A carved image of St. Pauline Visintainer, the patron saint of diabetics, is seen at the St. Pauline Visintainer Center in Kulpmont. The center, located in the former St. Casimir Church, is home to more than 100 relics of saints, and is now recognized as a pilgrimage site in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Urging Catholics and Lutherans to take decisive steps toward unity, Pope Francis nevertheless offered no new openings to the idea of sharing Communion before full unity is achieved.

"We Christians will be credible witnesses of mercy to the extent that forgiveness, renewal and reconciliation are daily experienced in our midst," the pope said Oct. 31 during an ecumenical prayer service in the Lutherans' Lund cathedral, which was built as a Catholic cathedral in the 11th century.

With the prayer service, Pope Francis and leaders of the Lutheran World Federation launched a year of activities to mark the 500th anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther’s efforts to reform the church. For Pope Francis and the Vatican, Catholics are called on to focus on forgiveness, renewal and reconciliation with fellow Christians.

Lancaster Catholic golfer Thomas Bird blasts out of a fairway bunker, safely helping the Crusaders to the PIAA state team golf championship in York. See page 13 for coverage.
The St. Pauline Visintainer Center, located at 1150 Chestnut Street in Kulpmont, is home to more than 100 relics of saints, from St. Peter and St. Paul to St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Teresa of Calcutta, and has recently been approved by the Diocese of Harrisburg as a pilgrimage site.

The Catholic Witness presents here several images of just some of the relics, artifacts and statues that visitors can see at the center, which is named after the patron saint of diabetics.

Visitors are welcome Fridays beginning at 7 a.m. and throughout the day, and Saturdays throughout the day, concluding with Benediction at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.saintpauline.org to learn more, or call 570-373-3350.

Images and relics of St. Pauline Visintainer – including a bone from one of her fingers, encased in a geode, below – are particularly featured at the center. This first-class relic is on display during special events or celebrations at the center. It was given to St. Pauline’s cousin, Al Visintainer, of Mount Carmel upon her beatification in 1991. St. Pauline was born in northern Italy in 1865. Her family moved to Brazil ten years later, and soon Pauline began tending to the sick. She formed the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. As she suffered from diabetes for most of her life, she is considered to be the patron saint of diabetics. She was canonized in 2002.

Above: A display of items of St. John Paul II includes a zucchetto that he once wore. The pope from 1978-2005, he was canonized in April 2014.

Left: A first-class relic of St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) rests in the center of a flower-shaped design within the reliquary. A biography of the saint, known as “The Little Flower,” offers information about the life of the Carmelite Nun and Doctor of the Church.

Right: An image of St. Maria Goretti, painted by a local artist, graces one of the walls at the Center. Maria Goretti was 11 years old when she died in 1902 at the hands of a neighbor who intended to rape her and ultimately killed her by stabbing her numerous times. After her death, she appeared to her imprisoned murderer, Alessandro Serenelli, who converted and became a Franciscan lay brother. St. Maria Goretti was canonized in June of 1950.

Left: A piece of the habit worn by St. Teresa of Calcutta, as well as strands of her hair, are among the relics encased in displays at the St. Pauline Visintainer Center in Kulpmont.

Right: An image of St. Maria Goretti, painted by a local artist, graces one of the walls at the Center. Maria Goretti was 11 years old when she died in 1902 at the hands of a neighbor who intended to rape her and ultimately killed her by stabbing her numerous times. After her death, she appeared to her imprisoned murderer, Alessandro Serenelli, who converted and became a Franciscan lay brother. St. Maria Goretti was canonized in June of 1950.

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Right: A relic of St. Peregrine (1260-1345), patron saint of those suffering from cancer. An Italian saint of the Servite Order, he was healed in his 60s of a cancerous ulcer on his leg which was considered beyond saving. St. Peregrine was canonized in 1726.
St. Rose of Lima Student Celebrates First Place in Symphony’s Composition Contest

By Emily M. Albert

The Catholic Witness

Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: each of these composers and classical music artists began their craft at a young age. And so did one composer with whom you might not yet be familiar: Miranda Kovach.

Miranda is a fifth-grade student at St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville, and participated recently in the 2016 York Symphony Orchestra composition contest, for which she won first place in her grade category (grades 3-5).

Her piece, entitled, “In Pursuit,” was performed by the York Symphony Orchestra in front of a full audience at the Young Person’s Concert on November 2 and 3 at the Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center. This was the first time she heard her piece performed by a full orchestra.

“It sounded like my song,” Miranda said, smiling with excitement at the conclusion of the performance. “There were a few things I didn’t expect; some of the high parts I thought higher instruments would play, but I really liked it.”

Miranda composed her piece using the family piano that she has been playing since she was in second grade. She also plays the saxophone for the school band. Her mother commented that since they had a piano in the house, Miranda would beg for lessons. Since most lessons do not start for children until after first grade, the family enrolled Miranda as soon as possible and she has been playing ever since.

Her music teacher, Tina Basso, as well as her classmates and principal, Peg Rizzuto, were at the concert at the Strand to celebrate with Miranda. Mrs. Basso remarked that, as a teacher, it is a dream come true to celebrate an event like this with a student. “It isn’t something you can teach, the love for something. She just naturally has it and is just a humble girl,” she said.

