A Great Gift to the Church
St. John Neumann Parish Dedicates Center Named for St. John XXIII

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The day on which the universal Church rejoiced in the canonizations of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II will be especially etched in the history of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster.

On April 27, members of the parish welcomed Bishop Ronald W. Gainer for the blessing and dedication of the St. John XXIII Religious Education Center, situated on a picturesque hillside behind the church.

Msgr. Richard Youtz, pastor, said the decision to name the center after St. John XXIII, the Church’s Holy Father from 1958–1963, was because he had called for the Second Vatican Council to help the Church confront change and challenge in the world at the time.

“Vatican II brought so many emphases to the Church, leaving us to discover all the wonderful things in the faith, especially the education of our children,” Msgr. Youtz said.

He also said the center is believed to be the first bearing St. John XXIII’s name.

The center is more than 9,000 square feet in size, featuring a spacious parish hall, pre-school classrooms, and a commercial kitchen. Large windows flanking the hall offer an abundance of natural light and a scenic view of the suburban land on which it sits.

Construction on the $3 million project began last June. Msgr. Youtz credited the generosity of parishioners who raised the funds to bring the center to fruition.

The parish was established 36 years ago on the northern outskirts of Lancaster city, founded from St. Anne Parish in the city. It shares a school with St. Anne’s downtown, and has an expanding youth ministry and religious education program.

St. John Neumann Parish is home to approximately 3,300 families, representing nearly 7,000 individuals.

“This center is something we have been looking forward to for many years,” said Msgr. Youtz, who is retiring from active ministry in June.

As a means of expressing gratitude for Msgr. Youtz’s 20 years of service at St. John Neumann, the parish surprised him during the dedication by naming the parish hall in his honor.

“I hope it serves as an opportunity for the parish community to come together in larger ways, and to evangelize to the local community,” he said of the center.

“When I look back on my priesthood of 48 years and my time here at the parish, I consider this to be an excellent opportunity to pass this vibrant parish along to someone else.”

Msgr. Richard Youtz, pastor, offers a blessing to parishioners gathered in the new parish hall during the dedication and blessing of the St. John XXIII Religious Education Center.

Flanked by a banner marking the occasion of the canonizations of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II that took place in the Vatican that day, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer presides at a ceremony April 27 to dedicate and bless the new parish center.

Inset, left: Msgr. Richard Youtz, who has served as pastor of St. John Neumann Parish for 20 years, is retiring in June after 48 years of active ministry as a priest.
Diocese Offers Prayers for Bishop McFadden at Mass Commemorating Anniversary of His Death

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“There was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph.”

So stated the Gospel Reading at the diocesan Memorial Mass celebrated for the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death on May 2.

Lay faithful, diocesan employees and students from Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School joined family members and friends of Bishop McFadden in prayer for the Tenth Bishop of Harrisburg, who died suddenly of a heart attack a year ago while attending a meeting of the state’s Catholic bishops in his native Philadelphia.

The sting and sadness surrounding his death replayed in the hearts and minds of many during the memorial Mass, with St. Patrick Cathedral cloaked in white, symbolic of Christ’s victory over death, and the hymns of hope in the Resurrection identical to those sung during the solemn Masses during the funeral rites a year ago.

A portrait of Bishop McFadden was placed near the bishop’s chair in the cathedral, as Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Eleventh Bishop of Harrisburg, celebrated the Mass to offer prayers for his predecessor.

Reflecting on the Gospel reading from St. Luke recounting the death and burial of Jesus, Bishop Gainer connected Joseph of Arimathea, who cared for the body of Christ as it was taken from the cross and placed in the tomb, to Joseph McFadden, who tended to the Body of Christ as a coach, teacher, priest and bishop.

“My brothers and sisters, we gather together this noon day on May 2 to commemorate a virtuous and righteous man that we knew and loved,” he said.

“We turn to God’s word, as we must when we face the mystery of the limitations of our lives, when we face the end of our lives, which is inevitable for every one of us,” Bishop Gainer said, as he began to reflect on the Mass’ readings.

The Reading from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 14, tells us, “Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for their labors and their faith will be repaid.”

In the last minutes of his life, Bishop McFadden received absolution from Msgr. Joseph Garvin, the priest who was with him in those final moments.

“He simply says, ‘Into your hands I commend my spirit.’ That total surrender, that peaceful surrender, is a model for all of us when the hour comes when we too must face God’s call to come home and to leave this world,” Bishop Gainer said.

Reminding the congregation of Bishop McFadden’s particular devotion to the Blessed Mother, and of his Episcopal Motto, “Mary the Model – Jesus the Center,” Bishop Gainer said that his predecessor turned us toward Mary.

“In the mystery of God’s plan for us, if we die so unexpectedly and instantly, God gives the suddenness equal to that surprise the suddenness of his mercy.”

“In the last minutes of his life, Bishop McFadden received absolution from Msgr. Joseph Garvin, the priest who was with him in those final moments.

“His sins were absolved, and he experienced what St. Paul spoke of in our Second Reading, that death is swallowed up, sin is swallowed up in the victory of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,” Bishop Gainer said.

The Gospel reading from St. Luke illustrates the model of a good death, as Jesus remains “absolutely confident in the love and the power and the presence of his father,” he noted.

“He simply says, ‘Into your hands I commend my spirit.’ That total surrender, that peaceful surrender, is a model for all of us when the hour comes when we too must face God’s call to come home and to leave this world,” Bishop Gainer said.

Reminding the congregation of Bishop McFadden’s particular devotion to the Blessed Mother, and of his Episcopal Motto, “Mary the Model – Jesus the Center,” Bishop Gainer said that his predecessor turned us toward Mary.

“He died on the second day of the month that is dedicated to our Blessed Mother,” he said, “and he died giving us the clear direction for our lives, to turn to Mary, who is our model of faith, model of trust in God’s will, model of discipleship. We can best honor our beloved Bishop McFadden by following that example in our own lives.”

“How often he prayed, how often you and I pray, that Mary might be with us and pray for us now, and at the hour of our death,” he continued. “I know she did. I know that motherly intercession was not lacking for him in that last moment, as she carried her priest and bishop son home to her own Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“As we celebrate and hold dear his memory today, and as we pray for him in this Mass, let us follow the example he has set for us.” Bishop Gainer concluded. “Let us turn to Mary, our model. Let us always be centered on Jesus, her Son.”

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

May 9 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Patrick Church, Carlisle, 5:30 p.m.

May 10 – Celebrant and homilist at Diocesan Men’s Conference Mass, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, 2:45 p.m.

May 12 – Catholic Charities Golf Outing Dinner, Blue Ridge Country Club, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.

May 13 – Diocesan Youth Council Appreciation Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.

May 15 – Diocesan Golden Apple Awards Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.

May 17 – ‘Sisters’ Jubilee Celebration, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Celebrant and homilist at Mass of Thanksgiving, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, Mifflintown, 5 p.m.

May 18 – Celebrant and Homilist for Mass for couples married 50 years, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.

May 20 – Preside at Forty Hours Devotions, St. Patrick Cathedral, 7 p.m.

May 21 – Lancaster Catholic High School Baccalaureate, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

May 23 – Lebanon Catholic High School Graduation, 7 p.m.

May 24 – Diaconate Ordinations, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

Order to the Order of Diaconate of Donald Haugh Bender, Jr. and Ryan Patrick Fischer

Through the imposition of hands and invocation of the Holy Spirit by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg Saturday, May 24, at 10 a.m. • The Cathedral of Saint Patrick 212 State Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

All are invited to attend
Evangelization and Relationship

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

One of the joys of my current ministry is visiting schools within the diocese. Talking with students of any age is indeed a grace for me. Conversing with them always reminds me of the profound fact of God’s infinite love for us, his children. The clarity and sparkle of love that can be found in their eyes whenever I talk about God as our Beloved is indeed a grace for me.

Recently, as I visited one school, I entered a fourth grade class. Upon standing and greeting me, several of the students recognized me from a previous visit and called out, “Sister, tell us the story about when you were thrown out of a car!” You see, two years ago, when these students were in second grade, I had told them the story of how My Beloved rescued me from death during a very serious car accident and how he used that accident to help my hospital roommate’s family come back to the Church. I shared that in an article in The Witness on July 5, 2013. If you want to re-read it, please visit the past issues of The Witness found at: http://www.hbgdiocese.org/the-catholic-witness-contacts/archived-issues/.

