In honor of Memorial Day and the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country, students from St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville — including Thomas Pokrivka, Gima Ndasi and Wyatt Wells — placed 750 American flags on the graves of veterans at Holy Saviour Cemetery in York. This is the fourth year that the school has been involved in the service project. See page 10.

Seminarians Steven Arena, Samuel Dubois, John Kuchinski, Richard Mowery and Brian Olkowski stand ready in service to the Church during the Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on May 16. Addressing the five men in his homily, Bishop Gainer remarked that “The deacon’s ministry among us is a reminder to us all that Christ came not to be served, but to serve, and that he has sent each of us to be servants according to his own heart.” See pages 8 and 9.

Called to Serve

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

Some thought this day would never arrive. Others hoped and some always knew it would.

On May 23, the Catholic Church beatified Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdamez, of El Salvador, who was assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass, just a day after pleading and ordering soldiers to stop killing innocent civilians.

“Blessed Romero is another brilliant star that belongs to the sanctity of the Church of the Americas,” said Cardinal Angelo Amato, head of the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes, during the ceremony in San Salvador.

“And thanks be to God, there are many.”

While those who persecuted him have died or are in obscurity, “the memory of Romero continues to live in the poor and the marginalized,” Cardinal Amato said.

His homilies often pleaded for better conditions for the poor, for a stop to the escalating violence in the country and for brotherhood among those whose divisions ultimately led to a 12-year conflict.

“Blessed Romero’s ministry among us is a reminder to us all that Christ came not to be served, but to serve, and that he has sent each of us to be servants according to his own heart.” See pages 8 and 9.

In a message sent Saturday on the occasion of the beatification, Pope Francis said that Archbishop Romero “built the peace with the power of love, gave testimony of the faith with his life.”

Proof of that is the shirt he died in, soaked in blood, after an assassin’s single bullet took his life. Eight deacons carried the blood-stained shirt, now a relic, to the altar in a glass case. Others decorated it with flowers and candles during the Saturday ceremony. Several priests reached out to touch the case and later made the sign of the cross.

In a time of difficulty in El Salvador, Archbishop Romero knew “how to guide, defend and protect his flock, remaining faithful to the Gospel and in communion with the whole Church,” the pope said in his message. “His ministry was distinguished by a particular attention to the poor and marginalized. And at the time of his death, while celebrat-

More ROMERO, page 2
ing the holy sacrifice, love and reconciliation, he received the grace to be fully identified with the one who gave his life for his sheep.”

The event, at the square of the Divine Savior of the World in the capital city of San Salvador, saw the attendance of four Latin American presidents and six cardinals including: Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, of Honduras; Leopoldo Brenes, of Nicaragua; Jaime Ortega, of Cuba; Jose Luis Lacanau, of Panama; Roger Mahony, of the U.S.; and Italian Cardinal Amato, as well as Italian Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, postulator of Archbishop Romero’s cause.

Their excitement couldn’t have been greater than that of those like Father Esefian Turcios, pastor of El Salvador’s St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Soyapango and national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in El Salvador. Before El Salvador’s conflict, Father Turcios was imprisoned for defending the rights of the poor. Archbishop Romero helped free him.

“There have been people inspired by Romero for 35 years. How do you think they feel right now?” asked Father Turcios.

But just as he has devotes, Archbishop Romero has had detractors.

After his death, the Vatican received mounds of letters against Archbishop Romero, Archbishop Paglia, has said. And that affected his path toward sainthood, which includes beatification. Archbishop Paglia, has said. And that affected his path toward sainthood, which includes beatification. Archbishop Paglia, has said. And that affected his path toward sainthood, which includes beatification.

Father Turcios said by studying Blessed Romero’s life, others will discover all the Gospel truths that led him to defend life, the poor and the Church, and do away with untruths surrounding his legacy.

“During the country’s civil war that lasted from 1979 until 1992, some Salvadorans hid, buried and sometimes burned photos they had taken with or of Archbishop Romero, because it could mean others would call them communists or rebel sympathizers and put their lives in danger. Though he still has some detractors, Father Turcios said, the beatification can help others understand the reality and truth that others have known all along: Archbishop Romero ‘was loyal to God’s will, was loyal to and loved his people and was loyal to and loved the Church,’ he said.

One of the offertory gifts during the Mass May 23 was the book “De la locura a la esperanza” or “From Madness to Hope.” A document generated during the peace accords that ended the country’s 12-year war. It chronicles some of the greatest human rights atrocities committed in El Salvador during the conflict, including the killing and rape of four women religious from the U.S., the killing of priests, catechists, as well as massacres of unarmed civilians — more than 70,000 died in all.

Priests, bishops and cardinals wore some form of a red vestment, signifying martyrdom. Their stoles were emblazoned with Archbishop Romero’s episcopal motto: “Sentir con la iglesia,” or “feel with the Church,” also translated as “to think with the Church.”

The ceremony culminated a week in San Salvador that saw pilgrims, mainly from Latin America, but also from as far away as Singapore and many from the United States, who wanted to celebrate the occasion. Flowers, music, tears and happiness flowed at San Salvador’s Metropolitan Cathedral of the Holy Savior, where the archbishop is buried. He is officially Blessed Romero, but to others he already is and has been “San Romero,” or St. Romero of the Americas.

Father Juan J. Navarro, of Maracay, Venezuela, said he visited the archbishop’s burial place to voice the many needs of his country. Food and freedom of expression are lacking, he said, and it’s a place with a similar situation to the one that led to war in Archbishop Romero’s time:

“I asked for [Archbishop Romero] to intercede for our rights, to continue to inspire in us the will to go forward when the reality of life is serious,” he said.

For 81-year-old Salvadoran Gregoria Martinez de Jimenez, the beatification marked the official recognition of something she has known all along: “We finally have a saint who is one of ours,” she said as tears flowed.

“He was a disciple of Jesus,” added her daughter Maria Elena Jimenez Martinez. 44. Both women attended Archbishop Romero’s funeral, where smoke bombs went off and shots were fired. More than elation, they showed happiness mixed with sorrow that remains from a painful time.

