St. Andrew Students Celebrate School’s 90th Anniversary

St. Andrew the Apostle School in Waynesboro has been living its mission for 90 years now, “devoted to fostering Christian values and academic excellence in a nurturing environment by providing a quality faith-filled Catholic education.”

In celebration of the milestone anniversary of Catholic education in the southern Franklin County town, the school community welcomed Bishop Ronald Gainer for the celebration of Mass at St. Andrew Church on Nov. 9. The morning Mass began the school day, which continued with a luncheon and the bishop’s visit to classrooms, where he interacted with students eager to welcome him.

“I hope the students realize that what we’re celebrating is a once-in-their-lifetime event,” Patrick McDonald, principal, said of the anniversary. “We call our students to be greater. We have so many opportunities, and we’re given so much so that we can interact, so that we can be greater. I try to emphasize that with our students here.”

See page 2 for coverage.

St. Andrew School students Ana Inverso and Hailey Hopkins sing a hymn during their school’s anniversary Mass Nov. 9.

Bishops to Consider Election Document, USCCB Priorities, Sainthood Causes

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

The U.S. bishops will consider whether to approve a new introductory note and a limited revision of their quadrennial statement on political responsibility during their Nov. 16-19 fall general assembly in Baltimore.

The statement, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” is reissued every four years and takes into account the latest issues taking center stage in the political arena. The document, which in general calls for Catholic voters to consider the common good when going to the polls, has been released before every presidential election for almost four decades.

What a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops news release described as “a limited revision” and new introductory note for “Faithful Citizenship” were prepared by a working group led by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, vice president of the USCCB.

Diocesan Celebrations to Open the Year of Mercy

Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to be celebrated from December 8, 2015, to November 20, 2016. The special year will highlight the Catholic Church’s mission to be a witness of mercy. “No one can be excluded from God’s mercy,” the pope said in announcing the year.

The biblical theme of the year is “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Traditionally, every 25 years the popes proclaim a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God’s grace through the sacraments, especially confession.

The Diocese of Harrisburg will hold two special gatherings in conjunction with the opening of this special year:

Opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy
Tuesday, December 8 at 6 p.m. • St. Patrick Cathedral

With the Universal Church, Bishop Ronald Gainer will celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg. All faithful of the diocese are invited to attend. The South Street Parking Garage is available free of charge to all participants.

Opening of the Diocesan Door of Mercy
Sunday, December 13 at 4 p.m. • St. Lawrence Chapel to St. Patrick Cathedral

Bishop Ronald Gainer will solemnly open the principal Diocesan Door of Mercy at St. Patrick Cathedral on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 4 p.m. in the context of Solemn Vespers for the Third Sunday of Advent. All the faithful of the diocese are invited to attend. The prescription for the solemn ritual involves gathering at a stational church with a procession to the Door of Mercy: we will gather at St. Lawrence Chapel, State Street, and process together to the Cathedral where Bishop Gainer will solemnly open the Door of Mercy and lead us through into this year of grace. Participants able to make the small pilgrimage are asked to gather at St. Lawrence Chapel by 3:50 p.m. Those unable to walk in procession are invited to go immediately to the Cathedral. The South Street Parking Garage is available free of charge to all participants.
St. Andrew School Celebrates
90 Years of Faith-Filled Education

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

At St. Andrew the Apostle School in Waynesboro, the 90th anniversary celebration was bigger than the Beatles.

Gathered for the milestone Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer on Nov. 9, students proudly sang a special anniversary song they’d long been rehearsing for the anticipated occasion. Set to the tune of the Beatles’ “Eight Days a Week,” the specially-crafted “For 90 Years” offered students a chance to tell the bishop about the values of their beloved school. For example:

“Jesus is our guardian. He points us on our way.

We do our best to please Him, each and every day.

Praying, kneeling, helping, healing.

Love’s the force we live by. It’s a gift to go here.

St. Andrew School, for 90 years, and 90 more.”

Students served at the Mass as lectors, cantors and gift bearers, and then welcomed Bishop Gainer into their school for a luncheon and visits to their classrooms.

St. Andrew School offers a quality Catholic education for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, and, according to principal Patrick McDonald, is preparing to start a capital campaign to expand to seventh and eighth grades in August of 2017. The school is expanding its mathematics program, and will soon introduce foreign language.

“Every Catholic school is special,” Mr. McDonald told The Catholic Witness. Here at St. Andrew’s, we are the only Catholic school in a 15-mile radius. Our school logo features sandaled feet and the saying: Start your educational footing on higher ground. We are the shining example on the hill of what a Catholic school should be.”

“We’re here to get every soul to Heaven,” he said. “We are here to educate students for this world and the next. I tell parents that, first and foremost, we’re here to spread the teachings of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your child, whether religious or not and whether Catholic or not, will attend Mass twice a month. Your child will be exposed to fellowship…. I’ve been told that when you walk in here, it feels like a Catholic school. It’s easy to look like a Catholic school, but St. Andrew’s also feels like a Catholic school.”

St. Andrew School was built in 1925 under the pastorate of Father William Calaghan, and first opened its doors to approximately 80 students. It was initially staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, who served there for 45 years. Following their departure in the early 1970s, Father Kenneth Lawrence, former pastor, invited the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius to serve there, and they did so until 1997.

Dedicated lay teachers have also provided spiritual and academic instruction over the years, as the school grew in its number and in its facility.

In December of 2012, St. Andrew School received accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. According to the school’s Web site, faculty and board members had prepared and submitted a report, Designing Our Future for review, indicating the school’s constant desire for improvement in these key areas: Mission and Beliefs, Community, Student Services and Activities, Educational Program, Leadership and Organization, Resources, Facilities, Finances, and Planning. The Middle States standard was met in each area.

Today, 124 students are enrolled at St. Andrew School, which continues to live its Mission Statement of being “devoted to fostering Christian values and academic excellence in a nurturing environment by providing a quality faith-filled Catholic education.”

“I hope the students realize that what we’re celebrating is a once-in-lifetime event,” Mr. McDonald said of the anniversary. “We call our students to be greater. We have so many opportunities, and we’re given so much so that we can interact, so that we can be greater. I try to emphasize that with our students here.”