In addition to this story, I told these students several stories about technology and the importance of personal integrity, even when their friends and society condone something else. During the conversation, I was impressed by their innocence, their obvious love of God and desire to serve him. We talked about how they could evangelize those around them by being a voice that talks about balance between the cyber-world and the face-to-face world. We talked about the importance of all of us working to become better people by living how God wants us to live, thus changing society around us by our example. They shared with me their own stories of when God touched their hearts to encourage them to love him deeper. I was awed how these “little ones” are whispers of what means to be an evangelist in today’s world.

As I reflected on my experience with these children of God, I could not help relating it to what Pope Paul IV said in Evangelii Nuntiandi: “… evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new…” (EN 18).

Evangelizing is the clanging bell that calls for all of us to think deeper about our personal conversion; not only to identify but eliminate the idols that prevent us from knowing and loving God deeper and deeper every single day. It is all about re-connecting with the Person that we discovered and have drifted from because of _____ (fill in the blank). It is all about inviting others to know and to experience God’s mercy and love. It is the open hand that says, “Come with me, learn how to love me!” or “Come home! You have been missed!”

The invitation involves all of us, as St. John Paul II says in Novo Millennio Ineunte, “Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him” (NMI 40). Our declaration of our personal relationship with Christ is the foundation of evangelizing. It is throwing our arms wide open and calling out from the depth of our hearts, “Christ loves me this much! I hope to love Him that way in return!”

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of the IT Department. An educator for 28 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.)

Pope: Evangelizing Impossible Without Joy of Knowing Christ

By Carol Glitz

The Catholic Church cannot be built and the Christian faith cannot be spread without the contagious joy of knowing Christ, Pope Francis said.

The joy that Christ proclaims is what lays the foundations: “Without this joy, without this happiness, you can’t build a Church. You can’t establish a Christian community,” he said in a homily April 24.

The pope presided over a Mass at the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Rome for a celebration of thanksgiving for the canonization of St. Jose de Anchieta, a Spanish-born Jesuit who traveled to Brazil in 1553 and became known as the Apostle of Brazil. Pope Francis declared the new saint April 3 without requiring the verification of a miracle through the blessed’s intercession or holding a canonization ceremony.

The pope praised the new saint, who was one of the pioneers of the Catholic Church in Brazil. Along with another Jesuit priest, St. de Anchieta was one of the first Jesuits that St. Ignatius of Loyola sent to the Americas.

Sent to Brazil at 19, the young man had not studied theology or philosophy like many priests; instead he was someone who had experienced Jesus and “let himself be filled with joy” and radiate God’s light, the pope said.

“This was and is his holiness. He wasn’t afraid of joy” and he knew how to communicate it, he said.

Paraphrasing Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis said: “The Church doesn’t grow through proselytism, but by attraction” through people living and witnessing the joy Christ proclaims.

Like the crippled beggar who publicly, freely and joyfully praised God in the temple after his healing through St. Peter, that vivid and sincere show of happiness “is contagious” and “this is how the Church grows,” Pope Francis said.

Sometimes it’s difficult for people to believe such immense joy from encountering Christ is possible, the pope said.

“It seems risky to us and we feel tempted to take shelter in skepticism, to ‘not exaggerate,’” he said.

Just as the disciples who encountered the risen Christ in Jerusalem found it more likely they were seeing a ghost rather than the living Christ, people today are more likely to turn to and believe a fortune teller or a tarot card reader “than have faith in the hope of a victorious Christ, a Christ who conquered death.”

This tendency to believe the imaginary more than the living reality of Jesus is a “process of relativizing the faith” and prevents people from ever encountering God and experiencing his presence, he said.
Pope Benedict Says Predecessor’s Faith, Courage Were Signs of Holiness

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Blessed John Paul II’s deep spirituality and his courage to uphold the truth were clear signs of his sainthood, said his successor, retired Pope Benedict XVI.

“John Paul II never asked for applause, he never looked around, worried about how his decisions would be received. He acted according to his faith and convictions, and he was also ready to take the blows,” the retired pope said in a book-length collection of interviews. Pope Benedict’s comments were part of the book, “Alongside John Paul II: Friends and Collaborators Tell Their Story,” a compilation of 22 interviews conducted by Polish journalist Wlodzimierz Redzioch. The recently released book was initially available only in Italian and Spanish.

In a written response to the author’s questions, Pope Benedict explained his long relationship with the Polish pope, which began with their first meeting as cardinals during the conclave that elected Pope Paul VI in August 1978.

“He had a great reverence and a cordial fondness” for the then-archbishop of Krakow, who “outstandingly analyzed the nature of Marxism” for the cardinals in the pre-conclave meetings.

Most of all I immediately felt struck by the personal charm that he exuded, and I noticed from the way he prayed how profoundly united he was to God.”

Even though the two men were present during the Second Vatican Council and collaborated on the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, they did not person-ally met, he added.

After Blessed John Paul was elected pope, he wanted then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to leave his ministry as archbishop of Munich and Freising, Germany, to come to the Vatican in 1979 as prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education.

Pope Benedict declined, saying he wanted to fulfill his promise to lead the archdiocese, to which he had been appointed just two years prior. He said Blessed John Paul was very understand-ing and accommodated his request, but told him that, no matter what, he would eventually be called to Rome. In fact, he was named prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1981.

Pope Benedict said the following 24 years they worked together were marked by “friendship and affection.”

“The pope was always very gracious and understanding toward me,” he said.

Blessed John Paul’s spirituality was marked by an “intensity of prayer” and was deeply rooted in the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Benedict said. His prayerful devotion extended be-yond just his one relationship with God and embraced a concern for the whole Church and all of humanity, he said.

“At the heart of his piety was anchored the task of bringing Christ to others,” Pope Benedict said, and his devotion to Mary was tied to her role as a model of how to be completely and willingly dedi-cated to Christ.

As the two men worked together over the years, “it became ever clearer to me over time that John Paul II was a saint,” he said.

Pope Benedict set aside the normal five-year waiting period after his prede-cessor’s death and allowed his cause to be opened early.

The late-pope’s “joy throughout “the great pains” and exertion of his pontifi-cate, his courage during “a truly difficult time,” as well as his intense relationship with God were all indications of holi-ness, he said.

John Paul based his actions and deci-sions on his faith and convictions, and it was this “courage of the truth” that, “in my eyes, is a major criterion of holiness.”

The retired pope said he will always be grateful for his predecessor.

“I couldn’t and I wasn’t supposed to try to imitate him, but I did try to carry his legacy and his work forward as best I could,” he said. “Therefore, I am cer-tain that still today his goodness accom-panies me and his blessing protects me.”

Pope Benedict also recalled St. John Paul II’s persistence and tireless commit-ment as he pushed himself physically on major trips and in his everyday rou-tine at the Vatican.

He recalled telling him at one point during Pope John Paul’s 1980 trip to Munich that he should rest. He said the pope replied, “I can do that in heaven.”

Women Recount Stories of Healing through Intercession

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

People said Floribeth Mora Diaz was crazy to think Blessed John Paul II in-terceded with God to heal her brain an-eurysm, but if so, “then it is a blessed craziness, because I’m healthy,” she told reporters at the Vatican. The 50-year-old Costa Rican wom-an spoke at a news conference just three days before she would particip ate in the Mass for the canonization of Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis ac-cepted her healing as the miracle need-ed for the late pope’s canonization.

At the same news conference, Daughter of Charity Sister Adele Lan-bianca gave her eyewitness account of the healing of Sister Caterina Capitani, the nun whose healing in 1966 was ac-cepted as the miracle needed for the beatification of Blessed John XXIII. Pope Francis waived the requirement of another miracle for his canoniza-tion.

Even though both women have told their stories hundreds of times, they were emotional before an international gathering of reporters at the Vatican.

“Frightened to hear a man’s voice” was how her husband prepared for the operation, and she did not have the money.