Jesus Father Miguel Angel Vasquez Hernandez, of Aracatao, said the archbishop would probably have felt a little taken aback with such a ceremony, which is expected to cost about $1 million and was attended by hundreds of thousands.

The best way to honor him, he said, is to work for peace and justice in El Salvador, and in other parts of the world affected by poverty, war, violence, oppression and economic injustice.
There have been many new pieces of legislation enacted over recent months changing how the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania responds to child abuse. The Diocese commends the legislature for their work to create a safer environment for all children in Pennsylvania and is committed to ensuring that all clergy, employees and those volunteers who engage with the youth of the diocese in our schools and parishes understand their responsibilities under this new legislation.

**New On-line Training**

There has been a substantial expansion by the Commonwealth of PA of who is now considered to be a mandated reporter. All clergy, all employees working with children and those volunteers serving in schools, Catholic Charities and parish youth ministry are now classified as mandated reporters.

To provide the knowledge needed to understand the responsibilities of a mandated reporter a new approved training program is being made available which will replace our current on-line training program. The new training has been prepared by the University of Pittsburgh and is being used statewide by numerous entities.

All Clergy and employees as well as all volunteers that are responsible for the welfare of a child or having direct contact with children are required to complete the new on-line training program. This new online training program is accessible via the Diocesan website at www.HhgDiocese.org/safeyouth. All Clergy and employees must complete the new training by December 31, 2015. Volunteers have until July 1, 2016 to become compliant with the new laws. The training is not yet available in Spanish.

At the completion of the training individuals will get a certificate of completion. An important procedural change will be that the trainee must print their certificate of completion and submit it with their clearance certifications.

**Background Clearances**

Clearances and background checks have been an important part of the Diocesan Youth Protection program. The new State regulations will impact both employees and volunteers in this area. According to the recently changed State mandates, all employees or volunteers who have direct contact with children must hold clearances that are less than 3 years old.

Clergy and employees with older clearances have until December 31, 2015 to renew them and volunteers have until June 30, 2016. Going forward all Clergy, employees and volunteers will need to renew their clearances every 36 months. Parishes and Schools will be working with employees and volunteers to ensure the coming months to provide guidance on when clearances and background checks will require renewal and giving direction on the new processes the State has introduced with regard to obtaining them.

**Do I need Background Clearances?**

The State has redefined what is now considered to be “Direct Contact”. It is now defined as the care, supervision, guidance or control of children or routine interaction with children. This means that if, in your capacity as a volunteer, you are acting at any time in lieu of, or on behalf of, a parent you will need clearances. If through your service as a volunteer your contact with children is regular, ongoing and integral to your volunteer responsibilities you will need clearances.

**What Background Clearances are Required?**

Everyone will need a minimum of 2 clearances. These include a report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), and a child abuse history clearance from the PA Department of Human Services. Each of these costs $10. Additionally, a fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI) will be required for Clergy, all school employees and volunteers, all Catholic Charities employees and volunteers, and any current or potential employee or volunteer who has lived outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years. The fee for this clearance is currently $27.50.

It should be noted that it is now State Law and not just a diocesan policy that prospective adult volunteers must submit clearances before they begin their service.

**How Do I Obtain My Background Clearances?**

The Child Abuse, PSP and FBI clearances can all be applied and paid for electronically. The FBI clearance also requires a fingerprint submission. All necessary instructions and links to apply for these clearances can be obtained at the Diocese’s website and clicking on the Clearances and Criminal Records Checks link on the sidebar.

**Submitting Background Clearances**

To facilitate improved record keeping of the State required background clearances the Diocese has implemented a new on-line database. As of May 1, 2015, all background clearance certification, disclosure statement and on line training certificate will be uploaded to an online data base which will allow for easy access and maintain employee and volunteer records.

They have been submitted to the Payroll and Youth Protection departments of the Diocese. Local parishes and schools will be naming local administrator(s) who will be responsible for maintaining the Learning Management System Data Base at their location. The Diocesan Disclosure Statement has been revised to reflect the requirements of the new State legislation. As a result all Clergy, employees, volunteers and vendors will need to sign and submit a revised version of this form. It is available on the Diocesan website in the Clearances and Criminal Records Checks area of the Youth Protection section.

**Youth Protection Badges**

The Youth Protection Office will continue to issue Clergy, employees and volunteers with badges to show compliance not only with Diocesan policy but also the State’s legal requirements. The expiration date on new badges will reflect the date by which clearances must be renewed.

There are additional provisions and changes that have been made to the Youth Protection Program of the Diocese in accord with State law. For more information please visit www.HhgDiocese.org/safety.
Youth Office Seeks Nominations for Diocesan Youth Council

The Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry is seeking nominations to the 2015-2016 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC). The DYC presents an opportunity for high school youth to serve in active leadership role within the diocese. The young people who serve on the council are responsible for:

- Acting as a communication link between their parish/school or Diocesan Catholic Scouting Committee and the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
- Attending meetings/events (Please see the 2015/2016 DYC calendar)
- Serving as committee leaders for World Youth Day Celebration on Palm Sunday
- Planning/evaluating some offerings of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Nomination Process is as follows:

- Each High School Spiritual Life Director/Parish Youth Minister or Diocesan Catholic Scout Committee is asked to nominate or re-nominate two individuals in grades 10, 11, and 12 only.
- Pastor/Principal approval is required on the DYC Registration Form. (This will be the Chairperson and OYYAM Staff person for the Catholic Scouting Committees)
- Completed Nomination Packets are due to our office by Monday, June 1, 2015.

For more complete details, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch.