Miranda’s interest in music, especially classical music, comes from some inspiration from her older brother Mason, an eighth-grader at St. Rose, who also plays several instruments and performs with the York Junior Symphony Orchestra. The first song Miranda ever composed was for her brother’s birthday last year. Her mother shared that Miranda likes to make gifts for special occasions, and since her brother loves music, she created a song for him that they then played together.

Miranda is also involved in her school’s choir, and serves as a cantor for Mass. She participates with a local youth theater in York, DreamWrights, where she most recently played Tom Thumb in “Peter Rabbit.” She looks forward to composing more songs and waits for her next inspiration.

A video of the York Symphony Orchestra performing Miranda’s composition can be viewed on the Diocese’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dioceosedharrisburg, on a post dated November 2.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

• November 12 – Celebrate Mass at Diocesan Catechetical Conference, Cardinal Keeler Center, 9:15 a.m.; Celebrate Mass Celebrating the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities, St. Margaret Mary Church, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.; Attend the Holy Spirit Hospital “Share the Spirit Gala,” Appalachian Harley Davidson, Mechanicsburg, 6:30 p.m.
• November 13 – Celebrate Mass for the Solemn Closing of the Year of Mercy, St. Patrick Cathedral, 9:30 a.m.
• November 14-17 – USCCB Fall Meeting, Baltimore, Md.
• November 18 – Investiture into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, New York City.
• November 19 – Celebrate Mass at the Fan the Fire Youth Rally, St. Joseph Church, York.
• November 20 – Pastoral Visit to Christ the King Mission, Benton, 9 a.m.
• November 21 – Retreat Presenter, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, Pa. 6 p.m.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing

December 2-4, 2016, in York

This retreat is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in the past and present, and help to acknowledge any unresolved feelings that may struggle with after abortion. Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after the event may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post-abortion trauma.

Married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as persons who have been involved in the abortion industry have come to Rachel’s Vineyard in search of peace and inner healing. The weekend is a lot of work but yields a fruitful harvest for all who are willing to labor there.

Please accept this gift of healing as only our Lord can offer. Come and let the healing begin. Please Contact Joy or Becky at 717-788-4999 or Rvpad@gmail.com or.Undefeatedcourage@gmail.com.
Shelter the Homeless

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Several years ago, when I was teaching fifth grade in the Bronx, I assigned a Social Studies project to my class. We were studying timelines. I gave out a strip of register tape. The students had to divide the strip of paper into ten sections. Each section represented one year of their life. Within each section, they had to draw something significant that happened to them and the date of the event. I gave them examples of some “events”: their birth, the birth of a sibling, a new address, a new job for mom, etc. I named the project “Our Strips of Paper.” They completed it, and they were to present a piece of paper with their mom’s signature. The next day, as my students had morning seatwork to complete before our first class, I asked Matthew to come into my office. This meant a one-to-one conversation in the hallway while I stood in the doorway.

I said as gently as I could, “Matthew, you are not in trouble.” He sighed, “Oh, good!” I continued, “I began correcting the timeline Social Studies project last night. When I came across yours, I could not grade it since there were many sections empty. Can you please explain why you did not write anything down, and he shrugged. “Can you explain to me what that means?” He shrugged again. “Do you realize that if I would grade your timeline, you would receive a bad grade?” With eyes still looking down, he nodded in affirmation. “Did you see the pictures, or did you note anything other than that you had nothing?” He shook his head no. “Please, Matthew. How can I help you if you don’t level with me?”

As he looked up at me, his hazel eyes were filled with huge tear drops. He whimpered, “Sister.” The tears in his eyes began to stream down his face. “Those were the happiest times I ever had in my life.” I hugged him, told him to go to the bathroom, to wash his face and only come back when the tears had stopped.

As I walked into the room, I thought, “Oh my! I really don’t have any idea of what my students’ lives are truly like!” Thank you, Jesus, for asking him about it rather than assuming the worst. I decided not to display the projects and to grade Matthew’s on what he completed.

This story came to mind as I began to think about the Corporal Work of Mercy: Give Shelter to the Homeless. I can hear you say, “Come on, Sister, this work is cut and dry. How can you change the homeless’s lifestyle?”

Have you ever heard of the saying, “Home is where the heart is?” Can you imagine if all of us welcomed the person standing in front of us into our heart? Words of comfort, crying, praying and even sending a cold windy gust of comfort would be removed from existence. Our co-workers, family members and fellow parishioners would have a “place” to feel safe, a place in which to expose brokenness, a place to become transparent so that the indwelling of Transcendent life can become visible. By welcoming others into our hearts, we can empower them and make them feel needed.

Does this sound somewhat naïve? Maybe. But, by truly loving others, we begin to see the Creator within that person. By truly loving others, we become the vehicle of God’s mercy to a broken and bruised life.

What’s the key to opening your heart? The Blessed Sacrament. By opening up your heart to Him, you open up your heart for others, the home not only for Jesus, but for all of his sons and daughters.

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

Purgatory: Vestibule to Heaven

By Jim Gontis

Special to The Witness

Does the Church still teach that Purgatory exists? Over the years, I have heard this question asked a number of times while teaching adults. The answer is, of course, “Yes, Purgatory most certainly exists.” The glossary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God’s friendship, but were only imperfectly purified; a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven.