The local doctors could do nothing more for her, so they sent her home, “telling me I had only a month to live.” She began crying as she talked about her husband trying to prepare their children for their mother’s death and urging them to pray.

Mora Diaz said she had long had a devotion to Pope John Paul and watched his beatification May 1, 2011, “and then I fell asleep.” A few hours later, she heard the late pope’s voice, “Rise! ... Do not be afraid.”

“Something... I heard a voice and I was healed.”

Still, she said, and her husband did not have the money to pay for more tests to verify the healing, but eventually her doctor did an MRI. “He was shocked,” she said. “My husband wondered why he wasn’t saying any-thing, but I said, because I’ve been healed through the intercession of John Paul II.”

The doctor’s reaction was impor-tant, she said, “because I wasn’t the only one saying I was healed, but there were doctors, who were very serious, saying so.”

Sister Adele, who spoke about the miracle accepted for Pope John’s be-atification, worked in an Italian pedi-atric hospital with Sister Caterina in 1963 when, for the first time, she had a gastric hemorrhage in the middle of the night. “She panicked and woke me up.”

After months of treatment, doctors removed most of her stomach, which was covered with tumors, and her en-itre spleen and pancreas. At first she improved, but then she developed an external fistula, which leaked, Sis-ter Adele said. She was on the point of death May 22, 1966, when the as-sistant provincial of the Daughters of Charity brought her a relic, reportedly a piece of Pope John’s bed sheet.

“She put it on her wound in the hope that the Lord would come with his mercy and his love,” Sister Adele said. “Suddenly, Sister Caterina woke from her stupor and no longer felt any pain,” instead she felt a hand on her wound and heard a voice calling, “Sis-ter Caterina!”

“Franz, you have to hear a man’s voice” in her room, she turned and saw Pope John standing by her bed. He told her she was fine, and she went to tell the other sisters that she was healed and hungry, Sister Adele said.

With the acceptance of her healing as a miracle, Pope John Paul beatified Pope John in 2001, and Sister Caterina was there. She died in 2010, more than 43 years after she was healed.
An apostolic letter written more than 25 years ago by St. John Paul II continues to garner attention in the universal Church today with regard to women and is a worthy read especially during May, a month dedicated to the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to our mothers.


Given in Rome on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1988, it is the first of the papal magisterium entirely devoted to the topic of women.

The letter attests to the Church’s historic appreciation of women – even drawing back to Biblical times – the God-given equality of women and men, and the beautiful gift of physical and spiritual motherhood.

It introduces opening with a quote from the Closing Message of the Second Vatican Council.

“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the vocation of women is being changed its position on contraception and is going so deep a transformation, women acquiring in the world an increasing role, for women who watch over the human persons in the family, which is the fundamental sign of the human community: for women who work professionally, and who at times are burdened by a great social responsibility; for ‘perfect’ women and for ‘weak’ women – for all women as they have come forth from the heart of God in all the beauty and richness of their femininity; as they have been embraced by his eternal love; as, together with men, they are called to take up the whole body of Christ and is transformed sometimes into a ‘valley of tears’; as they assume, to-gether with men, a common responsibility for the dignity of humanity ac-cording to their capacities and according to their vocation. It is a truth that this human family has in God himself, in the bosom of the ineffable Trinity.

The Church gives thanks for all the manifestations of the feminine ‘genius’ which have appeared in the course of history, in the midst of all peoples and nations; she gives thanks for all the charisms which the Holy Spirit distributes to women in the history of the People of God, for all the victories which she owes to their faith, hope and charity: she gives thanks for all the fruits of female holiness.

Karl Rahner’s Church asks at the same time that these invaluable ‘manifestations of the Spirit’ (cf. 1 Cor 12:4ff.), which with great generosity are poured forth upon the “daughters” of the eternal Jerusalem, may be attentively recognized and appreciated so that they may return for the common good of the Church and of humanity, especially in our times. In meditating on the biblical mystery of the “woman,” the Church prays that in this mystery all women may discover themselves and their “supreme vocation.”


Quo Vadis Days ~ June 22-26

Catholic young men ages 15-25 are invited to attend the 2015 Quo Vadis Days vocation camp to spend time with other young men your age as you pray, share your intimate and personal stories, listen while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, food and more. Quo Vadis Days are staffed by priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and will be held out of State at St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. There is no cost to attend, due to generous donors. Registration forms can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org, or contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282, or questions for or a registration packet.

Fiat Days ~ July 6-8

Catholic young women ages 15-25 are invited to attend the 2015 Fiat Days vocation retreat to spend time with other young women your age as you pray, share your intimate and personal stories, listen while having fun. Activities include Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, food and more. Fiat Days will be held July 6-8 at Mount St. Mary’s University and Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. There is no cost to attend, due to the generosity of anonymous donors. Please contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282, with questions or for a registration packet.
Women exchange the Sign of Peace during Mass celebrated at the 89th annual Convention of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, hosted this year by the Cumberland-Perry District.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A shining example of the gifts of Catholic women enlivened the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on May 5, during the 89th annual convention of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

As more than 350 women gathered for the event, their voices emanated joy and faith in their camaraderie, reflecting this year’s convention theme, “Be the Voice of Catholic Women with Confidence, Hope and Love.”

Christian Charity Sister Geralyn Schmidt, Wide Area Network Coordinator for the Diocese of Harrisburg and an educator for 28 years, carried that spark through her keynote address on the theme, reminding the day’s participants that words are sacred. “Words have power,” she said in her presentation, which offered an insightful look at the meaning of each word of the convention theme.

“God pronounced one word, ‘Jesus,’” and that Word became an individual,” Sister Geralyn said. “Can you imagine if our words became individuals? Would they be hurtful, or uplifting?”

“If we are truly living as Catholic women, then we have to be the voice of God in today’s world,” she said. Following the morning presentation, the women gathered for Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer and concelebrated by a number of priests from the various districts of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

The bishop expressed his gratitude for the event, their voices emanated joy and faith in their camaraderie, reflecting this year’s convention theme, “Be the Voice of Catholic Women with Confidence, Hope and Love.”

Christian Charity Sister Geralyn Schmidt focuses on the word “Be” during her keynote presentation. “There is a stability in that word,” she told attendees of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s annual convention.

“Our works, your activities, your programs are important to the life of our Church. It’s a great blessing and part of the richness of our diocesan Church that your group has existed these many years, and has taken on various aspects of the mission of Christ, as entrusted to all of us,” he said.

“There are many who want to be the voice of women in our culture,” he said. “You are the voice of women through the Truth that Jesus has revealed to us.”

The annual convention is a showcase of the service, ministries and prayer efforts of Catholic women in the diocese, including their Family Concerns efforts, which support and enhance the importance of family life, the institution of marriage and religious vocations. Activities and efforts include the annual Mass for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage, and the support of seminarians.

The ladies also work in the area of Community Concerns, supporting ongoing programs such as health and wellbeing, domestic violence awareness and prevention, prayer shawl ministry, and a racetrack ministry that serves the spiritual, emotional, social and educational needs of horse racing’s workforce at Penn National Race Course.

Through the efforts of the Hispanic Apostolate and Migrant Ministry, the women collect monetary donations each year to distribute among the ten parishes with Hispanic ministry. The funds are used to help the parishes’ efforts in spiritual development, religious education, counseling and other pastoral needs. The ministry also fosters a greater understanding of the Hispanic culture by encouraging attendance and participation at cultural festivals and religious celebrations.

Other areas involve efforts in spirituality, the promotion of Fair Trade items, care for the environment, and an annual scholarship for a graduating high school senior girl, funded through a silent auction at each year’s convention.

The ladies’ efforts in promoting family, marriage, vocations and dignity of human life extend beyond these ministries at the diocesan level, and are an example of the many and various works of Catholic women in their own individual parishes, noted Ann Finkle, Chair of Community Concerns.

“We want women to know that there are a lot of things we are involved in. We’re focused on helping families in need and promoting the sanctity of life. We have women involved in volunteering at local food banks and pantries, baking cakes for Meals on Wheels. They do many and various things beyond the examples shown here at the convention,” she said.

“We don’t do these things to get noticed; it is just part of our calling as women in the Church,” she said.

In his homily during Mass, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer addresses participants on the importance of their voices as Catholic women in society.