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Milestone Anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood

79 Years of Priesthood in June
103 Years of Life in July
Msgr. Vincent J. Topper
St. Catherine Labouré Parish, Harrisburg

65 Years
Father Walter A. Sempko
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

60 Years
Msgr. Vincent J. Smith
Mechanicsburg
Father Frederick A. Farace
Berwick

55 Years
Father Kenneth F. Lawrence
Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia
Father Paul R. Shuda
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

50 Years
Father Joseph F. Gotwalt
New Oxford
Father Thomas I. Mannion
Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Roaring Creek
Father John A. Acri
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

45 Years
Father Louis Petruha, OFM, Cap.
St. Joseph Parish, York

40 Years
Father James M. Sterner
St. Aloysius Parish, Littlestown
Father Thomas Siconolfi, CSSR
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Ephrata

35 Years
Father Thomas Hoke
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Spring Grove

30 Years
Father C. Anthony Miller
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Lykens
Father James F. Podlesny, OSB
Holy Spirit Parish, Palmyra

25 Years
Father Stephen D. Weitzel
St. Richard Parish, Manheim
Father William C. Forrey, VF
St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle

20 Years
Father Paul R. Fisher
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Harrisburg

15 Years
Father David M. Hereshko
St. Columbia Parish, Bloomsburg
Father Michael P. Reid
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Mechanicsburg
Father Raymond J. LaVoie
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Buchanan Valley
Father Fred Wangwe, AJ
St. Monica Parish, Sunbury

10 Years
Father Andrew J. Stahmer
Holy Angels Parish, Kulpmont

5 Years
Father Paul C. B. Schenck
Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities
Father Dwight D. Schlaline
Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Shippensburg

Prayer for Priests by St. John Paul II

O Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests, accept this title which we bestow on you to celebrate your motherhood and to contemplate with you the priesthood of your Son and of your sons, O holy Mother of God. O Mother of Christ, to the Messiah-priest you gave a body of flesh through the anointing of the Holy Spirit for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart; guard priests in your heart and in the Church, O Mother of the Savior.

O Mother of Faith, you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man, the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers; give to the Father for his glory the priests of your Son, O Ark of the Covenant. O Mother of the Church, in the midst of the disciples in the upper room you prayed to the Spirit for the new people and their shepherds; obtain for the Order of Presbyters a full measure of gifts, O Queen of the Apostles.

O Mother of Jesus Christ, you were with him at the beginning of his life and mission, you sought the Master among the crowd, you stood beside him when he was lifted up from the earth consumed as the one eternal sacrifice, and you had John, your son, near at hand; accept from the beginning those who have been called, protect their growth, in their life ministry accompany your sons, O Mother of Priests. Amen.

~ From the 1992 Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores Dabo Vobis, On the Formation of Priests in the Circumstances of the Present Day
Some time ago, I was channel surfing and came across a science program that centered on the heart and how that organ functions. The program illustrated researchers taking a living heart cell, putting it in a petri dish, and studying it under a microscope. I was amazed to actually view a living heart cell as it pulsed like the rhythm of an entire heart. Thump. Thump. Thump. It was also intriguing to note that two isolated heart cells in the same petri dish would beat at different intervals. The moment in which they touched, however, the pulsating rhythm would change and they began to beat in unison.

I was blown away by this biological fact. Its ramifications are also staggeringly significant. Let me explain. A large part of my ministry within the diocese calls me to do presentations on various topics. Sometimes, I can totally connect with my audiences. At those moments, I feel as if my heart is “on fire” with them. On other occasions, for whatever reason, I cannot seem to relate to them even though I come fully prepared. Moments like this always tend to cause me to re-examine myself and to look closer. I grew to watch us very closely. We grew to closely observe how the parishioners were fruiting within the parish. We had no clue that the mutual acceptance that we had for one another became the seed for the parish to grow as well. He told us that we became a sign of hope, a sign of the fruit within the parish. Many of us began to quietly fill up as Father explained that members of the parish experienced our one heart and one soul that went beyond language and culture. We are all daughters of Christ, Sisters of the Church as well as sisters to one another.

Pope Francis explains it this way, “Consecrated men and women are also called to true synergy with all other vocations in the Church, beginning with priests and the lay faithful, in order to “spread the spirituality of communion, first of all in their internal life and then in the ecclesial community, and even beyond its boundaries.” Where do all of us get the strength to do this? The Eucharist. This is why the Church calls the reception of the Eucharist, Holy Communion. Do we profoundly realize that each and every time we experience the Eucharistic liturgy, Christ draws us to Himself and calls us to communion with Him and each other? Do we totally understand that each and every liturgical experience ensues in order to be sent out into the world and to experience first-hand, “That they may be one even as We are one.” (John 17:23) Do we realize that each time we extend our hands as the priest, deacon, or Extraordinary Minister says, “Body of Christ” we are reaching out to touch all of humanity within Christ?

It seems to me that the touch of living heart cells are not the only time in which two hearts beat as one!

1 http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_lettera-ap_20141121_lettera-consacrati.html

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

The Diocesan Summer Camp for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities is seeking volunteers who would be willing to assist at its residential camp during the week of August 9-14, 2015. The camp takes place at Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon County and serves the needs of approximately 40 adults each year. Anyone 16 and older is welcome to volunteer. Volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearance process and attend training prior to helping at camp.

For more information about volunteering or donating, contact Ginny Duncan at 717-657-4804, Ext. 317, or vduncan@hbgdiocese.org.

Keep Calm and Camp On Volunteer Today!
Golden Apples

Now in its tenth year in the Diocese of Harrisburg, the annual Golden Apple Awards are presented to Catholic school educators who demonstrate professional excellence, leadership, commitment to Catholic values and devotion to teaching.

In May and June editions, The Catholic Witness is featuring this year’s seven recipients from the schools in which they teach. Their remarks are drawn from essays they wrote as part of their nomination packet.

The Golden Apple recipients were honored at a dinner at the Cardinal Keeler in Harrisburg on May 12, where they received a $5,000 cash award, a Golden Apple, a certificate and a photo with Bishop Ronald Gainer. Awardees are nominated by parents, students or fellow teachers. The program is made possible by the generosity of the Donahue Family Foundation in Pittsburgh. Learn more about the program and nominations at http://www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/golden-apple/.