November is dedicated by the Church as the Month of the Holy Souls. November 2 was the Commemoration of All Souls. It is a day in which we specially remember and pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. They are holy, because everyone who is in Purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace. The term “sanctifying grace” is another way of saying “God’s holy-making grace.” Those who are in Purgatory died in the state of grace. They are among the saved. If they did not die in the state of grace, that would mean they died in the state of moral sin and would be in Hell. Nobody in Purgatory ever goes to Hell, or vice-versa.

So, if they died in sanctifying grace, and are not in Hell, then why are they not in Heaven? The answer is that they still need some purification from sin to enter into Heaven. Some Spiritual analogies might prove helpful:

• The Bible speaks of Heaven as a beautiful Wedding Banquet, wherein the Bridegroom (Jesus) is perfectly united to His Bride (the Church), which, at the end of time, will be in her fully heaven perfection. Purgatory is like Heaven’s washroom, where souls are being cleaned up for the fitting of the final garment before they enter the banquet hall.

• Jesus likens Heaven to a great mansion and tells us there are many rooms in the Heavenly Mansion...plenty of room for all of us if we cooperate with His Grace. Purgatory is like the front porch to the mansion. Those in Purgatory are not in the mansion yet, but are on the way and will definitely step into it one day.

• Purgatory is NOT some middle ground between Heaven and Hell. Far from it! Purgatory is the vestibule to Heaven. Those in Purgatory are not in Heaven yet, but every single person in Purgatory will be in Heaven some day.

While there is the great consolation of knowing that they are among the saved, we also refer to those in Purgatory as the “Suffering Saints.” They are not in Heaven because they are not yet experiencing total union with the Triune God and all the blessed. Their salvation is assured, but they are not yet rejoicing in the fruit of that eternal life. Everyone in Purgatory is holy and suffering at one and the same time. Today, everyone, who is in Purgatory will be in Heaven. Our prayers can help them get there sooner. St. Augustine recounts in his autobiography, The Confessions, that, as his mother and fellow saint, Monica, lay dying, his brother was bemoaning the fact that their mother would die before her native son, Augustine. At this point, Monica rebuked Augustine’s brother with a severe look and then said to Augustine that it did not matter to her in what land she died or in what land she was buried, but admonished Augustine to remember her at the altar, i.e. to offer masses for her.

There are some common questions asked about Purgatory:

Who is in Purgatory?

Those who have died in God’s friendship and grace, but are not yet perfectly purified from all sin.

How can we help those in Purgatory?

• Pray for them.
• Have Masses offered.
• Send a small gift to the diocese.

This will differ from person to person.

There are some at whose death are perfectly purified from all vestiges of sin. These souls will enter Heaven directly to be with Jesus. Others might remain in Purgatory until the Second Coming of Christ. Most people will probably fall somewhere between those two poles. Again, it is God who cleanses these souls of all remaining impurity, but our prayers and penances can help...a lot! Many saints such as John Vianney, St. Peter of Alcantara, St. Bridget, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. John Vianney, and others have experienced people that they had known on earth and who had died, appear to them and ask for prayers to be said, or Masses to be offered, that they might be prepared to enter Heaven.

How long do people in Purgatory remain there? This will differ from person to person.

There are those at whose death their purification is not yet complete. Their souls are not in Heaven yet, or perfectly purified. When they do enter Heaven, they will certainly do so in a state of great happiness.

Is there evidence in the Bible for Purgatory?

Yes there is, and quite a bit of it, but you will not find the word “Purgatory” in Scripture, you will find the teaching in the Wilderness and in the Book of Revelation.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let the perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of our God, rest in peace. Amen.

“Here: Someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.” - 1 Corinthians 3:15

Can those in Purgatory pray for us? Yes, and their prayers are powerful. They are among the saints (albeit un-canonical), but are not yet experiencing the full fruits of victory...but they will be one day, and their prayers are powerful for us even now.

What are some practical things I can do to help the souls in Purgatory?

• Have Masses offered.
• Pray for them.
• Get in the habit of praying for the dead at certain times.
• My family adds a prayer for those who have died at the end of our Grace Before and/or After Dinner. Often we also recite the well-known prayer for the dead when we visit a cemetery, or when we pass one on the road. Mind: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let the perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of our God, rest in peace. Amen.

The more one longs for a thing, the more painful does deprivation of it become. And after this life, the desire for God, the Supreme Good, is intense in the souls of the just...the soul suffers enormously from this delay.” - St. John Vianney

Jim Gontis

Director of Sports Ministry.

The Catholic Witness

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Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist

By Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

The Catholic Witness, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710.

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The annual observance of Veterans Day in the United States on November 11 has its roots in the armistice that ended World War I hostilities in 1918. The armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed thereafter that November 11 be observed as “Armistice Day.” In 1954, Congress passed legislation that renamed the federal holiday “Veterans Day,” in recognition of the service of veterans of all U.S. Wars.