A collection of blankets, clothing and supplies for infants and toddlers builds upon the efforts of Catholic women in the Church, she said.
The view the complete schedule of Summer Session faith formation offerings, including course descriptions, fees and registration options, visit www.hbgdiocese.org and click on the “Diocesan Institute Courses and Registration” icon on the right-hand side of the page.

For more information about the Summer Session, additional previously-recorded offerings, or obtaining catechetical certification in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact Ryan Bolster at 717-657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

All courses are held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

Humane Vitae: An Overview of Pope Paul VI’s 1968 Encyclical On Human Life
June 12, 7-9 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

Key Principles of Evangelization within the Parish
June 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

Top Ten List for Outstanding Catechesis
June 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

Breaking Open the 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart
June 16, 7-9 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

The Rosary: Contemplating the Face of Christ in the School of Mary
June 17, 7-9 p.m. Mr. James Gontis
* Also available via webinar Mr. James Gontis

Catholicism: Religion of Spirit and Flesh
June 18, 7-9 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

Catechesis on the Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell
June 19, 7-9 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

Defending the Faith 101: Giving a Reason for the Faith that is in You, With Gentleness and Reverence
June 20, 7-9 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

Five Golden Threads of Catechesis
June 21, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mr. James Gontis

The Dignity and Vocation of Women
June 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m. *Also available via webinar Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Their hands neatly and prayerfully folded, boys in suits and girls in white dresses and veils processed into St. Matthew Church in Dauphin, eager to receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time.

The celebration of First Holy Communion for these ten children on May 4 marked the first time it was celebrated in the year-old church, and the largest class in several years.

The Mass followed a Marian celebration, which included the praying of the Rosary and the crowning of a statue of the Blessed Mother.

The reception of the sacrament followed a year of Sunday classes for the second-graders, taught by Lori Lochetto, who has been involved in religious education at the parish for five years.

“It has been amazing and inspiring to hear the children’s thoughts on the Eucharist as they have been preparing and learning,” she said. They were particularly interested in asking questions about how the wine exactly becomes the Precious Blood, how to properly consume the Eucharist, and what it would taste like, she noted.

Leading up to the First Holy Communion, the children were given a tour of the church by Father Paul Clark, pastor, and participated in a retreat during which they created an art project decorating a chalice with images of the things that are important in their lives.

“It was beautiful to see how excited they were to receive Communion for the first time, and to grow in their faith,” Ms. Lochetto said. “This celebration was the first time that it was incorporated into the regular Sunday Mass, and I think it served as way to remind adults of the excitement they had in first receiving Jesus.”
Pope Francis, with Retired Pope Benedict, Canonizes Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II

Catholic News Service

By Francis X. Rocca

The canonizations of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II, Pope Francis said April 27, in his homily, were a sign that “the Holy Spirit shows an exquisite openness to events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful than the challenges of their time by modernizing the Catholic Church in fidelity to its ancient traditions.”

“Their openness, their courage, and their mercy, who responded to challenges of their time by modernizing the Catholic Church in fidelity to its ancient traditions. Pope Francis characterized St. John Paul as the “pope of openness to the Spirit.”

Pope Francis said April 27, in his homily, that “they were priests, bishops and popes of the 20th century,” the pope said April 27, in his homily during Mass in St. Peter’s Square. “They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful than the challenges of their time by modernizing the Catholic Church in fidelity to its ancient traditions.”

John XXIII and John Paul co-operated with the Holy Spirit in renewing and updating the Church in keeping with its original features, those features which the saints have given her throughout the centuries,” he said.

Speaking before a crowd of half a million that included retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis praised St. John for his best-known accomplishment, calling the Second Vatican Council, which he said “showed an exquisite openness to the Holy Spirit.”

“He let himself be led, and he was for the Church a pastor, a servant-leader,” the pope said of St. John. “This was his great service to the Church. I like to think of him as the pope of openness to the Spirit.”

Pope Francis characterized St. John Paul as the “pope of the family,” a title he said the late pope himself had hoped to be remembered by. Pope Francis said he was sure St. John Paul was guiding the Church on its path to two upcoming synods of bishops on the family, to be held at the Vatican this October and in October 2015.

The pope invoked the help of the two new papal saints for the synods’ success, and he prayed, “May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy, which always hopes and always forgives, because it always loves.”

Pope Francis has said the agenda for the family synods will include Church teaching and practice on marriage, areas he has said exemplify a particular need for mercy in the Church today.

The pope repeatedly mentioned mercy in his homily, which he delivered on Divine Mercy Sunday, an observance St. John Paul put on the Church’s universal calendar in 2000. The Polish pope died on the vigil of the feast in 2005 and was beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2011.

In addition to Pope Benedict, making only his third public appearance since he resigned in February 2013, Pope Francis’ concelebrants included some 150 cardinals and 700 bishops.

Pope Benedict did not join the procession of bishops at the start of Mass, but arrived half an hour earlier, wearing white vestments and a cane; he sat in a section of the square designated for cardinals.

Pope Francis greeted his predecessor with an embrace at the start of the Mass, drawing applause from the crowd, and approached him again at the end.

During the canonization ceremony, which took place at the beginning of the Mass, devotees carried up relics of the new saints in matching silver reliquaries, which Pope Francis kissed before they were placed on a small table for veneration by the congregation.

St. John’s relic was a piece of the late pope’s skin, removed when his brain aneurysm was recognized by the intercession of St. John Paul, brought up a silver reliquary containing some of the saint’s blood, taken from him for medical testing shortly before his death in 2005.

Huge tapestries bearing portraits of the two saints hung from the façade of the basilica, and the square was decorated with 30,000 roses and other flowers donated by the nation of Ecuador.

The square and the broad Via della Conciliazione leading up to it were tightly packed with approximately half a million pilgrims, many of whom had been standing for hours before the start of Mass. Among the many national flags on display, the majority were from Poland, the native land of St. John Paul.

The Vatican estimated that 800,000 attended the ceremony in Rome, with overflow crowds watching on giant-screen TVs set up at various locations around the city. The 2011 beatification of Pope John Paul drew more than 1 million people, according to Italian police estimates at the time.

The Vatican said 93 countries sent official delegations to the Mass, and more than 30 of the delegations were led by a president or prime minister. The current king and queen of Spain and the former king and queen of Belgium were in attendance.

Pope Francis spent half an hour personally greeting the delegations following the Mass. He then rode in his popemobile through the square and adjacent avenue, waving and applauding from the crowds, for about 20 minutes until disappearing at the end of the street.

The canonizations of both popes came after extraordinary measures by their successors to expedite the process. Pope Benedict waived the usual five-year waiting period before the start of a sainthood cause for Pope John Paul shortly after his death, when he was mourned by crowds shouting “Santo subito!” (“A saint at once!”). In the case of St. John, Pope Francis waived the usual requirement of a second miracle before a blessed can was added to the church’s canon of saints.
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving for the canonizations of Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer said the great gift of the two newest saints reminds the members of the Church that we too are all called to lives of holiness.

“We remember that we are all called to sainthood, nothing less. In our Baptism, when we were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, and every time we approach the Table of the Eucharist and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are being nurtured for holiness. We are being fortified to be holy women and holy men,” he said during his homily for Mass, celebrated May 1 at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill.

Among those in the congregation were a number of students from Good Shepherd School. Acknowledging their presence, the bishop recalled his years at Mary, Queen of Peace Grade School in Pottsville, Pa., and how he was drawn to the section in the library there that contained books on the lives of the saints.

The holy men and women about whom he read in those books are most often separated by centuries from his own life. But the two saints canonized by Pope Francis on April 27 are contemporaries, Bishop Gainer said.

“It’s a good thing to remember that saints didn’t just live in a time long ago, in a place far away, but they are our brothers and sisters, our contemporaries, about whom they remind us that God calls every one of us to be a saint, he remarked.

“We know that we can turn now to Sts. John XXIII and St. John Paul II with confidence and conviction, and ask for their guidance,” he said. “They will intercede for us, in good times and in bad times. We have friends before the throne of God, and they don’t forget us.”