Learn more about St. Andrew School at www.saintandrewschool.org or call 717-762-3221.
Day of Dialogue Examines Call for Christians to Witness to the Gospel

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Every autumn, local clergy and faithful of the Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic communities gather at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg for the annual LARC Day of Dialogue, hosted by the Diocese of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The dialoging conference is open to all people, and is one of a number of programs and activities hosted by the office, which is directed by Father Paul Fisher. In 1993, the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America signed the LARC Covenant as a means of providing occasions of joint prayer and greater cooperation between the Churches.

This year’s LARC Day of Dialogue featured discussion on “The Mission of God in an Intercultural and Interreligious World.” Participants examined Christians’ call to witness to the Gospel in a religiously and ethnically diverse world, and across interreligious and intercultural borders in order to do so.

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Heaney, Assistant Professor of Christian Mission at the Virginia Theological Seminary and Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies, offers his keynote presentation on how Lutheran, Episcopal and Roman Catholic clergy and laity can nourish conversation in an ethnically and culturally diverse world, and to witness to the Gospel in a religiously and ethnically diverse world, and across interreligious and intercultural borders in order to do so. Keynoter speaker Rev. Dr. Robert S. Heaney, Assistant Professor of Christian Mission at the Virginia Theological Seminary and Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies, offered presentations on how Lutheran, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic clergy and laity can nourish conversation.

“We need to recognize that God is at work in God’s world, that God is the primary agent of mission, and that our role in discernment and in prayer is to seek after where God is at work in God’s world.” Rev. Dr. Heaney told The Catholic Witness.

“In doing that, what’s important is that we, as Christian believers, nourish conversation across cultures and across traditions that honors our own place and our own calling,” he said. “It’s a conversation that’s not about denying who we are, the message of Jesus, or the vision we have of who God is revealed in Christ, revealed in Scripture and revealed in Tradition. We stay true to who we are, while being open and willing to have conversation with others.”

This conversation toward mutual understanding involves evangelization, and a confidence that God is at work, he pointed out.

Why the need to witness to our Christian faith? “It’s a Gospel mandate, Rev. Dr. Heaney said. “The Gospel requires us to be good neighbors, to be good witnesses, and to seek to follow and testify to who Jesus is.”

It’s also about efforts for social cohesion, he said. We have to examine the misunderstandings that exist between the faith traditions, and find ways of building community locally, nationally and internationally.

“The big challenge for us all is: How do we live out the Gospel? How do we be good neighbors? How do we live out our calling?”

An event like the LARC Day of Dialogue is an opportune time to start, Rev. Dr. Heaney remarked. “Local events, grassroots events, are at the heart of what it means to live our faith. It’s vital that we go back to the call we have in our lives,” he said. “Get people together – just ordinary Christians in their everyday work coming together to hear and to witness and to listen with other people across differences. It’s about how we make faith speak to the ordinary reality that we all live in. We all are born into families. We all are born into neighborhoods. The ordinary is where we’re always trying to engage faith and witness.”

(For information about the events and activities of the Diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, contact Father Paul Fisher, director, at 717-657-4804, ext. 265, or fisherpl@hbgdiocese.org.)

Do You Feel Lost, Alone or Bored in Your Marriage?
Retrouvaille Provides Marriage Help!

Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it only make it worse?
Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-oh) is a weekend program that offers married couples the tools and techniques they need to help heal and renew their relationship. Retrouvaille is not a retreat, nor is it counseling or therapy. The entire weekend is confidential. There is no group interaction or group sharing; rather, the interaction is solely between husband and wife.
Retrouvaille is a program under the auspices of the Diocesan Office of Family Ministries. The next Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled for January 15-17, 2016. For more information and to register, please visit www.retrouvaille.org or call 717-938-8229.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

November 14 – Keynote address at Diocesan Catechetical Conference, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 1:30 p.m.
November 16-18 – National Catholic Youth Conference, Indianapolis.
November 19 – Live Nativity at St. Peter’s Church, Franklin, 1-3 p.m.
November 19 – Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
November 22 – Thanksgiving Day
November 23 – Local Christmas market, St. Peter’s Church, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
November 24 – Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program, Holyoke, Mass., 9-11 a.m.
November 25 – Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program, Dillsburg, 9-11 a.m.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-330-7101
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

Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protection

Rachael’s Vineyard Retreat for Healing After Abortion

December 4-6, 2015 • York, PA

For anyone involved in an abortion experience, give yourself the gift of peace of heart as you enter Advent. This program is full of mercy, love, compassion and leads you to the heart of Jesus’ loving heart.

Space is limited, so please register early and let healing begin. Inquirers are confidential. Contact 717-788-4959 or rvpamd@gmail.com

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November 20 ~ A Chance To Do Something Extraordinary

By Christopher Meehan
Special to The Witness

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Holy Family Radio are pleased to announce their participation in the Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County’s Largest Day of Giving. For 24 hours only, beginning at midnight on November 20, supporters, no matter where they live, can visit ExtraGive.org and make an online donation ($25 minimum) to this one-day giving marathon. All donations are tax-deductible. In addition, every dollar donated will be stretched by at least $300,000 from the Lancaster Community Foundation and community sponsors. Plus, there is an additional $50,000 in prizes that Catholic Charities and Holy Family Radio can win just from your donation!

The mission of the Extraordinary Give is to advance the vitality and well-being of the people of Lancaster County by inspiring generosity and being responsible stewards of gifts for today and tomorrow. Within the Lancaster community, Catholic Charities provides Behavioral Health Counseling with licensed outpatient therapy and psychiatry for children, adolescents and adults through individual, family and marital counseling. In addition, the Catholic Charities Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment Program serves at-risk youth (ages 9-15) who possess significant emotional and behavioral needs. Also, the Catholic Charities Crescent Way Program in the city of Lancaster provides housing, counseling and support for women recovering from addiction. Holy Family Radio operates AM 720 WHYF, the only Catholic Radio station in the Diocese of Harrisburg, including Lancaster County. This end of the year giving opportunity is vital for Holy Family Radio, as a non-profit charity they depend upon donations for financial support to be able to operate and remain on the air.

The Extraordinary Give is a unique opportunity for our supporters to make a difference for Catholic Charities and Holy Family Radio. Help us go the extra mile! Mark your calendars for November 20. Tell your family and friends. Give Extraordinary. For more information, visit the Extraordinary Give online at https://extragive.org.

(Christopher Meehan is the Director of Development for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Learn about Catholic Charities’ programs throughout the diocese by visiting www.cchbg.org.)