Find out more about a Catholic school education at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Daniel Martin

Social Studies, Government and Economics Teacher
Lancaster Catholic High School

Since my experiences in Catholic schools have shaped and formed me as a servant of God, I wanted to give back my skills and abilities to the Church. In my years of teaching at Lancaster Catholic, I have had the opportunity to teach some of the best and brightest of our youth. Although I teach History, Government and Economics, there is something else more special that happens every day. Our authentic Catholic faith must be more than attending church an hour each week. St. John Neumann wrote “that religious instruction needed to be part of the daily curriculum and the conviction that Catholic values need to permeate even secular subjects.” He felt that even the most secular of subjects could be taught with a deep love and respect for Christian values. This is why I teach at Catholic schools.

Pope Francis has charged us educators with the responsibility of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ into our schools. “Educating is an act of love: it is like giving life.” His words are echoed in the philosophy of Lancaster Catholic, which reads, “That our primary purpose is to offer a superior education to all our students in the context of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” To be able to help my students make sense of an increasingly complex and secular world is truly a vocation of love. To instill Catholic values and teach my students the love of God is a gift that has sustained me these last 26 years of teaching.

Sister Eileen McGowan

Principal
St. Joan of Arc School, Hershey

Principals in a Catholic school wear many hats. We are first of all leaders who must assure that a Catholic education is provided for our students through teachers who serve as role models of Christ’s teaching. In order to do that, we are involved in development, finances, teaching, parenting, safety, health and wellness, discipline, quality of education, supervision of teachers and support staff, communication, public relations and many more. All of this is for the children entrusted to us….

I am a principal in a Catholic school, first of all, because I am a Daughter of Our Lady of Mercy. Our primary mission in the United States is education. That is why I entered this community. As a Sister, I am able to devote my life to God’s people in the field of education, where I can share my love with children, parents and co-workers. Since my first love is teaching, I teach 8th grade religion in the school as well as in the Religious Education program. Preparing students for Confirmation is important to me, since it may very well be the last time these students have any kind of religious formation.
Standing before five diocesan seminarians seated at the foot of the altar at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on May 16, Bishop Ronald Gainer reminded the men who would soon be ordained to the diaconate that they are called to remain on the server’s side of a food tray.

The candidates for diaconate ordination — Steven Arena, Samuel Dubois, John Kuchinski, Richard Mowery and Brian Olkowski — listened intently with the congregation of clergy, religious and laity as the bishop imparted a life lesson he learned as a restaurant waiter the summer before his own ordination to the diaconate.

In the days of his seminary formation, seminarians weren’t assigned to parish ministry until after they were ordained deacons, and so the young men often took summer jobs, the bishop pointed out. In that final summer prior to diaconate ordination, he worked as a server in an Italian restaurant.

In his homily, he recounted the task of carefully carrying trays of food and beverages, being polite to demanding and impatient customers, and putting forth one’s best effort even in the face of poor tips.

“That summer before my own diaconate ordination, I learned that you can divide the world into two kinds of people: those who always and only want to be on the customer’s side of the tray, and those who are willing to be on the server’s side of the tray,” Bishop Gainer remarked.

Turning to the five seminarians, he addressed them that “through the Sacrament of Ordination to the Diaconate, we, the Church, all of us, welcome you to the server’s side of the tray.”

“It is, after all, the origin of the ecclesial order of deacons who, in the Acts of the Apostles, were chosen to correct an injustice in the young Church in Jerusalem regarding the unequal distribution of food to the needy,” he said.

“This is a way of life that is not foreign to each of you already,” Bishop Gainer told the seminarians. “In these last years of seminary formation, you have given clear evidence that, by God’s grace, you are able to be servants of God and servants of God’s people by living your lives on the server’s side of the tray.”

Through the laying on of hands by Bishop Gainer and the Prayer of Ordination, Steven Arena, Samuel Dubois, John Kuchinski, Richard Mowery and Brian Olkowski were ordained to the diaconate, in anticipation of ordination to the diocesan priesthood next year.

The newly-ordained deacons were vested with a stole and dalmatic, the vestment proper to the Order of Deacon, and were presented with the Book of the Gospels, signifying their principal function of serving in the Ministry of the Word. Deacons also serve in the Ministry of Liturgy, and the Ministry of Charity.

Deacon Steven Arena, a native of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro, will serve this summer at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg.

Deacon Samuel Dubois, a native of St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield, will serve at the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg this summer.

Deacon John Kuchinski, a native of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown, will serve at St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland this summer.

Deacon Richard Mowery, a native of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, will serve this summer at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster.

Deacon Brian Olkowski elevates the chalice while serving at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
The five candidates prostrate themselves before the altar as the congregation invokes the intercession of the saints during the Rite of Ordination.

Deacon Brian Olkowski, a native of St. Joseph Parish in York, will serve this summer at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg.

“The deacon’s ministry among us is a reminder to us all that Christ came not to be served, but to serve, and that he has sent each of us to be servants according to his own heart,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily during the Ordination Mass. “By the grace of this sacrament, the deacon is empowered to incarnate that Christ-like service in his own life and to challenge all of us to serve more authentically, to be enthusiastic heralds of the Good News of Christ, the servant. Through your example, brothers, through your living witness, you and the whole order of deacons in our Church remind us that every baptized person has been commissioned by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in baptism to be on the server’s side of the tray.”

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Ordination Video Is Online


Deacon Richard Mowery presents the Blood of Christ to his cousin during Communion.

Bishop Ronald Gainer lays his hands on the head of Samuel Dubois. It is through the laying on of hands and the Prayer of Ordination that follows that the candidates are ordained deacons.

During the Promise of the Elect, candidate Steven Arena pledges his obedience to Bishop Gainer and his successors.
On the Feast of the Lord’s Ascension, May 14, Bishop Ronald Gainer made a pastoral visit to Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, where he celebrated Holy Mass for the students, faculty and parents of the school. After celebrating Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Paul Helwig, pastor, and Father Fidelis Umukoro, Bishop Gainer visited classrooms of all the grades and fielded questions from the students.