More than 3,500 Union dead of the Battle of Gettysburg are buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery under the watchful guard of the Soldiers National Monument in the heart of the serene cemetery.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

A Prayer for Deceased Veterans

O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, look kindly on your departed veterans who gave their lives in the service of their country. Grant that through the passion, death, and resurrection of your Son they may share in the joy of your heavenly kingdom and rejoice in you with your saints forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The Season of Giving

By Christopher Meehan

Special to The Witness

As Thanksgiving quickly nears, and with the joyous Christmas season fast approaching, this is a busy time within Catholic Charities.

For many of us, our thoughts this time of year are filled with ideas of Thanksgiving dinner, Black Friday shopping, and decorating our homes. Most importantly, our thoughts turn to the birth of Jesus, which is the true reason for the season.

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I hope that you will also consider thinking about those less fortunate.

One of my favorite movies is “Pay It Forward.” It’s a story about a young boy who used a homework assignment to help three more people, and the ripple effects those efforts had on those who helped him.

There are many other ways you can help Holy Family Radio. As a non-profit charity, the station depends upon donations for financial support to be able to operate and remain on the air.

Holy Family Radio will also be participating in the Extraordinary Give. The only Catholic Radio station in the Diocese of Harrisburg, this end-of-the-year giving opportunity is vital for Holy Family Radio. As a non-profit charity, the station needs your help. Please consider making a contribution.

There are many other ways you can help. Visit our Web site, www.ccbhg.org, to learn more about Catholic Charities and consider what you can do to help them.

Providing Help, Creating Hope

Christopher Meehan

A Prayer for Service Men and Women

Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

© USCCB

A Prayer for Deceased Veterans

O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, look kindly on your departed veterans who gave their lives in the service of their country. Grant that through the passion, death, and resurrection of your Son they may share in the joy of your heavenly kingdom and rejoice in you with your saints forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light.
Mosaic for Trinity Dome Seen as ‘Crowning Jewel’ for National Shrine

By Allana Haynes
Catholic News Service

After nearly 100 years since construction began on the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the placement of a final mosaic – inside the Trinity Dome – is expected to be completed in December 2017. The national shrine will mark the centennial of its completion.

The figures of God the Father and Jesus for the mosaic for the central dome of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington are seen in the warehouse of the Travisanutto Giovanni mosaic company in Spilimbergo, Italy, July 20. The mosaic is projected to be completed in December 2017. The shrine marks its centennial in 2020.

The dome mosaic will depict the Trinity, Mary and 13 saints associated with the United States or the national shrine, the four evangelists and words from the Nicene Creed.

The artwork is being created at the Travisanutto Giovanni mosaic company in Spilimbergo, Italy, and will be shipped to the national shrine in 30,000 sections weighing a total of 24 tons and composed of more than 14 million pieces of glass.

“Prior to our work, there has been no sketch to allow the dome to read as a harmonious design as you enter the church.”

Consistent, he said. The dome mosaic will be the final mosaic in a program to complement the designs already existing within the shrine.

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‘Hunger Knows no Bounds’

Parishioners and Communities Bring Food to Haiti via Cookie Sale

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

As the hurricane season comes to a close, it is not without tragic loss and devastation to areas in the Caribbean and the east coast of the United States. For husband and wife Jim and Jennifer Weber, thoughts went to the schools in Haiti that they have given to know from their work with Cross International’s Hunger Relief Program.

Thankfully, from Hurricane Matthew, schools fed by the Weber’s annual fundraiser – The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger – suffered minimal damage.

The Cookie Sale, which started nearly 19 years ago, began as a service project at St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster. It was a simple bake sale, where the youth were invited to the Webers’ home to bake cookies to sell at the parish. They first partnered with CCF, the Christian Children’s Fund, but after learning about the collection for Haiti at their parish during the third year of the bake sale, the couple decided to work directly with Cross International, an organization that uses the money donated directly for the feeding of the people of Haiti.

This organization appealed to the Webers, they said, because 100% of the money they collect through their cookie sales goes directly to the school feeding programs. The couple can easily be in touch with their liaison, and they even know the list of schools in Haiti that are directly receiving the 62.5 bags of vitalfood that one tray of cookies purchases.

Vitalfood provides six nutritious meals that have been specifically developed to feed malnourished and starving children. The communication with Cross International is so open that Mr. and Mrs. Weber were able to find out that food was delivered the day before the devastation to areas in the Caribbean and the United States caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Each year, the Webers have seen growth in the program that has led to the increase in food distribution. Mr. and Mrs. Weber were able to find out that food was delivered the day before Haiti’s 2010 earthquake and was being distributed despite the tragedy.

Thankfully, from Hurricane Matthew, schools fed by the Weber’s annual fundraiser – The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger – suffered minimal damage.

By their fourth or fifth year, realizing that selling cookies was not the end goal, the couple set new goals, and the sale has become a way to get people involved in helping others.

Joe’s, one of our good partners is WJTL radio, the Christian radio station here in Lancaster, so we have gotten other donations, not just Catholic churches, that are involved in helping us sell.” “Hunger knows no bounds,” Mrs. Weber said. “Everyone gets to meet when we come and do the packing process because I have all different churches that come to help.”

The sale is funded from local community sponsors who donate with monetary contributions or materials, allowing for 100% of the money from the sale to go to feeding the hungry in Haiti. Keeping all aspects of this project local increases involvement from the community. Mrs. Weber thinks this is a great way to make more people aware of the ongoing problem in Haiti.