The messages in the bishop’s homily were especially taken to heart by the students at Good Shepherd, as more than a dozen of them gathered during the social following Mass to talk about the virtues of Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II, and their own call to holiness.

Most of them were barely in kindergarten when John Paul II died in 2005.

“What stuck with me the most about both St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II is that they were both popes who approached and wanted to be with the people,” said Molly Grimm.

“They’re canonizations show us that these two saints are role models for us today,” said Student Natasha Mauger. “We are honoring their lives because they lived holy lives, and we want to live up to that as well.”

“Canonizations don’t happen every day, so when someone becomes a saint, you know they had a great impact on the Church,” Olivia Deja offered.

“They are role models for us as we try to strengthen our faith.”

Student Natasha Mauger noted the virtues of the newest saints, notably their holiness in defending the dignity of the human person, and their strong leadership. “We’ve found them to be very courageous in building and strengthening the Church,” she said.

The time leading up to the canonizations offered opportunities for teaching moments. Classroom lessons, projects and materials focused on the gifts that the two popes brought to the Church: John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council, and John Paul II and his special connection with the youth of the Church, for example.

Their impact on the universal Church was evidenced by the nearly 1 million people who converged on St. Peter’s Square and its surrounding streets for last month’s canonizations, said students Drew Hess, who was “impressed by the news clips showing so many people who came out to celebrate the saints and the faith,” and Olivia Underkoff, who was “amazed to see how many people whose lives were touched by these two saints, especially one who was alive when I was a little child.”

The students also gave consideration to Bishop Gainer’s point in his homily that, through our Baptism, we are all called to be saints.

“What makes a saint is truly believing in God, and following his call for you,” said Dominica Mirarchi. “It can be a challenge to live a holy life, but I think it’s easier to live up to the call to be a saint if you believe in God than if you go your own way in life and aren’t strong in the faith.”

“In the new saints, we have role models to follow in holiness,” Serena Estok added. “Especially in St. John Paul II, a modern pope who was alive during our time, we have someone we can really relate to.”

Young people’s special connection to John Paul II continues to bear fruit in the Church, especially within those of “the John Paul II Generation.”

Deacon Kyle Sahd, who will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on June 28, specifically recalls the influence that the late pope had on his religious vocation.

Deacon Sahd told The Catholic Witness in an e-mail interview from the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he is completing his formation to the priesthood, that he remembers with great fondness attending Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II at Camden Yards in Baltimore in 1995.

“I could not imagine that I was in the presence of the pope!” said Deacon Sahd, a native of Holy Trinity Parish in Camden. “I could not imagine that I was in the presence of the pope!”

Deacon Sahd was then a College in Rome, where he is completing his formation to the priesthood, that he remembers with great fondness attending Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II. “I was in the presence of the pope!” Deacon Sahd said.

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Young men and women from St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Ronald W. Gainer on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27. The 42 eighth-graders were confirmed following a year of sacramental preparation that included religious education classes, several sessions on the sacraments and spirituality, hands-on activities and a pilgrimage to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md.

The confirmands also enjoyed a special candidate and sponsor breakfast leading up to the reception of the sacrament, during which previously-Confirmed youth offered testimony about the sacrament and their faith. The gathering assisted candidates and sponsors in getting to know one another on a more spiritual basis, to develop and strengthen a faith-based relationship as the youth continue to grow.

“Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”

Kate Meredith “St. Rita” Burgess receives the Sacrament of Confirmation as her sponsor and grandmother Jackie Weigman joyfully looks on.

John Edward “St. Gregory the Great” Katcho is anointed with Sacred Chrism as he is confirmed by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer. John’s sponsor is Catherine Baker.

With a stained-glass image of the Risen Christ in the background, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer celebrates Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in New Freedom on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter. He is joined at the altar by Father Sylvan Capitani, former pastor, Deacon Frederick Horn, and Father Joshua Brommer, current pastor.
DOCTORS' DISCIPLE

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey will host a parish mission, “Called and Gifted,” May 16 from 7-9 p.m., and May 17 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The mission is an opportunity for each of us to deepen our relationship with Jesus and to discover God’s call to us. Year of Evangelization, in the Called & Gifted discernment process, you will learn that every lay Christian has been given a unique and deeply personal call to work with our Lord. Discerning your call will give you a new perspective on your life and will help you to be more fulfilled in your work and in your relationships. St. Joan of Arc is sponsoring a teaching team from the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs to offer the introductory Called & Gifted workshop. Everyone is invited to participate. To register, call the parish office at 717-533-7168.

Mass in the Croatian language will be celebrated May 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Prince of Peace—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Steelton.

Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated by Father Walter Sempko on May 18 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg. Confessions are heard in English and Polish after every Mass.

Education, Enrichment & Support

Theology on Tap in Lancaster will hold its next gathering May 14 at the Lancaster Brewing Company. Kevin O’Brien, Coordinator of “Theology on Tap: Center of the Word,” will present “Acts of Faith — Evangelization through Drama.” He will share the role of theater in his conversion to Catholicism. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 and a Q&A session. For more information, or to register, contact 610-258-3063 or stfranhn@hotmail.com.

Prosopon School of Iconology will be presenting an Iconography Workshop in the Russian Byzantine Tradition with renowned iconographer Omitri Andreyev. Workshop will be held May 9-11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., daily at St. John the Baptist Catholic School, New Freedom. Tuition and materials for the class is $650. Out of town students will need to book additional accommodations. Non-refundable deposit of $200 due by June 2. There is a minimum of 12 students needed to hold the workshop (deposit will be refunded if workshop is cancelled). For complete information and registration form, contact Mary Jo Fiero at mjfiero@rogers.com or 717-235-5735.

RETRIEVES & PILGRIMAGES

Travel with Father Timothy Marcotte of Christ the King Church in Benton on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Proximo Travel from May 21-June 2, 2015. Visit Paris, Lourdes, Lille, Fatima, the Shrine of Montserrat and Barcelona. Cost is $1,914-1,949, and all-included. Find more information at www.proximotravel.com or contact Father Marcotte for more details at 570-784-3123.

Events & Fund-Raisers

Immaculate Conception BVM School in New Oxford will host “Welcome Wednesdays” through May 21. Are you searching for a new and exciting educational future for your child? Experience the opportunities that await your child at Immaculate Conception School. “Welcome Wednesdays” will be held through May 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For information, call the school at 717-624-2061.

The St. Anne’s Retirement Community Auxiliary in Columbia is sponsoring a chicken barbecue May 10 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at St. Anne’s Retirement Community, 3802 Columbia Ave. A combination meal of half a chicken is $5.50. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event. Baked goods will also be available.

An Italian Dinner to benefit Lourdeshouse maternity home in Hartsgrove will be held May 10 from 5-8 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church social hall in Eola. Pay at the door. Dinners include baked penne, lasagna, salad, roll, beverages and dessert. Eat in or take out. Cost is $10 for adults and $7 for children 12 and under.

A golf tournament to benefit Seven Sorrows BVM School in Middletown will be held May 16 at 1 p.m. (shotgun start) at Sunset Golf Course in Middletown. Register online, view a flyer, make a donation, or find out how to register by going to by visiting www.sevensorrows.org and clicking on the Golf Tournament link.

York Catholic High School’s James Forjan Focus Fund benefit will feature Merrill Hoge, ESPN Sportscaster and former Pittsburgh Steelers, on May 16 at Heritage Hills. Doors open at 4 p.m. with dinner, and Hoge will sign autographs at 7:30. Cost is $100 for the dinner and Hoge’s “Find a Way” speech. Sponsorships are available that include a VIP reception prior to the event. For more information, contact York Catholic High School at 717-846-8871 x1.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg will hold a half chicken BBQ in the school cafeteria. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early bird games start at 6:40 p.m., with the first game of the bingo packet starting at 7 p.m. Cost is $20 in advance until May 14, $25 at the door. Cost includes a 20-game packet with six cards per sheet. Bring your own daubers. Food and drinks available. Kitchen open from 4:5-6 p.m., serving meatballs, beef stroganoff, beef hotdogs and fries. Only paid players will be admitted. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and must pay to play. Non-playing children are not permitted. For information, call Chris Johnson at 717-585-9385 or Carol Fagan at 717-232-1003.

