Pope Shares Personal Stories of His Faith

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

With humor and passion, Pope Francis shared highlights of his personal faith journey and explained some key points of his teaching to an enthusiastic crowd of representatives from Catholic lay movements.

Celebrating a vigil on the eve of Pentecost with an estimated 200,000 people singing, chanting and waving their groups’ banners, Pope Francis focused on the importance of parents and grandparents educating their children in the faith, the knowledge that God wants a relationship with each person, the importance of caring for the poor and the need to pray for people who are denied religious freedom.

Without using a prepared text, the pope responded to questions presented to him prior to the May 18 event.

Pope Francis, who often talks about the beauty of God’s mercy and the sacrament of confession, told the crowd about one confession that he said changed his life.

“It was Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17 years old,” he said. In Argentina, it was the first day of spring. He said he felt the need to go to confession and entered his parish church where there was a priest he had never met before.

“I found someone waiting for me,” he said. “I don’t know what had happened, I don’t remember why that priest was there or why I felt the need to confess, but the truth is, that someone was waiting for me and had been waiting a while.”

“After that confession, I felt something had changed. I wasn’t the same,” he said. “It was like a voice, I felt a call; I was convinced I had to become a priest.”

Pope Francis said people talk a lot about the need to seek God, but the truth is that God always seeks people out first, that he is always waiting for them and always ready to love them.

Implying that he would like to hear confessions in Rome parishes like he did as archbishop of Buenos Aires, he said, “but I can’t, because to leave to hear confessions – there is no way out of here,” he said, leading to great laughter in St. Peter’s Square.

He told the crowd that often when he heard confessions in Buenos Aires, he would ask penitents if they had given alms to those begging on the church steps. If they said yes, he would ask if they looked the person in the eye and if they touched the person or just threw coins at him or her.

Catholics, he said, must “touch the body of Christ, take on the suffering of the poor. For Christians, poverty is not a sociological or philosophical or cultural category, it is a theological category,” because Christ made himself poor in order to walk the earth, suffer, die and rise to save humanity.

Pope Francis said the current global financial crisis is about much more than the economy; it’s a crisis caused by a lack of values and by putting money ahead of concern for people.

Memorial Mass for Bishop McFadden

Monday, June 3, 5:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

The Diocese of Harrisburg will mark the one month anniversary of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s death with a memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on Monday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. This traditional “Month’s Mind” Mass will take place on June 3 since June 2 is joyfully filled with the Masses of Thanksgiving for our soon-to-be ordained priests, the 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass at Good Shepherd, and various celebrations marking the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord.

All the Faithful of the Diocese are encouraged to attend.
As Diocesan Administrator, Father Gillelan Fulfills Caretaker Role

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

As Administrator of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Father Robert M. Gillelan, Jr., compares his duties to that of a flight attendant caring for airplane passengers.

“It’s a fitting analogy for the priest, who also serves as pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton. He was once an airline steward.

“My job is to serve the diocese as a steward or a caretaker. Just as it was my job on an airplane to take care of the passengers, my job now as Diocesan Administrator is to take care of the faithful of our diocese,” he said.

Father Gillelan, who was appointed Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden a year ago, was elected Diocesan Administrator four days after the bishop’s death on May 2. He was elected by the College of Consultants, a diocesan body of 10 priests who are selected from the council of priests by the bishop.

As Administrator, Father Gillelan is tasked with carrying on the diocese’s established policies and procedures.

As he serves the diocese during this time of transition until the appointment of a new bishop, he remains ever mindful of the age-old principle that governs the period of a vacant see: Sede vacante nihil innovetur. It means, “When the see is vacant, let no innovations be made.”

“I am charged with administering the daily operations of the diocese, but I am not to institute any new policies. I am to be a steward or caretaker of the things entrusted to me until they are handed over to the next bishop. We stay on the same path. We steer a steady course,” Father Gillelan said.

Diocesan policies, positions and offices remain in place. Ideas and plans for new initiatives and programs are put on hold until the diocese receives a new bishop.

Father Gillelan will not fill the role of a bishop, nor will he take over the many events that had been scheduled on Bishop McFadden’s calendar.

“At this time, we are supposed to feel the loss of our shepherd,” he said. “We feel the loss of Bishop McFadden’s shepherding, his love, his wisdom, his spiritual inspiration.”

The role of Diocesan Administrator calls Father Gillelan to be much more “behind the scenes” than “out in public.”

The Code of Canon Law states that “The Diocesan Administrator enjoys the power of the Diocesan Bishop.” Father Gillelan says he “must use that power to serve a preaching, teaching, sanctifying and governing role” relative to the diocese, the diocesan offices and his parish.

Father Gillelan, 55, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Harrisburg on May 27, 1989, by Bishop William Keeler at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. He will continue to serve as pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton while fulfilling the role of Administrator.

His previous assignments have included assistant pastor at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish/San Juan Bautista Parroquia, Lancaster; St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrersstown; and St. Joseph Parish in Hanover. He served as pastor of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York from 1999-2012.

Father Gillelan has been a member of several advisory bodies, including the Presbytery Council, the Priest Personnel Board and the College of Consultants. He has also served as a member of the Diocesan Hispanic Apostolate and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

His role as Vicar General has helped prepare him to fulfill the responsibilities of Diocesan Administrator because he worked very closely with Bishop McFadden, he said.

“I have good knowledge of the issues facing our diocese and the faithful. I have a good working relationship with the Curia staff,” he said. “Just as the bishop had good people working around him to help him administrate the diocese, I have good people around me to help administrate the diocese. We have a very competent crew, and I hope for a safe and secure passage. In some ways it reminds me of my Pan Am days: trust the captain, trust the crew. Trust in your ability to do your job with the help of God’s grace.”

“I think of a quote from St. Julian of Norwich: ‘All shall be well,’” Father Gillelan said. “We can look to the future and maybe have doubts, fears or anxieties, but we are the Lord’s, and in the end, all shall be well.”

Worldwide Solemn Eucharistic Adoration

June 2 at 1:15 p.m.
St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 2, join with the Holy Father in Eucharistic Adoration that will extend at the same time all over the world. Come to St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, where, following 12:15 p.m. Mass, a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will take place at 1:15 p.m. This will be followed by Benediction at 2 p.m. Join in this opportunity to unite with Pope Francis and with the whole world in prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

With praise and gratitude to Almighty God, the Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the ordination to the Order of the Priesthood.

Ordination Vigil of Prayer
Join us in a Holy Hour for the seminarians who will be ordained to the Priesthood.