“Haiti is always in need, and it is a great opportunity for people to realize we are all Christians and we are all out there to help somebody else,” she said.

Mr. Weber concurred: “By working with other faith communities, we can draw from the commonality of our faiths, and as you do this you begin to realize how much we have in common with other Christians out there.”

Each tray contains 24 cookies – chocolate chip, peanut butter, and sugar – costs $15 and feeds at least 375 starving people. Last year’s sale helped feed 1.6 million people.

Gift trays can be sold as a group project or as an individual project. Sales take place between November 19 and December 4, and distribution dates are December 10 and 11. The trays make excellent hostess gifts during the Christmas party season, and there is even an option for client and vendor gifts for business owners.

Also this year, the Webers have introduced a short-term way to participate in The Cookie Sale, called the “Weekend Blitz.” This collection process is great for Confirmation service hours, religious education service projects or any service oriented group. Participants choose one of the first three weekends in December to hold the sale, and volunteers from The Cookie Sale will handle bulletin announcements and announcements from the pulpit the week before the event and the day of the event. On the date of the sale, trays are sold right at the parish. When the sale is over, the group leader forwards profits and any unsold inventory to The Cookie Sale volunteers. One parish can make a huge difference; typically those that participate feed between 14,000 and 32,000 people in Haiti.

More information about selling cookie trays and the The Cookie Sale can be found by calling 1-866-COOKIE-9 or by visiting www.TheCookieSale.com.

An Advent Celebration in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Patroness of the Americas ★ Patroness of the Unborn
The Catholic community of the Diocese of Harrisburg comes together in prayer as we celebrate
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Saturday December 10, 2016 at 5:00 PM
Cardinal Keeler Center
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg Pennsylvania
Registration Fee: $10 per person or $30 group of 4
Seats are limited. Register now!

**No Charge for Priests, Deacons and Religious Sisters**

Agenda
5:00 PM ★ Aztec Dance by Folklorico O Yueneke
5:30 PM ★ Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Bernardo Pistone
6:30 PM ★ Community Gathering with snacks
7:00 PM ★ Crafts for Children & Theatrical Musical Play by Fundación Huellas “La Morenita”
8:00 PM ★ Advent Hymns in English and Spanish

Celegación de Advento en Honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Patrona de las Américas ★ Patrona de los No Nacidos
La comunidad católica de la Diócesis de Harrisburg se une en oración para celebrar la
Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe sábado 10 de diciembre 2016 a las 5:00 PM
Cardinal Keeler Center
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg Pennsylvania
Registro: $10 por persona o $30 por grupo de 4
Espacios Limitados. ¡Registrese Ahora!

**Gratis para Sacerdotes, Diáconos y Hermanas Religiosas**

Agenda
5:00 PM ★ Baile Aztec por Folklorico O Yueneke
5:30 PM ★ Santa Misa celebrada por Reverendo Bernardo Pistone
6:30 PM ★ Compartir en comunidad con refriogriberos
7:00 PM ★ Manualidades para Niños y Obra Teatral por la Fundación Huellas “La Morenita”
8:00 PM ★ Himnos de Advento en inglés y español

Para registrarse visitar: www.hbgdiocese.org/hispanicministry or contacta a Jaclyn Currin at (717) 657-4804 ext 313 o via email jcurrin@hbgdiocese.org
MATTHEW 25 COLLECTION
NOVEMBER 20, 2016

The Collection was established in 2010 to provide funding to assist your neighbors in need of food, clothing and shelter. To date, your generosity has supported 46 organizations that serve the less fortunate, for a total of $918,128.

This remarkable Collection serves Central Pennsylvania by granting 75% of every dollar donated to organizations that comply with its regulations. The remaining 25% stays at the parish for the pastor to utilize within his community, assisting parishioners who find themselves in need of food, clothing or shelter.

“As Catholics, we are called to open our hands and our hearts in order to recognize Jesus in the poor. When we give to others, especially the poor, we are giving to Christ.

That is what Jesus promised in Matthew 25 when He said, ‘Whatever you did for one of these least, you did for me’.”
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

2015 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients

<table>
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<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Shining Light Thrift Shop, Harrisburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silence of Mary, Harrisburg</td>
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TOTAL GRANTED........................................$199,300
help make a DIFFERENCE

By giving to the Mathew 25 Collection, you offer hope and help to low-income families and to communities working to overcome poverty and injustice throughout the 15 counties of our Diocese.

PLEASE DONATE PRAYERFULLY AND GENEROUSLY

DONATE IN TREASURE

Cash or Check at Your Parish
(Check is to be made payable to the parish)

Cash or Check to the Diocese of Harrisburg, address below
(Check is to be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg)

Stock and Securities

Visa and MasterCard by visiting www.hbgdiocese.org/matthew25

Diocese of Harrisburg
Office of Development
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804
The saints are blessed because they were faithful and meek and cared for others, Pope Francis said.

At the end of an ecumenical trip to Sweden, Pope Francis celebrated the Feast of All Saints Nov. 1 with a Catholic Mass in a Malmo stadium. He highlighted the lives of the Swedish saints, Elizabeth Hesselblad and Bridget of Västerviken, who “prayed and worked to create beauty and to find meaning in life for each person.”