In his homily, the bishop discussed the magnificence of Christ’s ascension to Heaven 40 days after Easter and ten days prior to Pentecost. “The Ascension is the new nearness that Christ abides in us…. through the Holy Spirit and through the Holy Eucharist. That’s how Jesus comes to us,” he said.

Good Shepherd Visit

On the Feast of the Lord’s Ascension, May 14, Bishop Ronald Gainer made a pastoral visit to Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, where he celebrated Holy Mass for the students, faculty and parents of the school. After celebrating Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Paul Helwig, pastor, and Father Fidelis Umukoro, Bishop Gainer visited classrooms of all the grades and fielded questions from the students.

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St. Rose Students Honor Those Who Served

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The lush green expanse of Holy Saviour Cemetery in York transformed into a sea of American flags a week before Memorial Day, as fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students from St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville placed more than 750 flags at the graves of the veterans laid to rest there.

The service project, now in its fourth year, stemmed from a discussion between St. Rose Principal Peg Rizzuto, secretary Pat Whiteford and maintenance man Bob Wolf several years ago about the need for this patriotic ministry around the time of Memorial Day.

York County Veterans Affairs provides the flags for the student project, and Durham School Services provides free bus transportation to take the students to and from Holy Saviour Cemetery.

“There are many lessons learned from this project,” Mrs. Rizzuto told The Catholic Witness. “Students learn respect for the American Flag; how to honor the dead and, more specifically, our veterans, and that many people have died for our benefits in life.”

They also learn about veterans who have served during peacetime, the architecture and design of tombstones, and the importance of prayer, respect and honor, she said.

Before entering the cemetery, the students and their teachers discuss Memorial Day and its origins and purpose. “They know and understand why they are doing this ministry and what it means to those families. They are never forgotten,” Mrs. Rizzuto said.
Initiative at Lancaster Catholic Provides iPad to Every Student for Enhanced Learning

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

It’s a chapter review day in Shannon Hansel’s algebra class at Lancaster Catholic High School. Students are solving square root equations that she’s writing on the classroom’s SMART Board, and explaining how they solved the mathematical problem.

“A typical review session — until Miss Hansel turns on some Top 40 music, connects the SMART Board to the internet, and tells the students to take out their iPads for an engaging online math game.”

With the help of generous donors and educational grants, Lancaster Catholic launched a one-to-one iPad initiative this year, pairing each student with their own iPad for in-class and homework use.

The undertaking and investment in some 650 iPads works to ensure that students are maximizing their learning potential through various apps and software, noted Chris Helm, the school’s Director of Technology Integration.

“The iPads have given students another tool to be excited about learning, and have given teachers new opportunities for programs they can bring into the classroom,” she said.

The overarching program there is Canvas, a program that allows users to convert paperwork and forms into downloadable files. With this program, teachers can upload the class syllabus, assignments, dates and reminders for upcoming exams, helpful tools and notes.

Teachers are also utilizing Dropbox, which allows them to share programs across different devices wirelessly from one device to the next.

In the classroom, they’re using programs like artCircles, which gives students up-close looks at historical paintings to examine brush strokes and color blends. And there’s Kahoot, a game-based classroom response system that engages students in a given subject through quick-response questions.

Students have also downloaded their own apps to help them expand their learning skills and enhance note-taking. The app OneNote, for example, is a kind of digital notebook that allows students to jot down notes and thoughts while incorporating sketches or images. Some students use the iPad to take photos of the teacher’s classroom notes and look at them for later review.

“The iPads offer a very convenient method of preparing students and assisting them in class,” Miss Hansel said.

She teaches algebra, geometry and statistics, and finds the one-to-one iPad initiative to be another means of connecting students to helpful and engaging tools that can personalize their learning.

“I can upload several educational videos on various mathematical problems and then can review the topic of connecting students to helpful and engaging tools that he gained from his father.

Financial support came from individuals Genevieve Malone and Wes Murray, and from the Robert J. Gunterberg Charitable Foundation and CCRES, which works to provide behavioral health and educational support in homes, schools and communities.

The pilot for the iPad initiative began four years ago, when Lancaster Catholic, through a grant, was able to provide iPads to 30 students in need of instructional support. The program proved to be a success, and so the school opted to allow all students to use their cell phones in class for educational purposes.

“Instead of preventing students from accessing their phones, we were able to instruct them in proper use as a learning tool,” Mrs. Helm said.

“Soon, we decided that it would be ideal for all students to have access to the same technology.”

That’s when the school reached out to Apple and assembled teachers for discussion about iPad implementation.

“We included in our discussion teachers who didn’t like the idea of bringing iPads into the classroom,” Mrs. Helm said. “We needed discussion with them, because you can’t just push technology onto an entire faculty without hearing their concerns.”

Mrs. Helm attended several conferences on technology policies hosted by schools that had brought iPads into their curriculum. Those conferences examined training, breakage, student use and best practices, and enabled Lancaster Catholic’s administrators and IT staff to write their own policy.

The aim is to use the current batch of iPads for three years. Those being used by this year’s senior class will be distributed to incoming freshmen. For summer break, school officials have opted to allow current freshmen, sophomores and juniors to keep their iPads through the summer.

Sophomore Tim Martin, one of several students who has assisted with the distribution of the iPads and guided his peers in their use as a student-led “Help Desk” team, says the new additions allow for quick and easy access to information, and creativity in classroom assignments.

As a freshman, he was part of the school’s Audio-Visual crew that assisted in preparing for school assemblies and liturgies, as part of the interest in technology that he gained from his father.

A student in Shannon Hansel’s algebra class uses an iPad to solve an equation in an interactive online game. Lancaster Catholic High School initiated a program this year to provide iPads to all students.

“When I heard about the need for students to be part of a Help Desk here at school, I joined so that I could expand my own understanding of technology,” Tim said.