Friday, May 31, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
St. Patrick Cathedral,
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA

Ordination to the Priesthood
through the imposition of hands by His Excellency, the Most Reverend William J. Walterscheid, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh

Saturday, June 1, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
St. Patrick Cathedral,
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA

Kevin Kayda
Saint Patrick Parish
Carlisle

Stephen Kelley
Saint Patrick Parish
York

Daniel Richards
Assumption of the BVM Parish
Lancaster

Mark Wilke
Saint Joseph Parish
Dallastown

Find out more at stpatrickcathedral.org/ordination
Trinity High School
Laying Foundation for Future with Capital Campaign

In connection with Trinity High School’s 50th anniversary, the school, located in Camp Hill, is set to launch a “Faith in our Future” capital campaign designed to provide resources for needed renovations and improvements to the high school.

The goal is to raise a total of $13 million, with three separate phases, over nine years. The campaign is expected to cover costs of upgrades to the high school including, exterior renovations, windows and insulation improvements, a new heating and air conditioning system, and a new electrical system.

The “Faith in our Future” campaign has the support of the Diocese of Harrisburg and was strongly endorsed by Bishop Joseph McFadden before his unexpected passing. In speaking of the campaign, Bishop McFadden emphasized that the diocese recognizes the impact Trinity High School has had on students’ lives over its 50-year history.

“There is no more important mission in the Church today than the Catholic education of our youth,” said Bishop McFadden earlier this year. “I wholeheartedly endorse the Capital Campaign of Trinity High School which will position this outstanding school to serve the educational needs of our young men and women for years to come.”

“Bishop McFadden was a strong proponent for Catholic education and we were thrilled to have his approval,” said Janet Quigley, Development Director for Trinity High School. “We are thrilled to have the diocese committed to the school from the diocese, our alumni, and countless others who are part of the Trinity High School family. They believe in our mission and I’m excited about what we can accomplish during our next 50 years.”

Launching of the capital campaign. Trinity High School has faithfully served the mission of educating our youth for 50 years and this campaign will help us continue the work of shaping the lives of our students well into the future.”

While physical improvements are a priority of the fundraising effort, another component is continuing to build an endowment for tuition assistance. “Our vision and purpose is to provide an outstanding educational experience for our youth, and being able to provide financial assistance to students in need so they can have the Trinity High School experience is an important component of who we are and what we do,” said Principal David Bouton.

With a current enrollment of nearly 600 students, Trinity High School is committed to its vision of being a school that epitomizes excellence in all endeavors, according to Bouton, who sees the “Faith in our Future” campaign as an extension of that vision.

“The facilities have been well-maintained over the past 50 years but it’s time to make needed improvements,” said Bouton. “When you look at beginning a campaign like this, it’s encouraging to know you have the support and long-term commitment to the school from the diocese, our alumni, and countless others who are part of the Trinity High School family. They believe in our mission and I’m excited about what we can accomplish during our next 50 years.”

Funeral Mass DVD Available

DVDs of the Funeral Mass of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will be available for $25 each. To order, please visit the Diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org or mail a check, payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg, along with your name, address and phone number to: Bishop McFadden Funeral DVD, Communications Office, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710. DVD sales will benefit Catholic Education in the Diocese of Harrisburg.
House Bill 818 Would Ensure Taxpayers Do Not Fund Abortions

From Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Reports

House Bill 818 would ensure taxpayers do not fund abortions through the federal health care exchange administered in Pennsylvania. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) specifically permits states to prohibit insurance providers that participate in the marketplace from covering elective abortions. Therefore, to assure that elective abortion is not included in the federal marketplace to be implemented in Pennsylvania, HB 818 guarantees that the taxpayer supported plans in the federal government’s new health insurance exchange are in line with this long-standing policy.

HB 818 would not eliminate coverage of abortions in the cases of rape, incest or to avert the death of the mother. Jesus said, “The poor you will always have with you.” We do have to get us through these tough numbers of families in Pennsylvania. One hardship has touched the lives of record numbers of families in Pennsylvania. One in seven families in Pennsylvania for more than 160 years with a special mission to serve the economically poor you will always have with you.”

The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA) and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) continue to support access to health care for all persons. Our Catholic sponsored facilities have been providing health care to Pennsylvanians for more than 160 years with a special mission to serve the economically poor. They have historically faced daunting challenges in caring for those in need. Today, economic hardship has touched the lives of record numbers of families in Pennsylvania. One of the most devastating consequences of the crisis of diminished income or losing a job is the loss of access to health care. Thousands of Pennsylvanians are uninsured. Our needs are great, but Pennsylvania’s resources are still daunting. Jesus said, “The poor you will always have with you.”


PCHA and PCC Urge Consideration for Expanding Medicaid Eligibility

The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA) and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) recently issued this statement, urging the governor and the General Assembly to consider expanding Medicaid eligibility:

“Some have argued that it may be immoral for Catholics to provide any contraceptive measures at all to a woman who has been raped. Such a view is inconsistent with the idea that a woman who has been sexually assaulted is clearly entitled to protect herself from the attacker’s sperm. The Church teaches that rape is not a unitive act that requires openness to procreation. It is rather an act of violence against another person, and the woman is allowed to take steps to prevent the possible fertilization of her own egg(s). It is permissible, then, for Catholic hospitals to provide their patients with morning-after pills if the following four conditions are met:
1. The woman is not already pregnant from prior, freely-chosen sexual activity.
2. The woman has been sexually assaulted.
3. The woman has not yet ovulated.
4. The morning-after pill can reasonably be expected to prevent her from ovulating.

According to Father Pacholczyk, after a sexual assault, the woman can be tested for LH (luteinizing hormone) that will determine whether she is ovulating. If she is, the morning-after pill will not block the egg’s release. In this circumstance, the drug might function to block the implantation of an embryo, which would result in an abortion. “Under these conditions, therefore, the morning-after pill should not be administered.” (See Father Tad Pacholczyk, “Getting it right the ‘morning after’” at www.nbccenter.org/page.aspx?pid=301) Otherwise, it may be used to prevent the fertilization of her ovum by the rapist. This is not a contraceptive or abortive act, but a defensive one.

This legitimate use of “Plan B” does not, however, justify making it available as a contraceptive or abortifacient, especially to under-age users. Leaving pharmacological decisions to minors seems wrongheaded at best. Any parent knows how difficult it can be to manage a child’s medications under the best of circumstances. Children don’t ordinarily have the knowledge, experience or discipline to take the prescribed dose at the proper time, etc.

When a young girl is conflicted, afraid, or embarrassed, the possibility of misuse is magnified. Young girls are vulnerable to young or older men who might urge them to take the drug “just in case.” There is a real danger that predatory or exploitative males will use the availability of levonorgestrel to pressure a young girl to have sex. To rule this scenario out is naive, irresponsible and dangerous.

The moral objections to facilitating sexual relations between minors, or between an adult male and minor female (in most jurisdictions, this constitutes rape), are replete. Making this deleterious drug available to minors under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or peer pressure will only add to the list of problems associated with the use of this drug.