Tri County Young Adults (Adams, Franklin and Lower Cumberland counties) will host a hike and picnic May 17. Attendees are asked to meet at the parking lot adjacent to Caledonia at the intersections of Rt. 233 and Rt. 30 at 10 a.m. The group will caravan to Rocky Knob Trail and hike approximately 3.5 miles. A picnic and social will follow immediately back at Caledonia State Park. Bring a friend, water, and snack to share. E-mail tricity outpatient@gmail.com with questions.

St. Ignatius Parish in Buchanan Valley will host}
Obituaries

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

ABBOTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Alice Feiser.


BONNEAUVILLE – St. Joseph the Worker: Albert McMaster.


GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Dolores Y. Dashiell, Stephen Fox, James Wagner.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: David Windish; St. Francis of Assisi: Mary E. Child, Elizabeth Reese, Mary Wansack.


MIDDLETOWN – St. Monica: Victor V. Kashuba, Robert E. Marinelli.


NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Bishop: Rosey Hickey, John Kosloski, Sr.

SELINGROVE – St. Pius X: Victoria For, Jessica Wagon.


SUNBURY – St. Monica: Victoria V. DeSantis, Judith A. Machesic.


YORK – St. Rose of Lima: Barbara Bemincasa, Margaret Conti.

YORK HAVEN – Holy Infant: Kathleen Raffenberge.

Catholic Perspective Radio®

May 11 – Catholic Perspective focuses on mothers and the many ways that they are special. An upcoming Catholic women’s retreat is one of the program highlights. Contributor Rose Pence speaks with Barbara McCarthy about the June 15-16 retreat that is sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and open to all women. To register, or for more information on the event, contact Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 or e-mail her at FranBarbMc@aol.com.

Foundation in Memory of

TRADITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES

April 20, 2014 – Show your appreciation to the staff and clergy at St. John the Baptist Parish, Hanover. Traditional Sunday services will be sponsored by Missions of Mercy for the benefit of the Parish. Please join us as we give thanks to God for His blessings.

For more information contact the Parish office at 717-637-5236.

St. Joseph Parish in Hanover to Participate in Special

Viewing of Stations of the Cross at the State Museum

The 150th Anniversary Committee of St. Joseph Parish, Hanover, is inviting all interested parishioners to join in a pilgrimage on June 14, 2014, to the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg to view the original paintings of the Stations of the Cross which hung in the parish’s first church. The beautiful, inspirational and unique 46-foot Stations of the Cross were painted by Lorenzo Scatagliza from 1877-1880. Msgr. Scatagliza was a renowned Italian-born artist who then lived in Philadelphia.

In 1960, the old church on Baltimore Street was condemned by the state as unsafe, and rear Stations of the Cross were saved and stored in the basement. Josef Joss was saved and stored in the basement. Josef Joss was saved and stored in the basement. The paintings were produced with many of the stained-glass windows and other artifacts since reused in the new church on Gettysburg Road. In 1977, in a view of the historical condition, the Stations of the Cross were donated to the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, with the understanding that the Museum would pay to have them restored. They have been housed at the Museum ever since.

Though normally on display in a private, non-denominational setting, the Stations of the Cross will be on display in a public setting at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. Parish members who wish to participate in the pilgrimage should contact the Parish office, 717-637-5236, to reserve a spot as soon as possible, but no later than May 28.

York Catholic Students Receive Scholarship to Seton Hill

Rose Pence, a senior at York Catholic High School, was awarded a full four-year post-graduate scholarship to attend Seton Hill University in Greensburg. Rose is the daughter of Shawn and Penny Pence of Stewartstown.

Chastity Talk at Catholic Offers Students Fresh Perspective

The Peyton Walker Foundation was established in February 2014 to increase the awareness of students regarding sudden cardiac arrest, which can pose a significant threat to one’s life. Students for Life Catholic, Lebanon Catholic High School, has partnered with Catholic, Trinity, as well as visitors from youth groups and public schools from the county, to implement an educational program.

(a) Open discussion on the topic of purity and self-respect in a way that challenges teens to change their lives. Students for Life Catholic, Lebanon Catholic High School, has partnered with Catholic, Trinity, as well as visitors from youth groups and public schools from the county, to implement an educational program.

(b) Provide an educational experience for students that is interactive and powerful. This program will engage and excite students.

(c) Offer students fresh perspective. Jason and Crystalina Evert spoke to an audience of more than 800 students April 16 at Catholic High School on the topic of purity and self-respect in a way that challenges teens to change their lives. Students for Life Catholic, Lebanon Catholic High School, has partnered with Catholic, Trinity, as well as visitors from youth groups and public schools from the county, to implement an educational program.

(d) Highlight the need for programs that offer students fresh perspective. Jason and Crystalina Evert spoke to an audience of more than 800 students April 16 at Catholic High School.

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Representatives whose districts are within the Diocese of Harrisburg to give them an opportunity to participate. The names of those who responded are printed in bold in the candidate list; survey questions and responses follow. The Catholic Witness and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither support nor oppose any candidate.

“Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” can be read and downloaded at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship. It can also be purchased by calling USCCB Publishing at 1-800-235-8722. Election materials can also be founded at www.pacatholic.org.

The Catholic Witness presents here (pages 15-18) a Voters’ Guide in anticipation of the May 20 Primary Election. The questions were prepared by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of the Pennsylvania Catholic bishops. Questionnaires were mailed by The Catholic Witness to candidates for U.S. Congress and Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives whose districts are within the Diocese of Harrisburg to give them an opportunity to participate. The names of those who responded are printed in bold in the candidate list; survey questions and responses follow. The Catholic Witness and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither support nor oppose any candidate.

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Primary Election day is May 20, 2014. Pennsylvanians will go to the polls to select the Democratic and Republican contenders for governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. Congressional representatives, some state senators and all state representatives.

In the gubernatorial race, Republicans have two choices. Tom Corbett is the incumbent governor and former state attorney general. Prior to running for statewide office, Corbett was a teacher and a lawyer both as an assistant U.S. attorney and in private practice. Bob Guzzardi, his challenger, is also an attorney. Democrats have a few more choices. Here is how they will appear on the ballot. Tom Wolf is the former Secretary of Revenue under Governor Ed Rendell and is CEO of a kitchen cabinet and specialty building products company. Rob McCord is the current state treasurer. Prior to his public service, he was the managing director of several venture capital funds. Katie McGinty sits on the boards of several energy and clean technology companies. She was a senior advisor on environmental matters to Senator and Vice-President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton and was secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under Governor Ed Rendell. Allyson Schwartz currently represents Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District and is a former state senator. Prior to elective office, she was executive director of the Elizabeth Blackwell Women’s Health Center, a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office but aims to educate Catholic voters about candidates and their positions on key issues. We sent a questionnaire to every statewide candidate giving them an opportunity to state their positions in their own words. Governor Corbett responded (read his completed questionnaire at www.pacatholic.org and within the Voters’ Guide printed here); the other Republican and the Democratic candidates did not respond. However, all of the candidates have made public statements and published campaign materials that give clues about where they stand.

These are a few, but certainly not all, of the issues that may be of interest to Catholic voters.

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

Republican Corbett indicated on PCC’s questionnaire that he opposes legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. In a January 26, 2014, story the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported that Guzzardi agrees with restricting abortion and on his Facebook page he describes partial-birth abortion as infanticide. All four Democratic candidates described themselves as ‘pro-choice’ on the abortion issue during a debate at Carnegie Mellon University in January 2014.

Access to Health Care

Corbett told the PCC he believes Pennsylvania should use the additional federal funds under the Affordable Care Act to allow more people, including the working poor, to access the private insurance market. He has proposed a plan to this effect called Healthy Pennsylvania. Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, Guzzardi told the York Daily Record, “The Forgotten Taxpayer cannot afford these programs … There are consequences to spending more than we can afford.”