“As a result of the iPads, we’re all moving into technology as an entire school. I appreciate that Lancaster Catholic is moving forward with it, and I feel fortunate that the school has taken those steps to give us access to it,” he said.

Annual Pilgrimage to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Started by Father Walter Sempko in 1987, the 28th Annual Pilgrimage for World Peace will take place on Thursday, August 6, at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Diocese of Md.

Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist for the Mass that day, with priests of the Diocese of Harrisburg concelebrant.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with opening remarks at St. Mary’s Chapel on the Hill. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 10:15-11:30 a.m. The Rosary will be prayed at 11:30 a.m., followed by the celebration of Mass at noon, both in the Grotto, weather permitting.

Lunch will take place from 1:15-2:15, and attendees must bring their own lunch. The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Prayer of Consecration will take place from 2:15-2:45 p.m. in the Grotto, weather permitting. A Holy Hour from 3-4 p.m. in prayer for the Church and for the Pope’s encyclical Letter on the Hill will conclude the day.

Bishop Gainer will be the homilist during the Holy Hour.

All are welcome this day to join Bishop Gainer to pray for peace through the conversion of hearts, and to receive God’s blessings through Mary, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church.

There is no need to register. Pilgrims must provide their own transportation and lunch. If there are any questions, contact Deacon Tom Lang at DeaconTomLang@verizon.net or 717-599-1973.
Obituary

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

ABBOTTS TOWN — Immaculate Heart of Mary: Fred Krepps.

BERwick — Immaculate Conception BVM: Donald Petroski, Mary Zears.

BLOOMSBURG — St. Columba: Lillian C. Gross, Mary T. Hagerty, Peter Kelmick, Brian Mariano.

BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT — St. Rita: Robert Lashinsky, Sr.

CAMP HILL — Good Shepherd: Rita Davis, Regina Fedor, William Hornbrop, Helen T. Nissley, Rhoda Zoiber.

COAL TOWNSHIP — Our Lady of Hope: Carolyn Marie Giacomini.

CORNWALL — Sacred Heart of Jesus: Patrick O. Bowman, George W. Snyder.

GETTYSBURG — St. Francis Xavier: Alberto Moya Cuevas, Andrew Giglio.

HANOVER — St. Vincent de Paul: Lillian Krecko, Edward “Jim” Horntrop, Helen T. Nissley, Rhoda Zoiber.

MINERSVILLE — Immaculate Conception BVM: Walter E. Snyder; St. Joseph: David Dorwart, Antonina Falci.


LEWISTOWN — Sacred Heart of Jesus: Phil Gingerich, Josephine Hagerty.

LITTLESTOWN — St. Aloysius: Agnes Ursulak.

MECHANICSBURG — St. Joseph: James Hope.


SELINGROVE — St. Pius X: Deacon Albert Rehak.

STEELTON — Prince of Peace: Deacon Michael P. Gellick.


REMEMBER OUR Deceased Clergy

Please pray for the following clergy who died in June during the past 25 years:

Father Augustine Zan, 1999.
Father Thomas J. Graftinski, 2005.

Sign Up to Receive The Catholic Witness Electronically

Read The Catholic Witness online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive the diocesan newspaper in an electronic format. 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.” Or, send your name, home address and e-mail address to shuntsberger@hbgdiocese.org and we’ll sign you up. Each Friday that the newspaper is published, you will receive an e-mail with a direct link to the latest edition. Registration with the e-mail service will not cancel your mailed subscription, unless you request otherwise.

New Pre-Arrangement Opportunities at Holy Cross Cemetery, Harrisburg

Due to popular demand, we have reevaluated our cemetery land and are able to offer additional burial spaces. These traditional graves are being offered on a first come first serve basis.

To learn more about the availability and location of the burial plots contact Tom Rinaldo for an appointment (717) 565-4255
	

Seminarians Graduate from St. Vincent’s

Diocesan seminarians Deacon Donald Bender and Deacon Ryan Fischer received degrees from Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., on May 8. Deacon Bender received the master of divinity degree, cum laude. He also received the Omer U. Kline, O.S.B., Excellence in Preaching Award, given by the Rector’s Council to the fourth-year student who has most clearly demonstrated excellence in preaching during his fourth year of study. Deacon Fischer received the master of chaplaincy degree, cum laude, as well as the Diakonia Award and the Demetrius R. Dunn, O.S.B., Sacred Scripture Award. The Sacred Scripture Award is given by the faculty to the graduate who most demonstrates excellence in the study of Sacred Scripture, while the Diakonia award is given to the student nominated by the entire seminary community and chosen by the faculty. The award honors a graduate who exhibits praiseworthy academic performance as well as service to the seminary community through building student morale and spirit, exercising leadership within the community, and demonstrating creative outreach to others.

Deacon Bender, left, and Deacon Fischer, right, are shown with Dr. Mary Ann Boyarski, who serves as an adjunct professor of the seminary faculty. Deacon Bender, Deacon Fischer and Deacon Matthew Larlick will be ordained to the diocesan priesthood on June 6 at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

Trinity High School and St. Patrick School Receive Scholarship Assistance through EITC Program

Bridge Educational Foundation, along with Aegis Security Insurance, M&T Bank, Waste Management and The Healy Group announced $66,800 of Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) scholarships for Cumberland County schools during a recent ceremony at St. Patrick School in Carlisle. Students from the host school joined school officials from Harrisburg Academy, Options Childcare and Preschool and Trinity High School in order to thank the businesses and the local legislators for their support of these programs.

Natalie Nutt, Executive Director of the Bridge Educational Foundation offered, “The companies that are here today because participating in the scholarship programs allows their companies to give back to the communities where they work and live and simultaneously helps to provide educational opportunities to their future workforce.”

“The EITC Program is providing families in Cumberland County and throughout Pennsylvania with a choice,” she said. “The programs are pairing community minded businesses, like the ones here today, with families. We hope that with the support of the local lawmakers the EITC Program will continue to grow and help families choose their best educational options for many decades to come.”