At this critical time, PCHA and PCC urge the governor and the General Assembly to consider expanding Medicaid eligibility as provided by the Affordable Care Act allows, or explore options with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which would provide the purchase of private health insurance for low-income individuals. Expanding Medicaid in Pennsylvania, or adopting another approach in cooperation with HHS, will ensure that thousands of low-income uninsured citizens will be able to access the health care they need now.

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Most telling in the shadow of the FDA’s decision to dispense levonorgestrel to 15-year-olds is this warning, which comes directly from the package label:

“Do not give this medication to anyone younger than 17 years old. Contact your doctor for more information.” I would add: “But before you do – consult with your parents and pastor!”

(Father Paul CB Schenck is Diocesan Director of Respect Life Activities and chairman of the National Pro-Life Action Center in Washington, D.C.)
Anniversaries of
Ordination to the Priesthood

77 Years of Priesthood and
101 Years of Life in July
Msgr. Vincent J. Topper
St. Catherine Labouré Parish, Harrisburg

60 Years
Father Dominick A. Mammarella
Berwick, Pennsylvania
Father Daniel J. Menniti
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

55 Years
Father Carl J. Steffen
Orrtanna, Pennsylvania
Father James O’Blaney, CSSR
St. James Parish, Lititz

50 Years
Father Brendan Greany, CSSR
Brooklyn, New York
Father Edward R. Lavelle
Bishop Dattilo Retirement Residence for Priests, Harrisburg

45 Years
Father Michael Messar, MSSCC
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Fairfield,
and St. Rita Parish, Blue Ridge Summit
Father Charles J. Topper
Corpus Christi, Texas

40 Years
Father John Bednarik, OFM Cap.
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Harrisburg
Father Lawrence J. McNeil
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Conewago
Father Bernardo Pistone
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg

35 Years
Father Edward J. Quinlan
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg
Father John A. Szada
Divine Redeemer Parish, Mount Carmel
Father Michael J. Cullin
Leola, Pennsylvania

30 Years
Father John C. Kemper, SS
Baltimore, Maryland

25 Years
Father Charles J. Persing
St. Margaret Mary Parish, Harrisburg
Msgr. James M. Lyons
St. Joseph Parish, Hanover
Father John P. Trigilio
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Marysville,
and St. Bernadette Parish, Duncannon
Father Martin O. Moran
Cincinnati, Ohio
Father Adrian Gallagher, OFM Conv.
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Coal Township,
and St. Patrick Parish, Trevorton

20 Years
Father Luis R. Rodriguez
Mary, Mother the Church Parish, Mount Joy

15 Years
Father Dominic Azagbor, OP
Maria Joseph Manor, Danville
Father John McCloskey, OFM Cap
St. Joseph Parish, Dallastown
Father Michael E. Messner
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lancaster

10 Years
Father Steven W. Fauser
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, New Oxford
Father Paul H. Clark
St. Matthew Parish, Dauphin
Father Jae-Sik Yang
St. Peter Son Korean Catholic Parish, Enola

5 Years
Father Mark M. Speitel
Millersville University

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes
to the priests celebrating special anniversaries
this year.
Pilgrimage – A Moment of Intense Grace

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Several years ago, I celebrated my 25th anniversary of consecrated life. Sometime before the actual date of the celebration, my sister called me on the phone and we had the following conversation:

“How would you like to go on a pilgrimage to see your boss to celebrate your jubilee?” she asked.

“Boss? Ahh, which one? I have several.”

“The Pope, silly! I was thinking of giving you as a present for your anniversary a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Florence.”

“WOW!” Tears began to flow down my face. “I am very touched by your kindness. What else can I say but, ‘Thanks!’”

Shortly after the celebration of my jubilee, I was honored by sojourning on a community pilgrimage which followed the footsteps of Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt, foundress of the Sisters of Christian Charity, through other parts of Rome and Paderborn, Germany, the birthplace of my congregation.

Both of these events greatly touched my heart and soul in various ways as I experienced firsthand the meaning of a global Church, and of hearing her “heartbeat” through the voices of others from different countries around the world. To undergo a pilgrimage is an amazing experience and a moment of intense grace for all pilgrims. Father Joshua Brommer, STL, in The Church: A Pilgrim People of God (The Catholic Witness, April 26, 2013, pg. 6) says:

“For the Catholic pilgrim, a pilgrimage as a lived experience has shaped not only the Catholic imagination but the Church’s doctrine. Since the time of the Exodus, when Israel wandered through the desert for forty years, the Scriptures reveal the pilgrim state of God’s People. For this reason, we profess that we “have no abiding city” (Heb 13:14) here on earth because we have a “citizenship in heaven” (Phil 3:14).”

But what actually is a pilgrimage? If one would take the online journey to Wikipedia, one would read: “A pilgrim (from the Latin peregrinus) is a traveler (literally one who has come from afar) who is on a journey to a holy place. Typically, this is a physical journeying (often on foot) to some place of special significance to the adherent of a particular religious belief system.”

As I walked the holy ground of Rome, I began to think about the countless numbers of Christians who not only visited this holy place but also died there, sharing updates during the pilgrimage. I found myself slowing down and actually praying with my feet because they were touching holy ground. I carefully observed the textures and colors of the fauna, flora and the stone. The slow process of walking slowed my thought process and my prayer so I could be more aware not only of the surroundings around me but how God was communicating with me. This is exactly what a pilgrim does. As I did some research on pilgrims and pilgrimages, I found this on the web: Walking is what pilgrims do; they pray with their feet. … A pilgrim, therefore, is someone who travels through the landscape, leaving behind all that is familiar on a journey to discover new territory, both physical and spiritual (http://www.nationalcathedral.org/worship/ceplinpro.shtml). So why would someone go on a pilgrimage? The purpose of any pilgrimage is to deepen the pilgrim’s relationship with God. A key ingredient is prayer. A pilgrim is expected to spend time in communal prayer as well as personal prayer. Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, meditation, the rosary, Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament are all important aspects of spiritually preparing for a pilgrimage. Basically, before a pilgrim ventures out on a pilgrimage, times of prayerful silence should already have been a part of the daily routine. Besides time set aside for prayer, study and reflection should be part of the preparation. Reading the life of the saints and intercessors of World Youth Day 2013 should also be part of a pilgrim’s personal reflection time. You can find a short biography about these saints at: http://www.rio2013.com/en/world-youth-day/patrons-and-intercessors. If you Google their names, a deeper study can be ascertained.

Besides prayer and study, a pilgrim is also expected to undergo personal penance and mortification. As I banged out this column on my computer, someone stopped by my office and inquired as to what I was doing. I explained to him the theme of what I was writing about and he said, “Remember, a pilgrim walks to die to self in order to arrive at the destination to live anew.”