The best description of the saints — in fact, their “identity card” — the pope said, is found in the beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which begins, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

And, he said, as Christian saints have done throughout the ages, Christ’s followers today are called to “confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the love and spirit of Jesus.”

“New situations require new energy and a new commitment, and he said, and then he offered a new list of beatitudes for modern Christians:

• “Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.”

• “Blessed are those who have faith in the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closures.”

• “Blessed are those who see God in everyone and strive to make others also discover him.”

• “Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.”

• “Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.”

“Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.”

The pope said the word of faith and the love of mercy and tenderness, Pope Francis said. “Surely they will receive from him their merited reward.”

Registered Catholics in Sweden number about 115,000 — just over one percent of the population. But with recent waves of immigration, especially from Chaldean Catholic communities along the tombs of Rome’s Priests, it also is an affirmation of the resurrection, Pope Francis said.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus “opened for us the door of hope where we will come face to face with God,” the pope said Nov. 2 at an evening Mass amid the tombs of Rome’s Priests, the Pontifical College of the Eternal City.

“Reflecting the multicultural makeup of the Catholic Church in Sweden and the rest of Scandinavia, the prayer intentions at Mass were read in Spanish, Arabic, English, German and Polish, as well as in Swedish.

Visiting a cemetery on the feast of All Souls can evoke feelings of loss and sadness, but for Christians marking the feast, it also is an affirmation of the hope in the resurrection, Pope Francis said.

“The feast of All Souls is a sign of joyful hope in the afterlife,” the pope said. “It also is an affirmation of the resurrection of all the dead, including those who are not Christians. And, he said, as Christian saints have done throughout the ages, Christ’s followers today are called to ‘confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the love and spirit of Jesus.’

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Attention Catholic Boy Scouts and Scouting!

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is going to summer camp, and invites you to come along!

July 23-29, 2017 • Camp Tuckahoe • Dillsburg, PA

This week will include all of the traditional Scouting events and advancement opportunities and is open to Scouts of all faiths. Details about the Catholic activities we’ll offer and the registration process are now available on the DC3s website, available under the Youth tab of the diocesan website, http://www.hbgdiocese.org. You may also contact Patrick McCormack via email at patrick.a.mccormack@gmail.com for more information.

Plan now to join us for what promises to be an exciting and faith-affirming week in the woods!

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free hotline at: 1-800-932-0313.

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline at: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect
The Catholic day begins and ends with prayer. Students learn about values and how to treat others, and every curriculum. At the kindergarten through eighth grade school, occupancy ($550 supplement for single room). For complete to Padua, Siena, Orvieto, and more for $3,690 per person/double. An Advent Retreat entitled “The Kingdom of God” sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth will be held after Christmas at the St. Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville on December 14 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. with dynamic speaker Meg Hunter-Kilmer. After two degrees in dioceses across the United States. They are available at http://www.bishopmcdevitt.org/special-events/. Bishop Ronald Gainer will celebrate Mass on Thursday, November 17 at the New Freedom Community Center in New Freedom at 7 p.m. The Men’s Club of St. James Parish in Lititz will host a Sunday Bingo on November 27 in the parish hall, 505 Woodcrest Avenue. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 2 a.m. There will be 20 regular games on paper cards, a $1,000 jackpot, 50-50 specials and food. Must be 18 years old to play. Cost is $15. Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Berwick will host a Polish Pottery Bingo on November 13. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., game at 2 p.m. Cost is $20 for 20 games. Specials will be offered at the bar. Tickets are $15 per person, and food is available for purchase. Call 570-759-8113 for tickets. Join St. Joseph’s, Milton, for an Evening for Women to enjoy an interactive speaker, share God’s beautiful mercy with others. Dec. 3 from 6-9 p.m. at the St. Joseph Church in Milton. To make reservations, call or text 570-478-9543 or email joannespizza.milton@gmail.com. For more information about attending or hosting a table for friends, contact Joannespizza.milton@gmail.com or call 570-717-9414. Lebanon Catholic School’s Performing Arts Alliance will in-12-inch plant in white, pink, red and marble. Order forms available at https://www.stannechurch.org. The Silence of Mary Home is a Christian family home for women to encounter the love of Christ. All are welcome to attend the free event, focusing on the real meaning of Advent and opening our hearts to our Savior through our Mother. For more information, call or email Deb at 717-645-0735 or dgelbaugh@sclhbg.org. In honor of Resurrection Catholic School’s 25th anniversary, Bishop Ronald Gainer will celebrate Mass at St. Anthony Swamy, celebrant. The Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. on December 1 at 9:30 a.m. Eighth grade will participate as lectors, gift bearers, and servers. A reception in the school follows, and all are welcome. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is contracted from the consolidation of three former Catholic schools in Lancaster — St. Anthony, St. Mary and St. Joseph. The school marks its anniversary with the theme “25 Years of Gospel Renewal, Today” and will celebrate throughout the year. The school offers a Christian- centered education that focuses on preparing students with a challenging curriculum. At the kindergarten through eighth grade school, students learn about values and how to treat others, and every day begins with prayer. CRIS Global Fellows are priests and deacons who have been trained and vetted to represent Catholic Relief Services in dioceses across the United States. They are able to deliver homilies, give presentations and trainings at large community events, and speak during school assemblies or a variety of other settings. This training is a vital part of CRIS and provide concrete examples of how you can help. CRIS and parishes will also train volunteer leaders. Training is provided by representatives of the Asia-based group which is partnering with the organization “Save the Storks.” Donations will be used for the purchase of a mobile ultrasound and Catholic literature to be brought to St. James Parish in Lititz. A crew of five out of two women who board one of these mobile ultrasound units choose life for their baby! For more information see: www.savethestorks.com. This project is sponsored by St. Paul the Apostle Parish Pro-Life Committee. Coupon Savings Books on Sale from Lebanon Catholic School will include books that are filled with incredible savings for all ages. Lebanon Catholic School earns 5% or more of every KidStuff book ordered. Orders can be placed online at www.mysavings.com or by clicking on the link provided in the school newsletter. In order, click on the latest parent communication folder at www.mysavings.com or email Dgelbaugh@sclhbg.org. The discount page is sponsored by St. Paul the Apostle Parish Pro-Life Committee. and songwriter, who was born without arms and plays the guitar on both hands, is performing at the 4th Annual Bishop McDevitt High School’s 4th Annual South Carolina Christmas Caroling and Christmas Caroling Images tour on Friday, December 9 from 6-9 p.m. with dynamic speaker Megan Hunter-Kilmer. After two degrees in dioceses across the United States. They are available at http://www.bishopmcdevitt.org/special-events/. Bishop McDevitt High School’s 4th Annual South Carolina Christmas Caroling and Christmas Caroling Images tour on Friday, December 9 from 6-9 p.m. with dynamic speaker Megan Hunter-Kilmer. After two degrees in dioceses across the United States. They are available at http://www.bishopmcdevitt.org/special-events/.
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LANCASTER CATHOLIC PARLAYS DISTRICT SUCCESS TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Winning in team golf usually means that you make fewer mistakes than your opponents. At the PIAA state team championship held at Heritage Hills Golf Course in York on a mild, but breezy Oct. 25, the Crusaders of Lancaster Catholic played smart, prudent golf to win the PIAA Class AA championship. By far, they made the fewest mental errors on a course that has disaster lurking on nearly every hole. This golf course invites aggressive play, yet the conservative approach yields ironically to more birdie chances. The Crusaders are a seasoned, tournament savvy team.