Adorer of the Blood of Christ Celebrates 50th Jubilee

Sister Rose McKeown, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, celebrated 50 years as a vowed religious sister last month at the Ruma (Ill.) Center. She marked the anniversary with other jubilarians with a Mass at the Ruma Center chapel, followed by a dinner. She was joined in the celebration by sisters, family and friends.

Sister Rose, born in Philadelphia to John and Frances McKeown, received her bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia in 1969 and her master’s degree in religious studies from St. Charles Seminary in Overbrook, Penn., in 1991. She earned certification as a chaplain from Francisca Health Systems in Philadelphia in 1994.

Sister Rose transferred to the Adorers of the Blood of Christ after having been a member of the Franciscan community of sisters at Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia for seven years. As an Adorer, she served as a teacher’s aide at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in Centerville, Ill. Then, after spending several months at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas, she joined the community at Villa Fatima Parish in La Paz, Bolivia, where she helped form Base Christian Communities in the parish. When she returned to the U.S., she continued using her skills in Spanish as a Hispanic caseworker and director of a youth ministry program at Holy Rosary Parish in Edwardsville, Ill.

Sister Rose did her clinical pastoral work at the Franciscan Health System/Catholic Health East – Holy Redeemer Hospital in Meadowbrook, Penn., and served 10 years as a chaplain at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia, Penn. For the past 11 years, she has been the pastoral care team manager at St. Vincent (now Taylorville) Memorial Hospital in Taylorville, Ill. She continues to reside in the Taylorville community.

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Deacon Bender, left, and Deacon Fischer, right, are shown with Dr. Mary Ann Boyarski, who serves as an adjunct professor of the seminary faculty. Deacon Bender, Deacon Fischer and Deacon Matthew Larlick will be ordained to the diocesan priesthood on June 6 at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.
June from 6-5 p.m. and will include smoked pork BBQ and BBQ Chicken, sides, desserts and drinks. The price is $15 for adults and $8 for children. A silent auction will be held throughout the day. A Silent Auction. We would appreciate a RSVP by May 20th at St. Agnes-52101 or offer@st-agnes-52101 to assist in planning and preparation. Donations are appropriate (if appropriate) and can be mailed to 8:45 p.m. – 9:00 a.m., or before June 3 online at http://stjohnbaptistdeanerendineck. Can’t attend the event or unable to give? In help to Andy, please visit https://m.hopelive.org/campaign/3572.

Big Breakfast on June 7 sponsored by St. Benedict the Ab- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., for a lunch each day (brown bag or grow out). The total cost of the workshop, which includes all supplies, will be $175. Participants must sign up by June 12 for a $125 deposit. Please add the White, Daniel in the Lion’s Den, or the Holy Face of Christ. Pri- vate study and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Pen- tente. Lights on for the 21st Century: What is zeal? What is the “neighborhood of life”? The event will be held in the Loyola Center, Saturday morning for $25.00. Sellers may set up their tables on Friday, June 12th at 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, June 18 only. More information on the LCSH Carnival will be found on the carnival website: stjoanycatholic.com. For more infor- mation contact: Ven. Clements, Director of Alumni Relations & Special Events. 717-593-7050. interchurches.com.

Lancaster Catholic High School will host their 34th Annual Lancaster Catholic High School Carnival. Wednesday, June 10th through Saturday, June 13th. Admission is $3.00 on Thursday and Friday evenings, or $1.00 all day for children six ages six and under. There will be delicious food, gently entertaining rides and games for everyone. Bring your own food, available for sale, or buy food Available for purchase at select Turkey Hill Mini Markets and at www. iupiviews.org/Ride from Monday, June 1 through June 14 for Brisket and Ribfest. The Brisket and Ribfest will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, June 18 only. More information on the LCSH Carnival will be found on the carnival website: stjoanycatholic.com. For more infor- mation contact: Ven. Clements, Director of Alumni Relations & Special Events. 717-593-7050. interchurches.com.

An indoor flea market, sponsored by the St. Catherine Laboure Knights of Columbus, Council 12811, Harrisburg, will be held on Saturday, June 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Coco of tables is $15.00 for one or two tables for $25.00. Sellers may set up their tables on Friday, June 19th at 12:00 p.m. A Table registration fee may be made by contacting SK William Logan at 717-594-1205.

Assumption BVM Parish in Lebanon is proud to announce their annual Family Festival scheduled for June 19th, 2015. This year’s theme is “Celebrating the Mass”. There will be hourly door prizes and a raffle. The first 100 guests to the Festival will receive a complimentary hot dog and beverage. The Festival will feature the ever popular Coney Island of Appleland, Bungies, and the 50/50. All proceeds from the Family Festival will be donated to the Lebanon Catholic School for the Children and Adults with Special Needs. For more information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7109 or Loretta at 717-727- 7521.

Retreats, Pilgrimages & Trips

2015 Spirituality by-the Sea for Men and Women: Zeal for the Neighborhood of the Universe at Saint Mary by-the-Sea Retreat House, Cape May Point, New Jersey, June 18-21. Using a combination of prayer and activities, silence and sharing, relaxation and renewal time, we will explore some key questions of spiritual life. What is our relationship with the love and power of the universe? Who is my neighbor? What is God’s plan for me? For more information, call Elizabeth Tom, 773-4502.

The annual Divine Redeemer Parish Festival in Mount Carmel will be held on Friday, June 19th, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 20 from Noon to 10:00 p.m. Featured at the rain-or-shine event is the ever popular Turkey Hill Delight Wheel, Dairy Foods, Homemade Baked Goods, Raffles, Rip-Offs, Kid’s Zone, and Refreshments. As part of this year’s Summer Festival, we will be selling “Nato-Dare Weekend” Raffle Tickets with a chance to win ten Notre Dame Football Game Tickets for the University of Notre Dame versus Army game on Saturday, September 26th, 2015 with overnight accommodations for Thursday October 15, Friday October 16, and Saturday, October 17 2015. Plus our other Notre Dame Items. Highlighting the day will be the “60’s Boys” on Friday evening and “Cookin’ on Sunday” on Saturday evening.

The Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School offers music education to all students. St. Peter Parish, 1840 Marshall Dr. Elizabethtown, Pa. 17022.</p>

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The Catholic Witness • May 29, 2015

By Chris Heisey

There are 1,501 high schools in the state of Pennsylvania, with 952 public and 549 private schools splitting that total. Those schools are dispersed across some 46,055 square miles across 67 counties, where 12.79 million live. For the past 90 years, the largest congregation of these many schools gathers every year on Memorial Day weekend to compete in the PIAA Track and Field Championships at Seth Grove Stadium on the campus of Shippensburg University.

Under azure-hued brilliant skies, two diocesan athletes won gold medals. In the girls’ Class AAA pole vault, Bishop McDevitt’s Tesia Kempski won the event with an impressive vault of 12’9” to best the field by nearly a foot. Last year as a junior, she medaled in Class AA. In the 800-meter run, Shannon Quinn, Trinity’s ace middle-distance sprinter won the gold medal nearly three seconds faster than the field to cap off a stellar career she had for the Shamrocks as an individual event runner and relay anchor.

In the District 3 championship held a week earlier at the same venue, diocesan athletes won seven gold medals. In the field events, Trinity’s Megan Silvia and Alexis Lipnicky won the Class AA pole vault and javelin, respectively, while Brandon Latimore won the boys’ 100-meter dash for the Rocks. And Trinity’s 4 x 800 relay (Emily D’Amico, Katherine Long, Nora Shelly and Shannon Quinn) won the gold. Tesia Kempski set a District 3 record with a jump of 12’4” in the Class AAA pole vault for Bishop McDevitt.

DIOCESAN ATHLETES BRILLIANT AT STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHRIS HEISEY and EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Trinity’s Megan Silvia clears 11 feet en route to her fifth place finish.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

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Tennis Player Nets Great Season

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Beck Wiles, a junior at Lower Dauphin High School and a parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, finished off a terrific tennis season for the Falcons by qualifying for the PIAA state tournament held on May 22 at Hershey Racquet Club. Competing in the doubles completion with fellow junior Josh Carl, the tandem lost a hard-fought three-set match against a team from Erie McDowell (6-4, 6-7 (4), 4-6).

During the regular season, the LD tandem went undefeated in the Mid-Penn, with Beck winning the Mid-Penn tournament number two singles championship over rival Hershey. Beck and Carl then teamed up to win the silver medal at the Class AAA District 3 championships, losing to Exeter in the finals in another closely contested match.
Student Art Contest Exhibits Faith

The faith-based artwork of diocesan school students was on exhibit in the Archives’ display cases at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg this spring as the Diocesan Department of Religious Education hosted the third annual art contest for students to highlight their God-given artistic talents.

At the conclusion of the exhibit, awards were presented to the top-three artists in a senior division for students in grades 10-12 and in a junior division for those in grades 7-9. Entries from Catholic high schools and their respective feeder schools were judged at the high school level and then on a regional level for submission to the diocesan-wide show.

Awards were presented to the top-three place-winners in the senior division for students in grades 10-12, and in the junior division for students in grades 7-9, as well as to 10 honorable mention awards from grades 7-12 combined.

In the senior division, Suzanne Flick of Lancaster Catholic High School earned first place for “Stations of the Cross,” a creation of clay tiles depicting each Station, fastened onto wood.

Rachel Jackson of Trinity High School in Camp Hill earned second place for “Hands of Faith,” an oil painting created from a photograph of her sister holding a Rosary.

Iveth Anguiano of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg placed third in the senior division with “The Persecuted,” a series of newspaper clippings of chaos in the world and an image of a persecuted woman shedding tears.

In the junior division, first place was awarded to Reece Lopatka of St. Joseph School in Danville for “Saul’s Conversion,” a pencil sketch inspired by the forgiveness of Saul’s sins.

Gillian Gurney of St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey placed second with “Descending of the Holy Spirit,” a rendering in chalk with smoky effects from the flame of the Spirit.

Jordyn Ney of Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster earned third place for “Unity of the Spirit,” a colored-pencil sketch of individuals’ hands coming together in the faith.

Honorable mention was awarded to the following students: Mia Jiang of Bishop McDevitt High School, Sierra Hogan of Lancaster Catholic High School, Ellen Clare Weber of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, Jennifer Meck of Lancaster Catholic High School, Kassie Speary of York Catholic High School, Molly Hoyoh of Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg, Stephen Gontis of Bishop McDevitt High School, Krystal Leung of St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey, Cassandra Rushinski of St. Catherine Labouré School in Harrisburg, and Natalie Lutz of Lebanon Catholic School.

Trinity Holds Inaugural Academic Signing Day

Trinity High School in Camp Hill held its inaugural Academic Signing Day on May 14, giving recognition to those senior students who have received academic scholarship funds for the college or university they will be attending in the fall.

A total of 34 students, receiving more than $2.4 million in scholarships, were recognized during a school ceremony following Mass on Ascension Thursday. Trinity’s Principal, Joseph Gressock, brought the idea for an academic-signing day – similar to athletic-signing day – after learning about its beginnings at a school in Cleveland.

“When I came to Trinity and realized the academic success that they’ve shared over the years and the tradition of high expectations here, I felt it was time to give academic recognition too,” he said.

“We’re about teaching Gospel values and the quality education for our students so that they’re ready for the next step in their lives.”

A total of 34 seniors at Trinity High School were recognized at a recent Academic Signing Day for the more than $2.4 million in academic scholarships they’ve received to continue their education. Among the classmates recognized at the ceremony were, from left, Olivia Gilbertson, who will attend Neumann University; Patrick Hadley, who will attend St. Vincent College; Kevin Hills, who will attend Furman University; Emma Kenee, who will attend Wilkes University; and Ann Margaret Kennedy, who will attend the University of Tampa.

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