One website on spiritual preparedness says it this way: “A pilgrim is ready to accept discomforts, inconveniences and hardships” (http://www.madonnahouse.org/publications/passion/Pass-It-On-021.htm). One of those hardships can be the sheer mass of the people who are present at every event of World Youth Day. Feeling like a grain of sand in the vastness of the universe can be a personal experience of feeling small and unworthy. Remember Christ died for YOU, and infinitely loves YOU, even though you are a mere tiny speck on the planet. Other mortifications might include personally bad weather or learning about your physical limitations in a deeper way. In order to be a true pilgrim, suffering and discomfort is part of the experience. The grace lies not in suffering for suffering sake, but in allowing the suffering to carve out a place in your heart and inviting Christ’s love to fill that space.

Attending World Youth Day as a pilgrim is indeed a grace-filled experience. As a member of the faithful in the Diocese of Harrisburg, you can become spiritual pilgrims as you accompany the pilgrims through Mexico and Brazil. This journey will be documented online in the Ning, which the Department of Youth and Young Adult has created. You can access the blogs, announcements, photos, and videos at http://www.youthandyoungadult.ning.com. Membership to this site will be monitored by diocesan personnel.

Preparing For World Youth Day 2013

Join Our ‘Ning’ Site to Follow Social Media Posts for WYD

You can journey with diocesan pilgrims as they prepare for, and participate in, World Youth Day this July by creating an account at http://youandyouthadult.ning.com. The Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry has created this site, called a “Ning,” to offer a one-stop-shop for online social media. Here, you will find blogs, photos and Facebook posts related to World Youth Day. Leading up to World Youth Day, there will be posts with information about the pilgrimage and its sites posted on the WYD group. During World Youth Day, photojournalist Emily Albert from The Catholic Witness will join young adult correspondents in sharing updates during the pilgrimage. Through the Ning site, The Catholic Witness and youth correspondents will daily dealing with touchy and share their stories as often and conveniently as possible. We are excited to have the faithful of diocese journey with us and pray for us as we will be praying for you.

Interactive participation on the Ning site is available to those who sign up to become members. Once you establish your account at http://youandyouthadult.ning.com, and have been approved by the moderators here at the diocese, you will want to join the WYD group. Join the Ning group today to unite with the pilgrims as they prepare for this faith-filled experience!
Mass, Appreciation Dinner Offer Gratitude for Religious Sisters

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Religious Sisters serving in the Harrisburg Diocese received heartfelt expressions of gratitude for their ministry during the annual Sisters’ Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Serra Club of Harrisburg.

Some 50 Sisters in attendance were recognized for their work — past and present — in education, health care and pastoral ministry, and for offering prayers for the Church.

The April 24 gathering, held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, began with a Mass celebrated by Father David McAndrew, who serves as chaplain of the Serra Club of Harrisburg, an organization dedicated to promoting religious vocations.

Expressing his appreciation to the Sisters, Father McAndrew remarked, “You are thanked not nearly enough, or often enough, or with enough fervor when we consider all that you have done for the Church of the Diocese of Harrisburg.”

The Sisters were treated to hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and music, and were presented with flowers that evening. Throughout dinner conversation with the Sisters, Serra Club members reminisced about the religious women who had influenced their lives.

At the conclusion of the meal, club president Tony Kern asked each Sister in attendance to stand and introduce herself to the club members and the other Sisters present. The simple introduction yielded an impressive representation of the numerous ways in which they serve the Church: as full-time and substitute teachers, principals, office staff, community cooks and seamstresses, directors of religious education, catechists, nurses, pastoral ministers and health care administrators.

Daughters of Mercy Sister Helen Scischitano, who is celebrating 63 years of religious life this year, told The Catholic Witness, “This event shows us how deeply appreciated we are, and it makes us feel good.”

As Sister Helen reconnected with friends — both Sisters and laity — her eyes lit up and her contagious laughter filled the room.

“When we gather, it’s like gathering as one family,” she said. “It’s great to see people here that I’ve met over the years. You run into them and they really don’t forget who you are. That really makes us feel appreciated.”

The Sisters’ Appreciation Dinner is just one of the ways in which the Serra Club of Harrisburg works to promote religious vocations, Mr. Kern noted. The organization, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year, also hosts an appreciation dinner for priests, supports diocesan seminarians, and helps to link college students to Catholic campus ministry through its College Connection Program.

The Serra Club of Harrisburg meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Meetings begin with Mass at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and a presentation or instruction on the faith. For more information about the club, contact Tony Kern at 717-367-0759.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Rila O’Leary, who serves as Director of Planned Giving and Stewardship at Immaculata University in Immaculata, Pa., greets members of the Serra Club of Harrisburg as she arrives for the Sisters’ Appreciation Dinner that the club sponsored last month.

Members of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy from Mercy Residence in York sing the opening hymn during Mass celebrated as part of the Serra Club of Harrisburg’s evening of appreciation for religious sisters last month at Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

Boniface, the apostle of Germany, started out as an English monk, a popular teacher, preacher and writer who was ordained at 30. He compiled a Latin grammar and wrote many biblical instructions. A popular teacher, preacher and writer who was ordained at 30. He compiled a Latin grammar and wrote many biblical instructions. He was later made archbishop of Mainz and papal legate, he was asked to reform the Frankish church. The patron saint of Germany was martyred in 754 as archbishop of Mainz and papal legate, he was asked to reform the Frankish church. The patron saint of Germany was martyred in 754. He compiled a Latin grammar and wrote many biblical instructions. But he felt called to missionary work, and in 722 landed in Friesland, now in the Netherlands. After a brief stay, he traveled to Rome, where he received a broad commission to evangelize central Germany. By 722, he had become bishop of Germany, where he organized the church and secured its ties to Rome. Later, as archbishop of Mainz and papal legate, he was asked to reform the Frankish church. The patron saint of Germany was martyred in Friesland, the missionary territory he revisited in retirement.

Boniface

c. 675-754

June 5

Boniface, a popular teacher, preacher and writer who was ordained at 30. He compiled a Latin grammar and wrote many biblical instructions. But he felt called to missionary work, and in 722 landed in Friesland, now in the Netherlands. After a brief stay, he traveled to Rome, where he received a broad commission to evangelize central Germany. By 722, he had become bishop of Germany, where he organized the church and secured its ties to Rome. Later, as archbishop of Mainz and papal legate, he was asked to reform the Frankish church. The patron saint of Germany was martyred in Friesland, the missionary territory he revisited in retirement.
At All Saints Cemetery, New Manager Focuses on Service, Support, Consolation

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Kevin Shervinskie walks the verdant, sloped grounds of All Saints Cemetery in Elysburg on a perfect spring day. The dogwood trees there are in full bloom, and the manicured cemetery is fresh with color from flowers placed at gravesites on Mother’s Day.

As he strolls the driveways that meander around and through the grounds, Mr. Shervinskie contemplates his connection to All Saints, one of a number of cemeteries operated and cared for by the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Mr. Shervinskie’s grandparents are buried here. He purchased a plot here. And, for the past six months, he’s been serving as cemetery manager here.