Sabbath

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

The amazing group of men and women with whom I work here at the Diocesan Center have become accustomed to me taking a walk around the parking lot during my lunch break. They have seen me in the heat of the summer and bundled up like an Eskimo in the cold of the winter as I finger the beads of my Rosary while walking the same loop of the parking lot. Some of them have asked me to pray for this need or concern that they might have. This I gladly do. During the walk, I often stand viewing the bishop’s residence, the office building as well as the residence for our retired priests and ask the Holy Spirit to come down on all the people within these buildings. This 20-minute exercise I treasure because it has become my afternoon Sabbath. It is a moment in which I relax with my Beloved in order to refocus on the rest of the day.

As I type this, I can hear my novice directress encouraging us as we ventured into the “mission” to take daily Sabbaths, not just the weekly one many of us understand. You see, I was brought up to treasure the Sunday Sabbath rest. As a child, the rhythm of our Sundays were clearly different than the rest of the week. We focused on church, family and food. After Mass, we would gather around our kitchen table for our main meal. It was the only meal in which all of my immediate family would gather around the same table. Besides this, it was more festive and relaxed than the meals during our work week. It was a time in which we shared what was going on with each other. As I grew and ventured into college life, facing the pressures of a work schedule, of grades and making money for tuition, the mandatory presence at our Sunday meal was something my parents had to sadly forego.

The abandonment of Sabbath rest has been experienced by some of us, yes? Weekends can easily become two more days of extended work, chores, grocery shopping, yard work, sports, etc. Technology and the compulsive need to be connected with work as well as our friends seem to have eaten away what little time is left. Life can become overwhelmingly busy. Our business can heighten our stress levels and can become a pall over our hearts and minds.

Christine Organ, a writer from the Chicago area, puts it this way: “A constant reliance on technology to do everything right now has the potential to feed our impatience and self-importance. An over-reliance on technology as a means of communication has the potential to trivialize our relationships, and the use of technology as a coping mechanism to numb our emotions has the potential to prevent personal growth and development.”

“By unplugging for one day each week, my modern-day, personal Sabbath seeks to balance the utility of technology with a little patience and remind myself that life unfolds on a timetable that is not always within my control. By removing the distractions one day each week, I am slowly learning to become comfortable with my own discomfort in order to gain a certain depth of self-awareness and figure out how to work through, not around, problems.”

I can see you shaking your heads in afirmation and understanding. Many of you have stopped me and humbled me by telling me that my words affected you in some way. Others have asked me where I get the topics that I write about. Often the conversation usually goes, “Sister, you don’t know me, but I feel as if I know you because of what you write in your articles.” Others have noticed that my column tagline has somewhat changed. I am now Wide Area Network Coordinator as well as Director of Foundation for the Wives of the Diocesan. Yes, the latter became a new position for me when the new class of Aspirants was formed.

As with all new positions, it takes time to understand the breadth and the depth of the responsibilities. Because of the newness of the program, I will be taking a brief Sabbath from my writing in The Catholic Witness. By this, I mean that rather than every edition, my articles will now only appear once a month. Once I begin to understand the nuances of this position, as well as juggling the ever growing technology component, I will begin, once again, writing articles for each edition.

Know that, as I lap the parking lot at the Diocesan Office, I shall hold you and your families in my prayers as well. Remember we are all joined by our common faith, our common baptism and our common love for one another. God bless!

1 http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/taking-modern-day-sabbath

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Foundation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Tech Conference’s Inaugural Videoconference Message Calls Educators to Consider Media as More than a Tool

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The keynote presentation at this year’s Tech’d Out conference for Catholic school educators began with a presentation on food.

Dr. Eugene Gan, Professor of Interactive Media, Communications, and Fine Art at Franciscan University of Steubenville, opened his keynote address via videoconference with a reflection on several defining characteristics of food.

The presentation was a first for the diocese, as it marked the first time that a keynote presenter appeared via videoconference.

The Tech’d Out conference was held on Nov. 3 and included, in addition to Dr. Gan’s presentation, a session on the schools’ usage of MMS and “unconferences,” during which educators offered information sessions and demonstrations of their own best practices.

The attendees gathered before a large video screen in the Cardinal Keeler Center, and looked on as Dr. Gan, author of “Infinite Bandwidth: Encountering Christ in the Media,” presented his address from Franciscan University.

Food, he said, is a normal part of our lives, so normal that we might seldom think about it. It is sensorial, in that it touches all the senses and elicits thoughts, memories and emotions.

Food is enjoyable, and given from God as such. “We know that Heaven is a banquet, and we will be enjoying the banquet as the Bride of Christ,” Dr. Gan said.

He also spoke of the social, creative and cultural characteristics of food, as it calls us to socialize with friends and family, offers us an outlet for creativity in the dishes we present, and allows us to share our culture.

Food can be prepared and consumed quickly and sloppily, or with love and care, Dr. Gan said. It’s also necessary for our health and development, yet too much of it can lead to gluttony.

Why did Dr. Gan offer a reflection on food during a presentation designed for the use of media in the classroom?

“We might often hear the statement that media is merely a tool, merely an instrument. But that is just like saying that food is merely fuel. Food is so much more than that,” Dr. Gan said, “and I’m here to propose to you that media is so much more than an instrument or a tool. Thinking of media merely as a tool will end up limiting us and limiting the way we use it.”

Dr. Gan then returned to the characteristics of food, but replaced the word “food” with “media.”

Media is a normal part of our daily experience, and, as such, we have to make an effort to step away from it to see its impact on our lives, he said.

“God mediates his love toward us, through the Word, the ultimate medium. He is the Word, the ultimate message,” Dr. Gan said.

Media is sensorial, enjoyable and social, and allows us to be creative and share our culture.

“We can consume it quickly and sloppily, or with love, care and thoughtfulness,” Dr. Gan said. “We can consume media without thinking about it’s affecting us or our loved ones.... As educators, we need to be modeling these good attitudes and good behaviors,” and examine how we engage the media before we share it with our students, he said. Just as too much food can lead to gluttony, too much media consumption can lead to addiction.

But there is good to media, he pointed out.

“Even our liturgy is highly sensorial. There are bells, smells. We look at the stained-glass windows....that give narrative and mediate a story. Liturgy is a kinesthetic experience,” Dr. Gan said. “God knows how much we need the sensorial in order to experience.”

“So what is the lesson here? We need to eat our digital broccoli, and limit our digital ice cream,” Dr. Gan said. “Take this with you into the adoration chapel. Think about your own media use, how you model it, and what your own behaviors and attitudes are toward media in order for us to model it to those who are placed in our care.”