At Heritage Hills, water hazards challenge the player not only off the tee, but greenside as well; out of bounds lurks closely on the reachable par-fives, and the short, birdie hole par-fours have narrow tree-lined fairways penalizing anything hit crookedly. Spray the ball at Heritage Hills (course opened in 1991), and you pay a dear price.

Led by Will Riva’s brilliant 74, the Crusaders shot 309 to best defending champ Sewickley Academy by ten strokes. Riva, a senior, strung three birdies together, draining a couple of swift downhill putts, to post the tone-setting round for his team. Rounding out the Crusaders’ winning line-up were R.J. VanTash (76), Lauren Bird (78), Thomas Bird (81), and Sean McNamara (82).

DIOCESAN RUNNERS EXCEL IN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

At the District 3 cross country championships at Big Spring High School on Halloween weekend, the York Catholic girls’ team placed second, led by junior Katelyn Macdougall, who placed second with a 19:20 run, finishing a mere 7 seconds off the winning pace.

In the boys’ Class AA race, Trinity’s Matt Geisler, a senior, clocked in with a 16:47 to finish fourth, just 12 seconds behind the winner.

At the state championships, held at Hershey’s Parkview course, the Fighting Irish’s Macdougall finished 21st (20:02) to earn a medal – awarded to the race’s Top 25. The Parkview course features several bridge crossings across Spring Creek followed by steep climbs. And no hill is more formidable than the course’s last 500 yards – uphill dramatically to the finish line.
TRINITY MAKES GOOD ON THREE-PEAT

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

In 89 minutes of soccer at Hersheypark Stadium, the Trinity Shamrocks did not have a single scoring chance against Boiling Springs in the District 3 Class AA final at Hersheypark Stadium on Nov. 5. In fact, the Bubblers dominated play in the second half with a stiff northwest breeze bolstering their speedy attack as Trinity’s defense was under constant pressure. At the end of 80 minutes of regulation play, the score was knotted at 0-0.

But in the first overtime period, with the gusts at their backs, the Shamrocks forced the play and when Sydney Demyan opportunistically drew a free kick at the top of the penalty box, the stage was set for a dramatic Shamrock win.

And they are used to winning, and more importantly know how to win, having won two straight District 3 golds and two PIAA state championships to boot.

When Demyan drilled the free kick, the kick’s velocity caused Bubler goalie Asia Whittenberger to muff the catch, and the ball trickled into the goal, leading to a Trinity on-field victory celebration to mark their third straight district title. Whittenberger had been stellar in goal, booming goal kicks with the wind driving the ball deep into Trinity territory. But in the first overtime, the wind was with Trinity and their championship mettle showed.

Trinity is the number one overall seed in the PIAA Class AA tournament with the championship game on Nov. 19.