He respectfully took the reins from longtime manager Mike Ruggilla in November—on All Souls Day to be exact, when the Catholic Church remembers in a special way all of the faithful departed. He understands the significance of his work—to care for the 25 acres of sacred ground and the final resting place of so many, to meet with bereaved people who are faced with burying their loved ones.

In fulfilling this position, he draws heavily on his previous experiences of serving those who are grieving. For 23 years, Mr. Shervinskie had worked as a funeral director in Shamokin, counseling people in their time of need, just as he does now at All Saints.

“Being the cemetery manager here is a perfect opportunity for me to continue to be of service to people in their time of need, to offer support and consolation,” Mr. Shervinskie said.

“Many families I worked with at the funeral home know that I’m here now at All Saints, and I’ve kept a connection with the other funeral directors in the area, so that has been advantageous to my work here,” he said.

In the cemetery office, where Mr. Shervinskie readily accepts phone calls and visits, there is a dining room table and a set of chairs. Here, he offers those overwhelmed by grief a chance to sit, to be here to help people,” he said.

“When people come in to the office, I come out from behind my desk and the main counter, and come out here to be with them,” Mr. Shervinskie said as he gestured to the table and chairs.

“It’s about being caring and consoling, listening to people’s needs, working with them on their financial concerns,” he said.

“Often, when people come to see me, it’s during their most difficult time. It’s important for me to care for their needs first,” Mr. Shervinskie remarked. “Sometimes I sit here at the table with them for an extra hour because they just might need someone to talk to. I do a lot of listening, whether it’s here in the office, over the phone, or out in the cemetery.”

Catholic cemeteries are sacred spaces. They offer a place to remember the dead and to pray for them, to contemplate sure hope in the resurrection.

Among the in-ground plots, mausoleums and columbariums at All Saints Cemetery are Stations of the Cross. The Stations, indicated by large markers depicting each scene, begin at the cemetery entrance and weave through the grounds.

Statues, crosses and images of the Risen Christ and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary fill the Catholic cemetery, which offers burial for both Catholics and non-Catholics.

And, each Memorial Day, weather permitting, All Saints Cemetery hosts a special outdoor Mass, which is set up next to the cemetery office. This year’s Mass will be celebrated May 27 at 10 a.m. by Conventual Franciscan Father Martin Kobos, pastor of Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin.

Some 250 people gather each year for the Memorial Day Mass, which has been a tradition at All Saints Cemetery since 1958.

“There is a long tradition of caring and compassion here,” Mr. Shervinskie of the cemetery, which was established in 1963. “We have dedicated staff members that offer perpetual care for the beautiful grounds.”

“This cemetery is important to me, and I appreciate the opportunity to care for it and to be here to help people,” he said.

“Whether it’s walking through the cemetery to help someone find a loved one’s grave, or listening to people in their grief, I’m here for them.”

Diocesan Cemeteries Offer Solar Lights

Diocesan Cemeteries are now offering solar lights that can be purchased and placed at gravesites. The Light of Hope luminaries can be placed in the ground to illuminate flat markers, monuments, niches, columbaria and mausoleums. The solar power luminary will offer light from dusk to dawn. The lights feature tempered glass that can be etched for personalization. A QR code on the light offers families an opportunity to create web-based tributes to their loved ones.

For additional information on the Light of Hope luminaries, including cost, warranty and lighting options, contact Diocesan Cemeteries Managers at the information listed in the box at left.
New Prayer Garden Graces Mechanicsburg Parish

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

On the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, May 1, it was a brilliant sunny day at St. Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg, where parishioners gathered around their new St. Joseph Peace Garden that borders the church’s southwest corner.

Father Louis Ogden, pastor, blessed the beautiful new garden which features as its focal point a 1952, 700-pound statue of St. Joseph. This striking depiction was located at the original stone church which still stands on the current parish campus and was built by the Mechanicsburg faithful and their founding pastor, Father Cletus Wagman, more than 60 years ago. The statue was cleaned and now anchors the new rosary garden that also features two exquisite black granite pieces on the walkway that depict the Crucifix of the Rosary and the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Christ Child.

The project began under Father Chester Snyder, who recently retired after a long tenure at the parish. The garden was conceived and financially supported by Charles Weber, who passed away not long ago and is fondly remembered by the parish as a faithful servant who served as an usher at the church for more than 50 years. Mr. Weber, along with his family, hoped that the prayer garden would “inspire and increase prayer and help people here on earth to fall in love with their Lord.”

The hard work of building and designing the garden was led by parish manager John Durle and Trinity High School junior Megan McKendry, who donated numerous hours of work as part of her Girl Scout Gold Project. “This project was so worth the countless hours of work,” Miss McKendry said after the blessing. “It turned out so beautifully, and I am so pleased with how the art aspect of the project makes it stand out.”

There will be continuing enhancements to the garden such as benches and landscaping features. Father Ogden told the more than 500 gathered that all in the community are welcome to come, reflect and pray and draw closer to God.

Father Louis Ogden, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, blesses a statue of St. Joseph that is a focal point of a new prayer garden at the parish.

Deacon Jack Paruso assists members of St. Joseph’s school band as the students present musical selections during the dedication of the parish’s prayer garden.

Diocesan Pentecost Collection

The annual diocesan Pentecost Collection raises funds to help educate seminarians studying for the priesthood, to provide for the ongoing theological formation of priests and permanent deacons, and to help provide for the needs of our retired priests. Currently, there are nearly 40 men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Harrisburg. Your continued generosity helps to provide for the needs of our priests, deacons, and seminarians.

Ways to Give

• One-Time Gift
A one-time, outright gift can be made to the Pentecost Collection at any point during the year.

• Payment Methods
The following payment methods are accepted: cash, check (payable to your parish), credit card (Visa and Mastercard), and stocks and securities.

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

Visit www.hbgdiocese.org/pente for more information, or to make a donation to the collection.
Faith

Continued from 1

“Today – and it pains me to say this – a homeless person dying in the cold doesn’t make the news” nor do the millions of children around the globe who go to bed hungry each night.

“This is serious. This is serious,” he told the crowd. “We cannot rest easy while things are this way and Christians cannot say, ‘Well, this is the way things are.’ We cannot become stodgy Christians, so polite, who speak of theology calmly over tea. We have to become courageous Christians and seek out those who are the flesh of Christ, those who are the flesh of God.”

Asked how he came to have faith, Pope Francis responded, “I had the grace of growing up in a family in which the faith was lived simply and concretely; but it was especially my grandmother – my father’s mother – who marked my faith journey. She explained things to us, spoke to us about Jesus, taught us the catechism.

“We don’t find the faith in the abstract,” he said. Faith is something one learns about from another person, and usually that person is a mother or grandmother.

The pope said he draws strength from praying the rosary each day and from praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament each night – “sometimes I nod off, it’s true... but he understands. And I feel such comfort knowing that he’s watching me.”

Pope Francis, who has spoken often at his morning Masses about the need for the parishes to have a strong outreach, returned to the theme with the lay movements, many of which focus on evangelization.