An educator reflects on the characteristics and use of media during the Tech’d Out conference that the diocese hosts for teachers each year.

Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC, the Wide Area Network Coordinator for the Diocese of Harrisburg, looks on as educators watch Dr. Eugene Gan give his keynote presentation during the Tech’d Out conference.

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Feeding The Faith

Dan Burger
Parishioner of St. Catherine Labouré, Harrisburg

Cranberry Relish

Ingredients:
1 pack of cranberries
1 cup of sugar
1 seedless orange (whole)

Directions:
Wash cranberries.
Divide the three ingredients into fours for ease of blending.
Put each quarter into blender and blend.
Put all four parts into one container.

Excellent for Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Send Us Your Holiday Recipes and Stories!

The Catholic Witness is looking to support family meal time by sharing family recipes in upcoming editions, as well as scripture and “food for thought.” Do you have a significant holiday dish and memory to share with us? You may mail a copy of the recipe and your thoughts to 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or email it to witness@hbgdiocese.org.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

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An educator reflects on the characteristics and use of media during the Tech’d Out conference that the diocese hosts for teachers each year.
First-Hand Accounts Reveal Prison Ministry’s Illustration of God’s Mercy and Love

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“You teach us to be responsible. You care for our well-being. You tell us you are important, and have purpose, and are destined to become a ‘somebody.’” – Gaskin

“Sometimes we are not kind and respectful, but you still love us. You are the teachers, the mentors, the advisers, and most of all, you are our friends.” – Denisse

“Volunteers are the many lights that led us from the storms of the past. They help us to see the right path.” – Lee

John Wetzel, Secretary of Corrections for the State of Pennsylvania, offers statistics about the number of inmates in the state prison system. One in every 250 Pennsylvanians are currently in state prison, for a total of some 50,300 individuals, he said.

“Keep in mind that 90 percent of everyone who is in state prison today will come out, at a rate of 18,000 people per year,” Secretary Wetzel said. “The question we must all ask ourselves is: How do we want people to be released: Older and angrier with no skills, or changed?”

“I can’t tell you how important volunteers are,” he told those gathered. “You really do have such an impact on our system, and such an impact on the lives of the inmates in the system. When you’re impacting an inmate, you’re impacting a family.

The conference was hosted by the Prison Christian Growth Group (PCGG), a Catholic ministry whose volunteers bring the love of Jesus Christ into every state prison and several other facilities for weekly or bi-weekly faith-sharing sessions.

The Prison Christian Growth Group originated 30 years ago from Faith Sharing Groups formed at St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg, the Curial movement, and prior experiences of visiting prisons in the federal system. The first State Correctional Institute that the PCGG visited was Camp Hill in 1986. The ministry eventually spread through much of Pennsylvania, and now has approximately 100 male and female members who bring Christ’s love to inmates in ten state correctional institutions, two county prisons and one federal penitentiary. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, these facilities include Camp Hill and Coal Township State Correctional Institutions and the Duaphin and Lancaster county prisons.

The conference brought together members of the PCGG, folks who volunteer in other prison ministry groups and capacities, and those interested in becoming involved in this Corporal Work of Mercy.

In his homily during the Mass he celebrated at the gathering, Bishop Ronald Gainer reflected on the day’s Gospel reading of Jesus’ willingness to dine at the home of a leading Pharisee, and compared it to the efforts of prison ministry volunteers who go where many would rather not.

With more than 30 years of prison ministry experience as former chaplain for the Philadelphia prison system and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Father Francis Menei has ministered to an untold number of inmates and their families.

Regardless of their individual circumstances, there is one constant, the retired diocesan priest said – they need Christian witness.

“You go in, you smile, you’re kind to them. They will see your witness and Christ living in you. When they see that, they’re going to want Him too.”

“God’s presence, put flesh and bone on the mercy, the love, the grace of God.”

 resolves a conflict between himself and an inmate.

“They will see your witness and Christ living in you. When they see that, they’re going to want Him too. That’s the goal of prison ministry: show them what Christ is all about.”

Father Francis Menei, former Chaplain for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

In his keynote presentation for the conference, Father Menei – who was appointed in 1979 by Cardinal John Krol, then-Archbishop of Philadelphia, to serve in prison ministry – recounted several experiences with inmates, chaplains and administrators that have left a lasting impression.

One such person was an inmate named Frank, whom Father Menei counseled in prison and after Frank was released on parole. They maintained close contact in the weeks and months after Frank’s release, and Father Menei celebrated the marriage of Frank and his wife in the Catholic Church.

A year later, the priest received a letter and a plane ticket in the mail, asking him to come to Florida to baptize their baby and be his godfather. To this day, 32 years later, Father Menei continues to keep in touch with his godson.

“December 8 of this year will begin the Year of Mercy in the Church. Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy and the beating heart of the Gospel. He said that mercy must be extended to the weakest and most vulnerable in our society,” Father Menei said.

“I don’t know of any group of people that is more vulnerable than the inmates in our institutions,” he continued.

“You are Christ’s hands and his feet,” he told those gathered. “Wherever you go, you take Christ with you.”

In addition to Father Menei’s keynote presentation, the conference offered break-out sessions on the work of the Prison Christian Growth Group and a question-and-answer session on common misunderstandings of the Catholic faith.

A third break-out session featured audio recordings of inmates offering their thoughts during faith-sharing sessions of the Prison Christian Growth Group.

Session attendees sat in silent reflection as they listened to the 30-minute recording of inmates talking about various Gospel themes and how they apply to their personal situations. Two of those reflections are printed here, with permission, and perhaps offer the best expression of the magnitude of prison ministry:

From Malcom, reflecting on forgiveness: “It’s hard to try to forgive. Me, I have a problem with forgiveness because I think that people have done a lot of things to me and I can’t forgive them, but I’ve also done a lot of things to people, and I hope that they would forgive me. I have to forgive because, what I’ve done compared to what Jesus done for me, it’s only a mustard seed. He took on more for me than what I’ve done to other people, so I have to forgive. If I can’t forgive nobody else, I can’t forgive myself. I’ve done so many things that right now I’m in the right place because God had to stop me, to sit down and to listen to Him. … Now that I’m on this walk with Jesus and God, I’m just happy. I praise them every day. They continue to bless me, and I just hope that they forgive me and keep my name in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

From John, reflecting on love: “The Cross is love. Jesus is love. When He died, He put everything on that Cross for us. All of our sins are on that Cross. Look at the man next to you, across from you. That’s your brother. I hope every one of you have accepted Jesus in your heart. God is love, and He loves you. He heals broken hearts; all you have to do is give him all the pieces. Whether we’re in prison or not, we’re all brothers... We all got to treat each other with love and respect, compassion. That’s how we can change the world.”