YORK CATHOLIC TAKES SILVER MEDAL IN DISTRICT SOCCER

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

York Catholic girls’ soccer team headed into the District 3 Class A championship match at Hersheypark Stadium on Nov. 2 against a familiar opponent that they were unable to top in two previous matches this season: the Green Knights of Fairfield High School.

The Fighting Irish had been bested by their York-Adams League rival 13-0 and 5-4, and were looking for a way to top the Division III champs.

And for most of the first half of the district championship game, York Catholic was hanging tough in a scoreless match, until Fairfield struck for two late goals. The Irish quickly drew within one goal in the second half, on a redirected corner kick by Eden Jahn, but the Knights turned the tide again with two goals within two minutes.

Fairfield (22-1) went on to win the gold, after a 6-1 victory. The silver medal finish put York Catholic at a record of 14-8 heading into the state tournament.

York Catholic's Courtney Nattans, right, fights for the ball.
EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
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By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

York Catholic girls’ volleyball moved from District 3 Class A to Class AA this year, and it proves to be the start of a friendly rivalry among diocesan schools.

The Fighting Irish Girls took the district championship last year in Class A. This year, they defeated Trinity High School 25-22, 22-25, 25-21, 25-11 in the semifinal match on the way to the District 3 AA finals against Delone Catholic on November 5 at Dallastown High School.

Delone Catholic dominated the first two sets of the District final, scoring the first seven points in the first match. It didn’t seem like the Squirettes would have to work from behind, although the day before the match, Delone Coach Jason Leppo ran a drill where the girls were trailing by 4.

York Catholic forced Delone to live the reality of this drill in the third set. Holding them by just a few points, even 18-11 at one point, until Delone surged to a 25-22 win.

“When York Catholic took a time out, I heard one of my girls say, ‘This is just like the drill from yesterday,’ and I told them that was the whole point,” Coach Leppo said after the match. He commended his team for their play and said, “Hats off to York Catholic as Delone and York Catholic Match for District Girls Volleyball Title. Delone Catholic’s Molly Raville and Sydney Dockins defend the net against a York Catholic hit.

Right: York Catholic’s middle hitter Rachel Shelley leaps for a hit as setter and outside hitter Emily Hoffman anticipates the block.

Below: Delone Catholic’s girls volleyball team accepts the District 3 Class AA trophy.

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Trinity’s Katherine Long, who won the silver medal in the District 3 Class AA girls’ tennis championships last month, qualified for the PIAA state tournament played at Hershey Racquet Club on Nov. 4 and 5. Long played the number one seed from District 10, Emily Gordon of Grove City High School, who beat Long in straight sets. Gordon won four straight matches to capture the state singles championship.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

York Catholic Football
Having a Banner Season

Not since 1992 have the Fighting Irish of York Catholic hung a championship banner touting an accomplishment on the gridiron. That 24-year drought is over, as the Fighting Irish captured the YAIAA Division III title this season with a perfect 7-0 league record and an overall 9-1 record, with their only blemish coming in September against an excellent Berks Catholic team.

The Fighting Irish play Newport (9-1) for the District 3 2A championship on Friday November 12 at Boiling Springs High School. York Catholic has made it to the district championship game the last three years, finishing as runner-ups each time. Not since 1982 has Fighting Irish football won a district championship.

York Catholic’s big play running back Jakkar Kinard, who is a gifted, athletic tailback who, in the regular season’s last two games, rushed for 215 and 313 yards. Whoever beats York Catholic in the post season will have to stop #2, who broke nine runs for 10-plus yards in the regular season finale against York Tech.
St. Paul the Apostle Parish Welcomes Bishop on Feast of All Saints

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness

St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville and its pastor, Father Job Foote, OSB, welcomed Bishop Ronald Gainer on Nov. 1 for the celebration of Mass there on All Saints Day.

The bishop blessed a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary that will be placed in a prayer garden that the parish is initiating.

St. Paul’s, situated in Lebanon County, traces its roots to 1927, when Father Leopold Stump began offering religious education to Catholic children in Annville in area homes. The priest then purchased the former United Brethren Church, which was renovated in time for the Catholic mission’s first Mass on July 15, 1928.

Five days later, the mission was elevated to the status of parish, with Father Leo B. Kirchner as its first pastor. Serving Italian immigrants working for local lime and stone companies, St. Paul the Apostle Parish witnessed steady growth over the next few decades, resulting in a new site for the parish. Its current church, located on South Spruce Street, saw its first Mass on Sept. 12, 1981, celebrated by then-Bishop William Keeler. Bishop Joseph Daley dedicated it on All Saints Day of that same year.

According to parish statistics, St. Paul the Apostle serves more than 700 families as it celebrates the 35th anniversary of its church building this year.

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Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries
WREATH PROGRAM

As a loving festive tribute, the Diocesan Office of Catholic Cemeteries is hosting a memorial program that will place a wreath or flowers at your loved one’s final resting place for the Christmas season. To arrange for your rememberance, please visit your local Diocesan cemetery office or online at www.hbgdiocese.org/cemeteries.

All memorial tributes will be reverently placed on or about the second week in December. Please ensure that your order is received by December 5, 2016. All memorial tributes that remain in good condition will be displayed until February 28, 2017.

On behalf of the Diocesan Office of Catholic Cemeteries, we wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

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Chris Heisey,  
The Catholic Witness