A parish that is focused only on being well organized and keeping members close to others who think and live like they do runs a great danger, he said. “When the church becomes closed, it becomes sick, sick.

“Think about a room closed up for a year,” the pope said. When someone finally enters there is an odor and nothing feels right. “A closed church is the same way; it’s a sick church.”

While Jesus stands at the door and knocks, trying to get into people’s hearts and lives, he said, there is also a possibility that Jesus is shut up inside a parish and “knocks at the door to get out and we don’t let him out because we’re insecure.”

The Church is called to be a light to the world, he said. The world needs Christians’ witness to the Gospel, its “witness of fraternal love, solidarity and sharing.”

Telling the crowd he would spare them a show of hands, Pope Francis also asked how many people pray each day for persecuted Christians. Before the pope spoke, the crowd had heard from Paul Bhatti, who took over as Pakistan’s minister of minority affairs after his brother, who held the same position, was assassinated in 2011. Bhatti spoke about the witnessing of Pakistan’s Christian minority despite discrimination and even violence.

“We must promote religious liberty for all people,” the pope said. “Every man and woman must be free to profess his or her faith, whatever it may be. Why? Because that man and that woman are children of God.”

Pope: Confession is Not Like Dry Cleaners, but is Encounter with Jesus

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Going to confession isn’t like heading off to be tortured or punished, nor is it like going to the dry cleaners to get out a stain, Pope Francis said in a morning Mass homily.

“It’s an encounter with Jesus” who is patiently waiting “and takes us as we are,” offering penitential tender mercy and forgiveness, he said April 29.

Members of the Vatican’s investment agency and a group of religious women joined the pope for the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where the pope lives.

“God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all,” the pope said, quoting from the First Letter of John.

While everyone experiences moments of darkness in life, the verse refers to the darkness of living in error, “being satisfied with oneself, being convinced of not needing salvation,” he said.

As John continues, the pope said, “If we say, ‘We are without sin,’ we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” People have to start out with the humility of realizing “we are all sinners, all of us,” he said.

Even though it is embarrassing to admit to and tell the truth about one’s thoughts and deeds, embarrassment or “shame is a true Christian and human virtue” linked to the traditional virtue of humility. 

Humility and kindness are the framework of a Christian life, “the way a Christian must walk in life,” he said.

“Oftentimes we think that going to confession is like going to the dry cleaners” to get out a stain, but it isn’t, Pope Francis said.

“It’s an encounter with Jesus” who “waits for us to forgive us” and offer salvation, he said.

The pope said confession isn’t like “going to a torture session” where Jesus “is waiting to lambast me.”

Confession “is going to praise God, because I – the sinner – have been saved by him,” who always waits and always forgives “with tenderness.”

When the Lord forgives, he is performing an act of justice, the pope said, “because he came to save and forgive us,” welcoming us with the affection of a father toward his children.

People need to believe that when they sin, Jesus will defend them because he is just and wants people to have “that peace that only he can give.”

However, people must go before the Lord with courage, even joy, “with our truth of being sinners,” he said.

“We must never excuse ourselves before God,” who “asks us to be humble and kind” and truthful.

In his homily April 27, the pope said Jesus invites Christians to go outside their comfort zone and proclaim the Gospel with joy.

Do not be afraid of the joy of the Holy Spirit, who opens the path “forward,” outside of oneself, he said.

Present for the Mass were workers from the Vatican post office and staff from Vatican’s St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic that serves mainly immigrants.

The pope warned against the formation of “little groups” of self-righteous whose hearts are closed “to the freshness of the Holy Spirit” and who “bargain with power” and try to solve problems alone, “among ourselves.”

These groups of self-righteous defend their hold on the truth with “slander, gossip” who only look within, wall themselves in and tear down others, the pope said.

Religious communities that are free open themselves up to “the freedom of God and the Holy Spirit,” and “they press on, even in the face of persecution.”

He asked people to look at their own parish, church group or religious community and ask whether they are open to the Holy Spirit and open to spreading the word of God.

“Because the good is like this: It always spreads, the good never curls up inside” but reaches out to the ends of the earth with joy.
Catholic News Service

As the death toll rose from the massive tornado that struck near Oklahoma City May 20, Pope Francis offered a special prayer for the victims during his early morning Mass May 21 and later offered his condolences through his Twitter account.

“Let us pray for the victims – at least 50 of them – and the missing, especially the children, struck by the violent tornado that hit Oklahoma City yesterday. Hear us, O Lord,” the pope said during the prayers of the faithful.

The tornado touched down at about 3 p.m. Wednesday in Oklahoma City and reportedly stayed on the ground for more than 40 minutes, leaving a 20-mile path of death and destruction. By press time on May 21, news reports were saying at least 91 people, including 20 children, died. Elementary schools were struck by the tornado.

A few hours after the Mass, Pope Francis also used his @Pontifex Twitter account to express his concern for the Oklahoma victims and survivors.

“I am close to the families of all who died in the Oklahoma tornado, especially those who lost young children. Join me in praying for them,” he told the 2.5 million people who follow his English-language Twitter account and the 2.4 million who follow his Spanish-language account.

Visit www.bpgdiocese.org for information on how you can assist the victims in Oklahoma.

Gosnell’s Conviction Shows
‘Ugliness of Abortion,’ Archbishop Says

Two girls stand in rubble after a tornado struck Moore, Okla., May 20. The mile-wide tornado touched down near Oklahoma City, killing at least 91 people, including 20 children, destroying homes, businesses and a pair of elementary schools in the suburb of Moore.

Pope Prays for Victims of Oklahoma Tornado

Two girls stand in rubble after a tornado struck Moore, Okla., May 20. The mile-wide tornado touched down near Oklahoma City, killing at least 91 people, including 20 children, destroying homes, businesses and a pair of elementary schools in the suburb of Moore.
Corpus Christi Teachers Complete Anti-Gravity Flight, Bring Lessons Back to Class

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Three teachers from Corpus Christi School, Chambersburg, take the expression “Learning outside of the classroom” to a new extreme. Amanda Blough, Amy Fetterhoff, and Kelly Hockensmith introduced a NASA exploring school to their fourth and fifth grade classrooms over a year ago. Just this fall, The Catholic Witness interviewed Mrs. Blough and Mrs. Fetterhoff along with their students as they completed experiments that would be performed during an anti-gravity flight at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

A few weeks ago, these three brave teachers took the experiments designed and tried in the classroom on an anti-gravity flight to demonstrate to the youth how gravity works at different G-force levels.

Dressed in uniforms similar to those of NASA professionals, the teachers were brought live into the classroom via video conference, enabling their students to talk to them from the space center. Mrs. Blough said that she, Mrs. Fetterhoff and Mrs. Hockensmith could see the students before the students could see the teachers, and the teachers were able to watch as excitement engulfed the classroom. As soon as the kids saw their teachers, they were filled with questions and excitement.