For information on the Prison Christian Growth Group and how to volunteer in its faith-sharing sessions, visit www.pcggrantstown.org.
The bishops will discuss and vote on a proposal to take up a one-time national collection to fund the completion of the Trinity Dome in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. No structural work is needed, but shrine officials have been in planning meetings about the ornamentation of the mosaics on the underside of the dome, visible from within the shrine. The big, blue dome has no ornamentation although the shrine’s other ornaments about the ornamentation of the mosaics within the shrine. The big, blue dome has no
ornamentation although the shrine’s other
ornaments do. No date has been set to begin and no deadline to complete it. As of yet, no cost has been affixed to the project.

The USCCB Working Group on the Life, Witness and Identity of the Human Person will report on a communications research project commenting the Year of Mercy, which starts Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The bishops also are scheduled to vote on the 2016 USCCB budget and the 2017 diocesan assessment that helps fund USCCB operations.

Published by the Diocese of Harrisburg Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry
At Lancaster Catholic High School & Clipper Magazine Stadiums Lancaster, PA

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26 HOUR OVERNIGHT VIGIL
Holy Mass | Reconciliation
Pope Francis WYD Homily
Stations of the Cross
Connect to WYD/USA in Poland
Concerts | Speakers
Adoration | Holy Hour
Pilgrimage Walk

$175

YOUNG ADULT & YOUTH*REGISTRATION
Early Discount & ‘Sunday Only’ tickets available
*Youth Registration is GROUP ONLY
ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

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www.hbgdiocese.org/wydstateside

USCCB
Continued from 1

The bishops also will discuss and vote on a proposed formal statement on pornography, “Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography.” The bishops had given their approval a few years ago to craft a statement on the subject.

They are scheduled to discuss and vote on a proposal to take up a one-time national collection to fund the completion of the Trinity Dome in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. No structural work is needed, but shrine officials have been in planning meetings about the ornamentation of the mosaics on the underside of the dome, visible from within the shrine. The big, blue dome has no ornamentation although the shrine’s other domes do. No date has been set to begin and no deadline to complete it. As of yet, no cost has been affixed to the project.

The bishops also will hear a report from the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America on the golden anniversary of the annual national Collection for the Church in Latin America.

Three canonization causes also will go before the bishops for the canonical consultation required to advance their causes:
• Father Aloysius Ellacuria was a 20th-century Claretian Missionary priest from the Basque region of Spain who spent much of his priestly ministry in the American Southwest, including Los Angeles, San Diego and Phoenix. He was regarded as a mystic who urged spreading the message of Our Lady of Fatima.
• Sister Ida Petery was the Slovak-Hungarian-born founder of the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart. She endured the deprivations of World War II and the onset of Soviet domination of her homeland before she fled, first to Toronto and then to Los Angeles. She had a puppet show on local TV, “My Friend Pookie,” which was popular for several years and became nationally known by educators and families, then developed the “Sacred Heart Kids’ Club” series of half-hour video instruction on the Catholic faith.
• Antonio Cuipa, who along with more than 80 “companions,” was martyred for the faith in colonial Florida between 1549 and 1706. Cuipa, an Apalachee Indian converted by Franciscans, may have been studying for the priesthood when he was seized by another Indian band, nailed to a cross and set afire. Witnesses said Cuipa had a vision of Mary while he was dying.

The bishops will discuss and vote on proposed revisions to strategic priorities for the next USCCB planning cycle, which cover 2017-20, following up on input given a draft version of these priorities during their June meeting in St. Louis.

A vote will be taken on the inclusion of “Excerpts From the Roman Missal: Book for Use at the Chair” in U.S. dioceses. Presentations will be made to the bishops by, among others, Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. The national network launched its “#End45” campaign to cut U.S. poverty just ahead of Pope Francis’ visit.

Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, will join with Archbishop Paul S. Cooley of Oklahoma City, CRS chairman, in a presentation on how CRS programming is responding to Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment, Laudato Si’. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, will update his brother bishops on next year’s World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston will give an update on diocesan Project Rachel ministries for post-abortion healing. Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chair of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, will report on marriage and family life ministry.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chair of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, will introduce a trailer to a movie on Dignitatis Humanae, the Second Vatican Council’s decree on religious freedom. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services will give a presentation on the need to increase the number of priests for the military chaplaincy.

The USCCB Working Group on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person will report on a communications research project and planning for a convocation. The bishops also will hear recommendations on implementing the Year of Mercy, which starts Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The bishops will choose a treasurer-elect for the USCCB as well as chairmen-elect for six standing committees: Divine Worship; Migration; Domestic Justice and Human Development; Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations; and Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. Bishops also will be chosen for the boards of CRS, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, or CLINIC.

The bishops also are scheduled to vote on the 2016 USCCB budget and the 2017 diocesan assessment that helps fund USCCB operations.

The public session of the bishops’ four-day assembly is only the first two days.
Matthew 25 Collection

Providing Food, Clothing and Shelter...

“The Matthew 25 Collection allows the Church of Harrisburg to address the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing on a local level through food banks, soup kitchens and other parish-supported projects that assist those in need. All of the funds collected benefit local needs. Seventy-five percent of the monies collected will be distributed to programs within the diocese to address the needs of the poor. Twenty-five percent of the monies will be returned to parishes for their use in assisting others.”  
~Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

Matthew 25 Collection’s Mission...More Important Than Ever

The Collection was established in 2010 to provide funding to assist those in need of food, clothing and shelter. Twenty-five percent of monies collected by the parish remain at the parish to meet the needs of specific parishioners. Seventy-five percent of monies collected by the parish are used to fund grants for diocesan and/or community agencies that are empowered to meet a larger need. To date the Collection has provided grants to 43 organizations totaling $718,828.