All four Democrats say they would expand Medicaid immediately if elected governor. According to his campaign website, Wolf would “take an active, aggressive role in expanding access to health care in Pennsylvania.” In addition to expanding Medicaid, McCord told Keystone Politics that he “would like to see Pennsylvania take an aggressive approach to promoting health care exchanges, especially to young, healthy consumers who will help spread out the risk and bring costs down for the rest of us.” In a campaign press release, McGinty said, “Numerous studies have shown the federal aid would not only cover hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, but it would also boost economic activity, support job creation and generate real savings for state government.” Schwartz talks about her record in Congress helping to pass the Affordable Care Act and in her campaign ads.

School Choice

Corbett increased funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) and established the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) during his administration. Guzzardi states he believes in parental choice in education on his campaign website. All four Democratic candidates told NBC 10 in Philadelphia that they oppose state-funded tuition assistance vouchers for private school students. They also told the York Daily Record about their opposition to vouchers. Wolf has a plan to reform charter schools. McCord has a multi-step plan to increase education funding. Schwartz details a “new road forward” for education in Pennsylvania.

Further Information

In addition to researching the candidates’ public statements on issues, reviewing a list of endorsements can also demonstrate a particular point of view. Catholics may consider reviewing campaign websites for the most up-to-date news about who is supporting the candidates:

Tom Corbett – www.tomcorbettforgovernor.com
Bob Guzzardi – www.bobguzzardi.com
Tom Wolf – www.wolfforpa.com
Rob McCord – www.robmccord.com
Katie McGinty – www.katiemcginty.com
Allyson Schwartz – www.alyssonschwartz.com

All of these resources serve to educate voters about the issues and allow us to inform our consciences about which candidate will act in the best interest of the common good. As Catholic citizens, we have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. Mark your calendar for Primary Election Day on May 20, 2014. Visit www.votespa.com to find out where your polling place is. Visit the PA Department of State’s website at www.dos.state.pa.us to see where else is on the ballot. Then exercise your faithful citizenship and VOTE!

(An online version of this article with live links to the candidates’ statements can be found at www.pacatholic.org. The staff of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference contributed to this article. The PCC is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with Catholic news and issues at www.pacatholic.org, www.facebook.com/pacatholic, and www.twitter.com/pacatholic.)
provides competition which makes all schools better.

education.

initiative.

negatively impacting public education.

parents should be able to choose where their children attend school regardless of

three of my children attend Catholic School. My eldest daughter is graduating

to ensure that students receive a high quality education.

Allyson Schwartz (D), Tom Wolf (D)

program and established the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit to promote

phen Bloom (R-199)

Elizabeth Roberts (R-196),

Dissinger (R-101), Patricia Stephens (D-101), Russell Diamond (R-102), Joseph

Daniel Moul (R-91), Michael Regan (R-92),

Gingrich (R-101)

Zimmerman (R-99)

Support.

I believe in school choice. School choice

Support. I fully support school choice with a voucher

Stilp (D-104)

Gingrich (R-101)

Helm (R-104)

Grell (R-169): B.

Wentz (R-169): C.

Tallman (R-193): C. Life of mother only.

Grove (R-196): B.

Burgos (D-197): A.

Bloom (R-199): C. I strongly am pro-life.

What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including non-public schools?

STATE GOVERNOR

Tom Corbett (R): Support. My administration increased funding for the EITC program and established the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit to promote greater access to educational options.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): Support. I have long been a school choice advocate.

Aument (R-36): Support.

Denlinger (R-36): Support.

STATE HOUSE

Fee (R-37): Support.

Lang (R-78): Support. I believe parents should have a choice of their child’s education to ensure that students receive a high quality education.

Irvin (R-81): Support. Catholic education is very important to my family. All three of my children attend Catholic School. My eldest daughter is graduating from St. Mary’s Academy, Williamsport. She’s been accepted to Fordham University.

University of Scranton and St. Joseph’s University. She’s chosen to attend St. Joseph’s University. I believe the EITC program is wonderful. I believe all parents should be able to choose where their children attend school regardless of socio-economic status and geographic location.

Grell (R-87): Support.

Grell (R-87): Support.

Lloyd Groves (R-104): B.

Grell (R-87): Support.

Burgos (D-197): B.

Bloom (R-199): C. I strongly am pro-life.

What is your position on legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or providing healthcare or government services to the undocumented immigrant?

STATE GOVERNOR

Tom Corbett (R): Support. Pennsylvania has a responsibility to ensure the eligibility of all participants.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): Support. I do not support other than emergency health services for illegal aliens.

Aument (R-36): Support.

Denlinger (R-36): Oppose.

STATE HOUSE

Fee (R-37): Support.

Lang (R-78): Support.

Irvin (R-81): Oppose.


Grell (R-87): Support. To clarify application of federal rules to fit Commonwealth’s circumstances.

Nelson (R-87): Support. This is so unfair to our legal immigrants to provide free services to illegals. A travesty.

Schemel (R-90): B.

Grell (R-87): Support.

Irvin (R-81): Oppose.

Nelson (R-87): Support.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

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Hayes (D-84): C.

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Grell (R-87): C.

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Grell (R-87): C.

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Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.

Grell (R-87): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): C.
What is your position on legalizing same-sex marriage?

**STATE GOVERNOR**

Tom Corbett (R): Oppose. I support legislation to safeguard attempts to redefine marriage in Pennsylvania.

**STATE SENATE**

Eichelberger (R-30): Oppose. I was the prime sponsor of the Marriage Protection Amendment, which would place the definition of traditional marriage into the state constitution.


Denlinger (R-36): Oppose.

**STATE HOUSE**

Fee (R-37): Oppose. I am a sponsor of PA Marriage Protection Act.

Lang (R-78): Oppose. I believe in traditional families. A stronger family helps ensure a stronger economy.

Irvin (R-81): Oppose.

Hayes (D-84): I believe in the sanctity of marriage. I believe marriage is a sacrament. I don’t believe government can redefine marriage. There is a difference between God’s law and man’s law.

Grell (R-87): Oppose. Ultimately our Courts will need to rule on PA’s existing marriage laws.

Nelson (R-87): Oppose. I intend to pursue an amendment to the PA Constitution defining marriage as one man and one woman.

Schemel (R-90): Oppose.

Daywalt (R-90): Oppose.

Merisotis (R-93): Oppose. Government has no business redefining marriage.

Sayler (R-94): Oppose.

Hickernell (R-98): Oppose.

Zimmerman (R-99): Oppose. The Bible (which I believe to be God’s word) says marriage is between a man and a woman. That is what I believe.

Gingrich (R-101): Oppose.

Helm (R-104): Oppose.

Stilp (D-104): Have supported civil unions.

Payne (R-106): Oppose.

Woerner (R-169): Oppose.

Klunk (R-169): Oppose.

Wentz (R-169): Oppose.

Tallman (R-193): Oppose.

Grove (R-196): Oppose.

Burgos (D-197): Support.

Bloom (R-199): Oppose. I support traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

**STATE GOVERNOR**

Tom Corbett (R): Support. I would support increased funding for textbooks and instructional materials if money is available in the state budget.

**STATE SENATE**

Eichelberger (R-30): Support. School choice grants would solve this issue.

Aument (R-36): Support.

Denlinger (R-36): Support.

**STATE HOUSE**

Fee (R-37): Support.

Lang (R-78): Support.

Irvin (R-81): Support.

Hayes (D-84): Support.

Grell (R-87): Support.

Nelson (R-87): Support.

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Wentz (R-169): Oppose.

Tallman (R-193): Oppose.

Grove (R-196): Oppose.

Burgos (D-197): Support.

Bloom (R-199): Oppose. I support traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

A. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.

B. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, but should contain exceptions in narrow circumstances to protect religious institutions.

C. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, but should contain exceptions in narrow circumstances to protect religious conscience for business owners.

D. Pennsylvania should not amend its anti-discrimination laws to add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity and expression” as protected classes at this time.

**STATE GOVERNOR**

Tom Corbett (R): B. As the former Attorney General, I was responsible for a civil rights unit tasked with defending Pennsylvanians from discrimination. Pennsylvanians should not be denied housing or employment on this basis.

**STATE SENATE**

Eichelberger (R-30): D. We cannot protect our religious liberties if the anti-discrimination law is expanded in this way.

Aument (R-36): D.

Denlinger (R-36): D.

**STATE HOUSE**

Fee (R-37): D.

Lang (R-78): D.

Irvin (R-81): D.