“We were able to bring outreach items on board to see how certain objects would react to hyper gravity and micro gravity. The kids picked which items we would fly with,” she said.

The objects included colored slime, a wind-up chicken and a snow globe,” she shared.

As soon as the kids saw their teachers, they were filled with questions and excitement. “It was great for our classroom to see firsthand how all their hard work paid off,” Mrs. Blough explained about the experience. “It was great for our classrooms to see firsthand how all their hard work paid off.”

There is a lot of data for these teachers to sort through as well as learning tools that NASA sent back with them.

The objects included colored slime, a wind-up chicken and a snow globe,” she shared.

The first experiment was in 2G, or twice the weight while on earth. To achieve zero gravity, the plane levels then takes a nose dive. Two of the last experiments completed on the plane were to mimic moon gravity and gravity on Mars. The plane dropped to give the impression of what it would feel like on the moon or Mars. The drops last about 20 or 25 seconds.

In order to prevent motion sickness during these trips, the teachers were administered an anti-nausea/motion sickness injection or pill, depending on preference.

Initially, the teachers were set to experience 32 flight parabolas, a plane maneuver in which the flyer experiences different levels of gravity. However, after the 11th parabolas, the teachers were asked to be seated as the plane was turned back because of engine problems.

“I couldn’t believe how calmly we took the news,” Mrs. Blough said while explaining the process of the flight. After the engine problems were resolved, they were given permission to continue the rest of the parabolas.

“We were assured it was ok, and we trusted them completely. They would put us in danger,” Mrs. Blough remarked. “We came back smiling and ready to do it again, we have so much data collected and we are working on taking the time to compare the classroom data to it,” Mrs. Blough explained about the experience.

“We were able to bring outreach items on board to see how certain objects would react to hyper gravity and micro gravity. The kids picked which items we would fly with,” she said.

The Catholic Witness

Ray Tyo Scholarship Winners

In April, the Diocese of Harrisburg honored several high school students who were awarded the Ray Tyo St. Ferdinand Scholarship. The scholarship was founded by Mr. Ray Tyo in gratitude for his Catholic education. It is made available to students who graduate from a Catholic high school in the diocese in the fall, and the school nominates the students for the scholarship to the Foundation Board.

This year’s awardees are shown with Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education, prior to a luncheon at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. In the front two rows, from left, are Angelene Leonardi and James Press of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg; Lisa Porr and Steve Scullen of Trinity High School in Camp Hill; and Katie Banik of Lebanon Catholic High School. In the back two rows, from left, are Evan Schnader of Lancaster Catholic High School; John Fitzpatrick of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township; Kasey Sniringer of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown; and Jasmine Velandia of Lebanon Catholic School.

Winners

Ray Tyo Scholarship

Corpus Christi School teachers Kelly Hockensmith, Amy Fetterhoff and Amanda Blough participate in a videoconference with their students after their first anti-gravity flight at the Johnson Space Center.
Save the Date!
A One Day Retreat with Johnette Benkovic, Founder of Women of Grace Saturday, October 5, 2013 Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg

For more information, contact
Ann Marie Seglia at smseglia@gmail.com or 717-982-6475
Chris Arnold at chris.arnold82@gmail.com or 717-671-9256
LuAnn Carwright at georgiapeach82@comcast.net or 717-657-3192

Obituaries

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


BONNEVILLE — St. Joseph the Worker: Rosemary Burns, Monroe Noble.

BUCHANAN VALLEY — St. Ignatius Loyola: John "Jack" Geiger, Elizabeth "Betty" Irvin, Margaret "Peg" Kimple.

CAMP HILL — Good Shepherd: Ellen Dadigan, Catherine Kapp.


CHAMBERSBURG — Corpus Christi: Jacob Barti, Robbins Thayer.


COLUMBIA — St. Peter: Raymond R. Eisenberger, Joseph P. Hess.

CORNWALL — Sacred Heart of Jesus: St. Joseph: Charles M. DeMeo.


ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP — St. Peter: Grace R. Miller, Catherine Sekley.

ENOLA — Our Lady of Lourdes: Catherine Cigarauskas, George Albert "All" Peters, Rose Schaad.

GETTYSBURG — St. Francis Xavier: Beatrice Freeling, Edward Winsiowski.


HARRISBURG — Holy Family: Elizabeth "Betty" Cayn, St. Catherine Laboure: Elizabeth Neiss, Nancy Miller, Diana Mozert, Mother of Mary, Mary Santy, Joseph Wasilewski, Giovanna Zimmerman; St. Francis of Assisi: Rashon Crowther, Ann; Margaret Mary: Betty Albert, John Jordan, Leander Schwanz, Doris Shupp.


KULMPTON — Holy Angels: Robert W. Bunchko, Gerald J. Laskoski, Clement Marchetti, Stanley J. Ruseyks.

LANCASTER — Assumption BVM: Blanche Cullen, Gladys Treier.

LEBANON — Assumption BVM: John Loom, Helen Rosch, Richard Oliver.

LYKENS — Our Lady of Czestochowa: Christians: Mary Cunningham, John Margatsinski, Delores Zilinski.

MANHEIM — St. Richard: Jack Burke, Rose Heffener.


MIDDLETOWN — Seven Sortows BVM: Madeleine McQuiggen.

MILLERSVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle: John M. Bradley, Vincent J. Mankins.


NEW CUMBERLAND — St. Theresa: Frank Mistry.

NEW FREEDOM — St. John the Baptist: Daniel J. Lubreski, Edward Tomaska.

NEW OXFORD — Immaculate Conception BVM: Gloria Ann Mahone.

SELINGROVE — St. Pius X: Lisa Forbes, Patricia Rock, J. D. Smith.

SHAMOKIN — Mother Cabrini: Josephine Garrigan, Loretta Hager, Theresa Swizzell,ઈblur Slater, Lawrence Swartz, Anna Marie "Nancy" Zarkoski.

SHIPPENSBURG — Our Lady of the Assumption: Cyril Rystedt.

STEELTON — Prince of Peace: Richard Berkantsock, Mildred "Sis" Lessane, Catherine Mahbus.

TREVORTON — St. Patrick: Joseph Baranowski.

WYNESBORO — St. Andrew: Bridget Dickinson, Joseph "Jerry" Hemler, Tharow Null.

YORK — Immaculate Conception BVM: Kathryn Hekey, Donald Stutzbach; St. Joseph: Constance Caccella, Kenneth Rakestraw; St. Patrick: Marie Haupt, Betty Tate, Frank Zambito; St. Rose of Lima: John M. Mikulus.

Remembrance

Deceased Clergy

Please pray for the following clergy who have passed away in June during the past 25 years:

Mgr. Karl Stolko, 1988
Deacon Henry Bucher, 1990
Mgr. Matthias Steidlecki, 1990
Father Augustine Zan, 1999
Father Joseph Kelly, 2000
Father Robert Burns, Jr., 2001
Father Joseph Grimaldi, 2001
Father William Gieger, CSSR, 2007
Father T. Ronald Hanly, 2012

Delone Catholic Earns Middle States Accreditation
The Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools voted at its spring 2013 meeting to award accreditation to Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown for seven years through 2020. Delone Catholic was last accredited in 2006.

According to the Middle States Association, an accredited institution: adheres to the Middle States Standards for Accreditation; uses it mission, beliefs and goals as the basis for decision making; involves all of its faculty and students in accordance with its ethical practice; accepts responsibility for the level of performance of its students; remains committed to continuous improvement in student learning and its capacity to produce it; demonstrates levels of effectiveness in its continuing; operates in a collegial and collaborative way with all of its stakeholders; and sustains its focus on implementing recommendations, addressing monitoring issues and correcting stipulations. It may take part of its notification of accreditation; and fulfills its maintenance requirements to the Commission.

In preparation for accreditation, Delone Catholic conducted a self-study in 2010-11, which included the most external survey of any school in the history of the school. In 2011-12, the faculty, Board of Directors and a planning committee that included parents, students, alumni and members of the business community, used the self-study data to identify student performance objectives for the next seven years. In November of 2012, a five-member Middle States evaluating team of educators visited the school for four days, interviewing stakeholders, reviewing documentation and observing school operations. At the conclusion of their visit, they wrote a report outlining their observations, recommendations and monitoring issues for the school.

In an oral report at the conclusion of the evaluating team visit, evaluating team chair Donna Bridgedack stated, “Many schools talk about being a community, but Delone Catholic High School is an exemplar of such a community...Faculty and students use the word family to describe this unique relationship. The Team recognizes that this strong sense of family is one of the strongest influences in the school.”

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LuAnn Carwright at georgiapeach82@comcast.net or 717-657-3192

Bloomburg Catholic Campus Hosts Mass in American Sign Language
The Bloomburg Catholic Campus (CMC) at Bloomsburg University recently host- ed a Mass celebrated in American Sign Language (ASL) at St. Columbia Church in Bloomsburg. The idea was proposed by a member of the CCM’s student Leadership Team, Melissa Kierzwicka, who serves as Facilitator of Personal Development, one of the six pillars of Catholic Campus Ministry as outlined by the U.S. Bishops in their document on college campus ministry, “Empowered by the Spirit.” Melissa studies ASL, and thought the Mass would be a good way to connect the Catholic faith to what she and her fellow students are learning in class.

Approximately 25 students participated in the Mass, which was celebrated by Father Thomas Ramirez, pastor of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, who has received ASL certification. Father Timothy Jurewicz, Director of Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University, Ginny Duncan, Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, translated the Mass. The weekly university Mass is interpreted in ASL.

Father Marcoe remarked that the Mass was a way of giving hearing people a chance to participate in a Mass celebrated in ASL for those who are deaf, and also gave those deaf an opportunity to worship in solidarity with those who can hear.

Lancaster Teens Assist Refugees through Catholic Charities Program
After a visit from Miri Lukic, program manager for Catholic Charities Immi- grant and Refugee Services, the teens of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lancaster decided to do something to help. Refugees have been forced to flee their country because they fear for their lives. This may be because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. In 2011, there were 15.2 million refugees around the world, and it is estimated that 80 percent of refugees are women and children.

The teens listened and learned, and were moved by Mira’s stories and the plight of refugees. They decided to educate their parish family on the plight of refugees and ask for help to help by donating items to Catholic Charities’ Angel Project.

Approximately 25 students participated in the project, which was celebrated by Father Richard Geiger, CSSR, pastor of the Church of the Nativity, on May 24, 2013.

Donations began to pour in from the parish, too, and the teens sorted the donations and arranged them attractively in baskets. The baskets and extra toiletries were purchased with money earned by a local youth group from a fundraiser they held by offering an extra day of summer participation in Catholic Heart Workcamp. The teens included a prayer card in each welcome basket, along with a brochure of their church, and a handwritten card expressing the recipients to their new homes, letting them know that they are being prayed for.

To learn more about how you can assist refugees through Catholic Charities, contact Miri Lukic at 717-232-0606.

Lancaster Teens Assist Refugees through Catholic Charities Program
After a visit from Miri Lukic, program manager for Catholic Charities Immigra- n
The Council of Catholic Women of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown has been granted permission by His Excellency the late, Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden for a visitation by the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima beginning November 1st and concluding November 21st, 2013.
way of life.

The annual Festival of Flags will be held on Father’s Day, June 14 from 4-8 p.m. and John Deere High School in Hanover, will be held June 27 at 8:30 a.m. at Mayagle Golf Course. Cost is $20 per golfer and includes breakfast, beverages, prize raffle tickets and use of the snack bar. Prizes include a 1st prize of a $150 gift card to Dick’s Sporting Goods; a 2nd prize of a $75 gift card to Cabela’s; and a 3rd prize of a $30 gift card to Target or Lowe’s Home Improvement.

The 3rd Annual Home Renovation Festival in Mount Carmel will be held on the parish picnic grounds June 8 from 10-2 p.m. on Father’s Day. A variety of vendors will be on hand to help with your home renovation needs. Vendors will include contractors, heating and cooling professionals, painters, and many more.

The annual Divine Redeemer Parish Festival in York will be held June 7 and 8 at St. Cecilia’s Church in York. The festival will feature a variety of activities including a food court, games, great food, bingo and music on both evenings. Midway games are open from 5-11 p.m. on Friday and 4-11 p.m. on Saturday. A fish fry will be held on both evenings.

The annual St. Joseph’s Carnival in York will be held June 8-9 at the York Catholic High School in Harrisburg. The carnival will feature a variety of games, food, and entertainment for all ages. The carnival will be open from 4-11 p.m. on June 8 and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on June 9.

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The annual St. Joseph’s Carnival in York will be held June 8-9 at the York Catholic High School in Harrisburg. The carnival will feature a variety of games, food, and entertainment for all ages. The carnival will be open from 4-11 p.m. on June 8 and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on June 9.
No sport in America is growing more than girls' high school lacrosse. And while the majority of schools in Pennsylvania still do not offer the spring sport yet, each year dozens of programs are starting up and the competition and skill level are markedly better each year.

The Fighting Irish of York Catholic are perennially one of the best programs in York County, along with Kennard-Dale and Southwestern. The Fighting Irish bested the Mustangs of Southwestern to earn a bid in the league final against the Kennard-Dale Rams, who had only lost one game all spring.

The Rams jumped out to a 7-3 lead at half and played the Fighting Irish even in the second half to win 11-7 to deny York Catholic a league title.

The Fighting Irish finished their solid season at 14-5 after losing to arguably the best program in the central Pennsylvania area, Manheim Township, 19-13, in the first round of District 3 competition.