2014 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birthright of Sunbury</td>
<td>Sunbury</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brethren Housing Association</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle Area Family Life Center</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle CARES</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Harvest Food Pantry</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Worker House</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gettysburg CARES</td>
<td>Gettysburg</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen House</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate House Shelter</td>
<td>Danville</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardian Angels Outreach</td>
<td>Kulpmont</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Steps Diaper Bank</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdeshouse Maternity Home</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Helpers Food Pantry &amp; Clothing Store</td>
<td>Steelton</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manos Unidas Hispano-American Center, Inc.</td>
<td>Gettysburg</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals and More</td>
<td>Gettysburg</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off The Streets</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race Track Chaplaincy of America</td>
<td>Grantville</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Francis Soup Kitchen</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samaritan Fellowship</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Juan Bautista Social Outreach Program</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shalom House</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shining Light Thrift Shop</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silence of Mary Home</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL GRANTED $154,500

“...whatever you did for the least...
November 22, 2015
... to those brothers and sisters who are less fortunate

WAYS TO DONATE
By giving to the Matthew 25 Collection, you offer hope and help to low-income families and to communities working to overcome poverty and injustice throughout the 15 counties in central Pennsylvania.

IN PRAYER
Thank you Lord for the many graces and blessings you have placed in my life. I offer you my heart-felt gratitude for Your countless gifts to me each day.

In turn, dear Lord, help me be aware of the needs of my least brothers and to respond to those who are poor and less fortunate with general expressions of charity, kindness and caring.

On that day Lord, when I finally stand before you to give account of my life, I pray I will hear you say, “Come O good and faithful servant to share your Father’s joy, for which when you saw me hungry, thirsty, naked and homeless you offered your gifts in charity and you lovingly did it for me.” Amen

www.lordcalls.com

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(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 parish)

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Office of Development
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Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804

...of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
By Chris Heisey  
*The Catholic Witness*

The oft used cliche in sports that the game was closer than the score indicated was quite the truism in the District 3 Class A soccer final between the Shamrocks of Trinity High and the Fighting Irish of York Catholic on a comfortably warm Nov. 5 at Hersheypark Stadium. Though the ‘Rocks scored three goals – two in the first 30 minutes – the Fighting Irish came to life in the second half, carrying the play for long stretches. And it’s not a stretch to say that York Catholic had three quality scoring chances with two strikes barely missing wide and another crack that was shut by Trinity’s excellent goalie, Amanda Knaub, who made several saves to snuff out any Fighting Irish comeback effort. The Irish had eight corner kicks in the second half. Trinity (19-1-1) heads into the PIAA state playoffs on a roll, where they will defend their 2014 state title in tournament play over the next two weeks. The Fighting Irish, who were making their first ever district final appearance, also will be seeded in the 16-team field.

In the District Cross Country championships held this year at Big Spring High School on Halloween, runners from De lone Catholic in McSherrystown placed in the top-ten in both the boys’ and girls’ races in Class A to give the Squires a second-place finish for the girls and a third for the boys. Leading the way for the boys was Will Greene, whose second-place finish was only six seconds off the lead with a pace of 5:18 over the 3.1-mile course that features long climbs, sharp corners and a long downhill finish that favors the runner who can stride out when tired.

The girls were paced by Leanne Sneeringer (3rd), Kate Mowery (5th) and Alyssa Alberghini (6th) to place second behind Veritas Academy by only eight points. The Trinity boys placed second in the Class AA run, finishing behind York Suburban. A week later in the PIAA state championships at Hershey’s Parkview Course, Delone’s senior Will Greene finished in 8th place to earn a medal.
For the first time since 2007, The Fighting Irish of York Catholic won the District 3 Class A girls’ volleyball title with a hard fought win against Lititz Christian, 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 26-24) at Dallastown High School. Trailing 12-8 in the first set, the Fighting Irish came back to tie the game at 14-14; after 9 lead changes, York Catholic finally sealed the all important first set, 25-23. In the third set, the Fighting Irish fell behind 9-1 before rallying again to win the match in dramatic fashion with a tight 26-24 win to earn the gold medal.

York Catholic enters the 16-team PIAA Class A state tournament, with the state finals set for Nov. 21.

Left: York Catholic’s Rachel Shelley goes high for a kill against Lititz Christian.
Below: The Fighting Irish celebrate their District 3 championship.

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By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Some spectators might have felt a sense of déjà vu as they filled the bleachers at Dallastown High School gymnasium on November 7 to watch Delone Catholic and Berks Catholic compete for the PIAA District III Girls’ AA volleyball championship. After this year’s match, the schools have evened their four-year district playoff history match up, against each other with two wins apiece.

Berks Catholic won the first two sets (25-16, 25-16). Delone senior Sarah Senft’s dominant play, including her 15 kills, helped her team to secure a win in the third set, 25-22. The Squirettes kept their fight going into set four, but struggled to get the lead and keep it. Delone Catholic lost this year’s District 3 final, 3-1. As Delone continues into the state playoffs, they could potentially meet Berks Catholic in the state semi-finals.

Lexi Shanabrook, senior defensive specialist, slides to return a volley.
Delone’s Sydney Dockins prepares for a tip in the District 3 final.
Contemplative Communities of Nuns in the Diocese of Harrisburg

Contemplative life focuses on communion with God through prayer and silent. The religious devote their days to prayer, contemplation and solitude for the adoration of the world. They live a strict cloistered life, set apart from the world to dedicate themselves to God. There are three contemplative communities of nuns in the Diocese of Harrisburg:

1. Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary in Lancaster
   - Located at 834 Lizzie Pitz Lane, Lancaster PA 17601
   - 717-569-2104
   - www.opnuns lancaster.org

2. Discalced Carmelites Nuns in Elsberry
   - 430 Monastery Rd, Elsberry MO 63234
   - 570-672-2122

3. Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Danville
   - 1 Maria Hall Drive, Danville PA 17821
   - 570-275-4682

World Expects Believers to Work Together for Peace, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz

The world expects all people of faith to work together for peace, Pope Francis said in a new interview, while as pope he works to defend the good of all people.

In his written address, the pope said, “The world looks to us believers, it urges us to collaborate with each other and people of goodwill who do not profess any religion, it asks us from us to respond to people’s needs: peace, hunger, poverty, the environmental and economic crises, corruption, moral decay and violence – especially that waged in the name of religion.

Religious don’t have a special “recipe” to solve these problems, he said, “but we have a great resource – prayer. Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have.”

Concerning the future of interreligious dialogue, he said, “The first thing we have to do is pray. Without the Lord, nothing is possible; with him, everything becomes possible.”

He asked that prayer lead people to follow the will of God, who wants everyone to recognize each other as brothers and to form a “human family in a harmony of diversity.”

Unfortunately, much of the violence and terrorism unfolding in the world have made people suspicious or critical of religion, he said.