Hayes (D-84): B.

Grell (R-87): B.

Nelson (R-87): D.

Schemel (R-90): D.

Daywalt (R-90): D.

Merisotis (R-93): D.

Sayler (R-94): B.

Hickernell (R-98): D.

Zimmerman (R-99): D.

Gingrich (R-101): D.

Helm (R-104): D.

**STATE GOVERNOR**

Tom Corbett (R): B. My HealthyPA proposal is designed to leverage federal dollars to improve access, quality and affordability to health insurance available on the private market.

**STATE SENATE**

Eichelberger (R-30): C. This socialized medical system will greatly diminish our healthcare delivery system. We should not participate in its expansion.

Aument (R-36): C. While we must help the working poor, the federal government promises funding for only 3 years; after that, PA taxpayers will face significant and unsustainable financial burdens.

Denlinger (R-36): B.

**STATE HOUSE**

Fee (R-37): C. I am concerned that the PA taxpayers will be left to pay the bill since the Federal Government has only promised funding for three years.

Lang (R-78): C.

Irvin (R-81): B.

Hayes (D-84): A. As long as abortions and abortifacients aren’t included.

Grell (R-87): D.

Nelson (R-87): C. Pennsylvania should not accept Obamacare, period.

Schemel (R-90): C.

Daywalt (R-90): C. While I support the goal of helping those who need insurance, the fact is that the A.C.A. only promises full funding for 3 years, at which time state taxpayers would be responsible for these costs. This is an increased burden neither the state nor taxpayers can afford.

Merisotis (R-93): C.

Sayler (R-94): C.

Hickernell (R-98): C.

Zimmerman (R-99): B. I’m opposed to the Affordable Care Act. As long as it is the law of our land, then what I checked is my position.

Gingrich (R-101): B.

Helm (R-104): C.
May 9, 2014

STATE GOVERNOR
Tom Corbett (R): Support. It is need as a deterrent and penalty for heinous crimes.

STATE SENATE

STATE HOUSE

What is your position on the death penalty?

STATE GOVERNOR
Tom Corbett (R): Support. It is need as a deterrent and penalty for heinous crimes.

STATE SENATE

STATE HOUSE

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?
A. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.
B. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.
C. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

Barletta (R-11): Support.

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?
Barletta (R-11): Depends on program and how you define subjective terms such as “robust” and “adequate.”

Do you support or oppose legislation that would make sexual orientation

Do you support or oppose robust funding for poverty-focused assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed in foreign aid?

Barletta (R-11): Depends on program in question.

Do you support or oppose robust levels of aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad and to provide adequate funding for the U.S. refugee admissions and resettlement programs?

Barletta (R-11): Depends on program and how you define subjective terms such as “robust” and “adequate.”

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?
A. I support legalized abortion.
B. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
C. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Barletta (R-11): C.

Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care professionals, providers and institutions?
Barletta (R-11): Support.

What is your position on legalizing same-sex marriage?
Barletta (R-11): Oppose.

Do you support or oppose legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?
Barletta (R-11): Oppose.

Do you support or oppose efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to existing protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

Barletta (R-11): Oppose.
Father Gillelan Demonstrates 
Dance as an Expression of Joy in God

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

I t charity hurts, then Father Robert
Gillelan, Jr., is a real giver. 
The Diocesan Vicar General and pas-
tor of Prince of Peace Parish in Steel-
ton put his boogie shoes to the test as a 
contestant in the third annual “Dancing 
with the Central PA Stars” gala on April 
26.

Performing a one-minute, fast-paced
swing dance to the music of the Cen-
tral Pennsylvania Symphony and 
with a professional dancer from PA 
DanceSport, Father Gillelan said danc-
ing was much more physical and de-
manding than he expected it to be.

“Have fun, or else you will wind up with 
paralysis by analysis.”
he said. “You can’t concentrate on ev-
erything, or else you will wind up with 
paralysis by analysis.”

Instead, the late bishop gave Father 
Gillelan the go-ahead to step onto the 
dance floor.

Before long, he was partnered with 
professional dancer Melodie Crawford 
of PA DanceSport, and assigned to per-
form a swing dance to “It Don’t Mean 
A Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing).”

Father Gillelan is no stranger to 
music or physical challenges. He has 
played the trumpet for 46 years, and has 
enjoyed basketball, even dunking until 
he was in his mid 30s.

Still, the six weekly dance lessons 
proved quite challenging.

“When the music was introduced, I 
was always listening for the trumpet en-
trance, the trombones, the saxophones, 
or thinking about the arrangement. I 
became distracted a bit by the music, 
so I had to separate myself from it and 
just approach it as a medium for me to 
dance. Once I did that, it made dancing 
easier,” Father Gillelan said.

While the spotlight was on him at 
the event, he is quick to point out that 
there are any number of extremely tal-
ented and gifted priests in the diocese. 
Father Gillelan pointed to priests who 
are highly accomplished instrument-
alist s, vocalists, artists, poets, athletes 
and cooks. These same priests are also 
quick to share their gifts as a medium 
for the message, he said.

“We are supposed to use our God-
given talents as a medium to further the 
message of God’s Kingdom. Even sit-
ting in the dunk tank at the parish fes-
tival is a way to help the faithful come 
closer to divinity through the humanity 
of their priest.”

Now that Father Gillelan has ex-
perience in both music and dance, is 
“America’s Got Talent” next on his list?

“Hardly,” he said. “I’m much more 
comfortable in a chasuble and preach-
ing from the pulpit, and hopefully 
through this experience, I was able to 
reach a different kind of homily on the 
dance floor.”

So how did he transition from clerical 
atte to dancing shoes and suspenders? 
By way of the bishop’s office.

Last year, one of Father Gillelan’s 
friends from the Central Pennsylvania 
Symphony asked whether he knew of 
someone in the diocese who might like 
to be a dance contestant for the gala. 
Father Gillelan suggested the idea to 
Bishop Joseph McFadden, thinking that 
the diocesan shepherd might enjoy the 
opportunity.

Instead, the late bishop gave Father 
Gillelan the go-ahead to step onto the 
dance floor.

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so I had to separate myself from it and 
just approach it as a medium for me to 
dance. Once I did that, it made dancing 
easier,” Father Gillelan said.

“The other challenge was the fact that 
there is so much to think about while 
performing: keep your shoulders back, 
your head up, don’t look down, don’t 
count out loud, smile, stay on the beat,” 
he said. “You can’t concentrate on ev-
erything, or else you will wind up with 
paralysis by analysis.”

Father Gillelan easily relates music 
and dance to spirituality.

“For me, those two art forms are like 
going to God in a different way,” he 
said. “We can go to God through truth, 
beauty or goodness. For me, dance is an 
expression of beauty. In this beauty, I 
was able to find joy in God and the gift 
of God’s love for us. Beauty and joy 
are universal, and are infallible signs of 
God’s presence.”

“I hope that what people saw when I 
took the dance floor was a joyful priest,” 
Father Gillelan said. “Pope Francis has 
spoken about priests being able to con-
nect with people by their humanity, and 
I think this experience was one way of 
doing so.”

Having raised $3,500 for the Jake Gitten
Cancer Research Foundation – the 
most of all the dancers – Father Robert 
Gillelan, Jr., received a special award for 
his participation in the “Dancing with the 
Central PA Stars” gala.
Brandon Kuntz of Trinity is arguably one of the best all-around athletes competing this year in the regular season dual meets and invitational. The senior high jumper has topped six feet and has one of the best times in the 200 with a mark of 22.49 heading into the championship season.

Bishop McDevitt’s Anna Bailey had a terrific May last year in track and field when she won the Mid-Penn Championships, set a District 3 record, and finished third in the PIAA State Championships by heaving a javelin over 142 feet. During the regular season this spring, the Penn State-bound senior has the area’s best throw heading into the upcoming championships. She finished in third place in the Outdoor National Championships last summer as well.

Trinity’s Alexis Lipnicky is also a Mid-Penn leading javelin thrower this year, with a throw of more than 130 feet as she readies for the upcoming championships this month. The District 3 and PIAA State championships will be held at Shippensburg University on May 16-17 and 23-24 respectively.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS