that is built of stone, and the first American church dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Diocesan historical documents note that English Jesuits may have established a mission post in the Conewago area as early as the 1630s; at that time, there were only four priests in all of Maryland.

Diocesan history books show Father Joseph Greaton, S.J., as the first priest to minister to the early Catholic settlers in the Conewago region. He arrived in Maryland in 1719 and was assigned to the mission territory of northern Maryland and southern Pennsylvania.

The first Conewago Chapel was built in 1741, a combination log dwelling and chapel constructed by Father William Wappler, S.J. It was enlarged in 1768 and became the headquarters of the Jesuit missionaries of the St. Francis Regis mission that ministered to most of the territory in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River, western Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

By 1784, the congregation at Conewago had grown to more than 1,000 members, necessitating the construction of a new church. The largest church within the new nation was completed in 1787. Father James Pellentz, S.J., who was the pastor at the time, gave the name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the new church.

The Russian prince, Demetrius Gallitzin, spent the first years of his priesthood at Conewago, following his ordination in 1795 by Bishop John Carroll in Baltimore, Md. Several years later, a school was founded.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church was enlarged in 1850 with the addition of a transept and apse, with care to preserve the original stone church.

The church is graced with a number of frescoes on the apse and transept ceilings, and include the Assumption on the nave ceiling and the Apparition of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary – with Blessed Claude de la Columbiere, her spiritual adviser – behind the altar.

The Jesuits departed Conewago in June of 1901 at the request of their superiors in Rome, leaving care of the church and parish to diocesan clergy, as the Diocese of Harrisburg was founded in 1868.

On July 11, 1962, St. John XXIII raised Sacred Heart of Jesus Church to the rank of a minor basilica, conferring upon it all the rights and privileges proper to that title. Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, officially announced the great honor and the historic and artistic reasons for the rank during a Pontifical Mass on Sept. 2 of that same year.

As the Mother Church of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River, Sacred Heart of Jesus includes among its offspring the diocesan parishes in Hanover, McSherrystown, Littlestown, New Oxford, Abbottstown, Gettysburg, York, Carlisle, Buchanan Valley and Chambersburg.

Its current pastor is Father John Howard.

“Blessed in the sight of Heaven is the place called Conewago, famous, above all else, as the seat of the first church in the United States, and perhaps in all North America, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and as a cradle of fervent Catholic life...this church is counted among the fairest of the land. The faithful of America are drawn to this shrine of religion to share in the sacred rites and to ‘drink deep from the foundation of salvation’” (Isaiah 12:3).

~ St. John XXIII, 1962

On the occasion of raising Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Conewago to a minor basilica