However, “although no religion is immune from the risk of fundamentalist extremism,” he said, people must look at the positive aspects of religious beliefs, especially how they are a source of hope for so many.

Pope Francis said respectful dialogue can lead to friendship and to initiatives between religious believers in serving the poor, the elderly, the marginalized and immigrants.

In the upcoming Year of Mercy is the perfect occasion to work together on charitable projects, he said.

Charity, “where compassion especially costs, can unite with us many people who do not consider themselves to be believers or who are seeking God and truth,” and with anyone who makes those in need a priority, he said. They can also promote profound improvements in Jewish-Christian relations.

The pope said the past 50 years have seenendifference and conflict turn into collaboration and goodwill, and enemies and strangers have become friends and family.

Mutual understanding, respect and dialogue are making the path for peaceful dialogue, not only with Jews, but with Muslims as well, he said.

“In the dialogue we have to be open and respectful,” he said, and includes respecting people’s right to life, physical integrity and fundamental freedoms like freedom of conscience, thought, expression and religion.
Italian POW Descendants Gather for 70th Anniversary

By Terry Burger Special to The Witness

Though an interpreter, Mattia Brusati and Luissella Volpi are learning about the Chambersburg area was highly emotional for them. During WWII, Mattia’s grandfather, Renato Volpi, Luissella’s father, was one of about 1,200 Italian POWs who were kept at what then was known as the Letterkenny Ordnance Depot Franklin County. POWs who swore allegiance to the U.S. after Italy surrendered in 1943, were interned at 717-290-3451 into two service units, or ISUs. They assisted in the U.S. war effort as part of the 321st Quartermaster Battalion.

The Italians, overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, had been holding religious services in a barracks, but wanted their own chapel. So they built one out of stone and it was built from abandoned farm buildings scattered around the base, becoming the 65-foot-tall bell tower. 70 years ago last month, the Italians, other than those who decided to stay, were returned to their country to take up their old lives.

One of them was Renato Volpi. “My father and Mattia were very close,” said Luissella Volpi. “They talked all the time. He told Mattia about his work here at Letterkenny, and about building the chapel.”

The visit would have been emotional anyway, but was made more so Renato did not make it to the return trip. He was killed in Italy in 1943. “We have seen the photographs of course,” said Mattia. “But now, said his mother. “Now, we go to come and really see it, and actually be inside the chapel itself. It meant a great deal.”

The prisoners brought more than construction and decorating skills. Renato played the violin; other POWs played accordions, harps, guitars, and actually see it, and attend Mass in their memory of those who died. “There are no victories in war.”

The sermon began with Rodriguez stating that Mattia and Luissella played an assortment of other instruments, said that “there are no victories in war.”

God is our lasting peace,” he said further on. “There is an agreement of peace, mutually forgiving, and live de-

Parish Bazaars

 зр articles as well as lunch and a raffle will be available. Come early for best selection! The reli-

Christmas Bazaars are also listed online at www.hbgdiocese.org. (rehebda@comcast.net to order grave blankets or

Lord, and actually see it, and attend Mass in their memory of those who died. “There are no victories in war.”

The annual St Paul the Apostle Holiday Bazaar is November 14 in Annville. Jewelry, wooden articles, sewn/knit/ crocheted items (caps, mittens, scarves, slippers, etc.), fall and Christmas cupcakes of other special baked goods, and a silent auction will feature hand-crafted items, homemade foods, baked goods, music and raffles.

St. Anthony’s Church will host its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Resurrection Catholic School, 521 East Orange Street, Lancaster. The bazaar will have the chance to meet our new parish priest Father Stephen Shibley, enjoy various arts and crafts, baked goods and sweet creations, raffles, small treasures. A child will win prizes by playing reindeer games for 25 cents each, and a 25-cent raffle for gift cards. The children’s room will be open.

The annual Christmas Bazaar at St. James Catholic Church will be held November 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church’s Social Hall, 200 W. Golden Lane, New Oxford. Contact Leslie Nieves at Leslie.Nieves@hotmail.com or 717-290-3451 at the Christmas Faire will be 6 to 9 p.m. at Divine Redeemer Office/St. Peter’s Church Hall, 438 West Avenue, Mount Carmel, and Divine Mercy Hall 400 Block West Cherry Street, Mount Carmel. Fabulous homemade foods, beverages and baked goods, music and raffles, a silent auction, bid on items in a silent auction, or play Bingo for gift cards. The silent auction will close at 1 p.m. and the day’s events will end at 2 p.m. There will be 15 games of Bingo for
day events will end at 2 p.m. There will be 15 games of Bingo for gift cards. The silent auction will close at 1 p.m. and the day’s events will end at 2 p.m. There will be 15 games of Bingo for

The annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Mary’s Catholic Church will be held November 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church’s Social Hall, 200 W. Golden Lane, New Oxford. Contact Leslie Nieves at Leslie.Nieves@hotmail.com or 717-290-3451

The annual Christmas Bazaar at St. James Catholic Church will be held November 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church’s Social Hall, 200 W. Golden Lane, New Oxford. Contact Leslie Nieves at Leslie.Nieves@hotmail.com or 717-290-3451.
Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishioners. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ABBOTTSOWN – immaculate Heart of Mary: Jane Behr.
BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Judith Ann Disdiero, Rose O’Reilly, Dwayne Trexler.
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT – St. Rita: James Hays.
BONNEVAU – St. Joseph the Worker: A. Loretta Smither, Leona Mack.
COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Bernard M. Sosnoskie.
CONEWAGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Charles Cornober.
ENOLA – Our Lady of Lourdes: Daniel Sweeney.
ELYSBURG – Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: Elizabeth Bierowski, Guido A. Pisanu.
FAIRFIELD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Allen Sprankle.
GERRITSTOWN – St. Francis Xavier: George Winkler.
HARRISBURG – St. Margaret Mary: Frances Burcin.
HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Kathryn Spang, Thomas Strawbridge.
JENKINTOWN – Our Lady Fatima: Joan M. De Venzenzo, Joan Koch.
MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Mary Metallo.
MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Dolores Gallagher.
NEW BLOOMFIELD – St. Bernard: Rosalia Lubrano, Howard (Wayne) Reed.
NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: John W. “Jack” Dwyer, Charles J. Burke.
ROARING CREEK – Our Lady of Mercy: Thomas Doraski.
ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Barbara Gartman, Maureen Schwaich, Mike Tucker.
SELINSGROVE – St. Pius X: Vincent Jarabeck.
STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Beatrice Dassenburg, Thomas S. Verzobio.

Recreation Catholic School Celebrates ‘Family of Faith’

The Holy Father’s visit to the United States had special significance to members of the Recreation Catholic School community in Lancaster, because of the emphasis on family, the school’s theme for this year.

Pope Francis spoke much and often about family during his visit to the United States in September and in previous speeches throughout the world. At Resurrection, staff remarked upon the connection with its own “Family of Faith” theme for the 2013-14 school year.

New teacher Dan Cotchen said the principal told him when she hired him, “Family is the most important thing here.” As a Resurrection graduate and father of an 8-month-old, Cotchen said he feels the sense of family at home and school, but the pope’s emphasis resonated with him.

“Coming from the highest power, the most important person in our faith, if he emphasizes family, then we must follow it, too,” Cotchen said.

Principal Brenda Weaver said the theme was chosen “because we want the students and our community to work on family, whether it be your family, or someone else’s.”

“He said families have differences, but love overcomes all,” Weaver said. “We are guided by our faith and our passion for education as we lead each child on his or her journey to become a disciple of Christ. It’s an awesome job that we cannot accomplish without prayer from families and friends.”

Students, parents, staff, donors and community members are included in its familial circle of support.

The school hosts monthly events throughout the school year. Family of Faith activities include a family Rosary that took place in October. Teacher Sylvia Buller mentioned a 2013 homily Pope Francis delivered in which he said, “Praying the Rosary, family is so important to us.”

“The pope emphasized family, and how important it is,” Buller said. “We can help each other. We can do it as a family.”

In accepting the award, Mr. Becker promised to assist the new Grand Knight in continuing the council’s tradition of doing good and helping others. Charles Becker exemplifies the guiding principles of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church.
Recitation of the Rosary for America and the world takes place on the place of the square in Littlestown every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. starting on September 15. Contact Barbara Remer at barb2rer32@yahoo.com.

Couples in the West Shore who are celebrating their 25th Wedding anniversary this year are invited to submit their photo for consideration. Diocese of Harrisburg, Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Family. The Mass will be celebrated Sunday, October 16 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, 1 Church St., Mechanicsburg. Breakfast will be held following the Mass. For more information, call St. Peter Cathedral at 717-263-3700.

Mr. Alex Dery Fox, a second-year student at St. Vincent Seminary, Carmel, IN, will present a talk titled “Theology in Practice” on October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1530 Ormond Rd., Carlisle. The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Msgr. Thomas P. McSorley at tmcsorley@hbgdiocese.org.

St. John of the Evangelist Parish, 1403 E. Market St., will present “Light up the Garden of Gethsemane” on October 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish garden. The event will include aตามula, Vespers, and a candlelit rosary. There will also be a brief talk on the life and works of St. John the Evangelist. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 717-267-8334 or visit www.stjohnoftheevangelist.com.

The Lebanon Catholic Performing Arts Alliance will hold its Annual PTO Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, November 21 from 4-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The evening will include entertainment, a 50/50 drawing, a silent auction, basket raffles, and more! Tickets are $10 per person. For more information, contact the PTO at 717-236-7973 or visit www.stsraul.com.

The Lebanon Catholic Performing Arts Alliance will present “The Glory of God” on Saturday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church, 1401 E. Oregon St., Lebanon. The event will include a performance by the Lebanon Catholic Performing Arts Alliance. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 717-236-7973 or visit www.stsraul.com.

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St. Philip the Apostle Parish Celebrates 50 Years

By Jen Reed

The faithful members of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville gathered as one on Nov. 9 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their parish, remembering its history and looking to its future.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant of the anniversary Mass, and was joined at the altar by Father Lawrence J. Sherdel, who was appointed pastor there earlier this year.

"We look to the past with tremendous gratitude for the faithful people who started this parish 50 years ago under humble conditions. In the present, we thank God for that wonderful past this parish has," Bishop Gainer remarked in his homily.

"Today, November 9, is the Feast of St. John Lateran Basilica, which honors the premier church in the world for Catholics – this basilica is the Church of the Pope – where his Cathedra is in Rome. It was dedicated in the Year 324 … and that building represents the symbolic mystery of the Church …" he said. "But this day is about us – we celebrate the mystery that is in us. This feast is not about bricks and mortar, it’s about us, the Temple of God. When we look in the mirror this evening, let us remember the mystery we all are.

St. Philip Parish traces its history to a weekly Sunday Mass that was celebrated in an auditorium at the Manor Shopping Center, a necessary move to accommodate more than 1,000 people living on the western edge of St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster and the overcrowded conditions at St. Joseph.

St. Philip the Apostle Parish was established on May 11, 1965. According to parish history, it was named for the apostle whose feast the Church celebrated that day, and for Bishop Philip McDevitt, the fourth Bishop of Harrisburg. Father William Eline was the first pastor.

Bishop George Leech broke ground St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville University.

Father Homola retired in 1998 after 27 years as pastor, and was succeeded by Father Brian Conrad, who continued to make improvements to the parish property and facilities, including the addition of three garages, a new parish office and activities center, and a preschool program. St. Philip’s Preschool opened its doors in September of 2003.

Father Conrad’s health began to decline in 1999, following a heart attack and then a car accident, and the parish staff rallied as he recuperated. Eventually, priests from the surrounding area celebrated Masses at St. Philip’s in Father Conrad’s absence. Father Mark Weiss was appointed administrator pro-tem in June 2008, and was installed as the fourth pastor a year later. Father Conrad died on Feb. 13, 2011.

In its 50th year, St. Philip the Apostle Parish continues to live out its mission statement: Jesus Christ said to St. Philip the Apostle, “Come follow Me.” As members of the parish community of St. Philip’s, we seek to live as disciples of the Lord by living our faith through service to others. Based on a strong faith, a guided hope and a well rooted love, we encourage all to walk that journey with Christ with humility and courage.

Parish and community service is a staple there, through efforts of various organizations, including a prison ministry, prayer group, Rosary guild and Relay for Life efforts. The parish is also home to a Knights of Columbus council, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, a men’s club, a women’s auxiliary, a mother’s group and youth and young adult ministry, among other organizations and ministries. There are currently some 300 students in the parish’s religious education program.

“In our discussions of continuing to grow St. Philip’s as a vibrant parish, we’re talking about revitalization and renewal, ways of getting even more people involved in the life of the parish,” said Father Sherdel. He was appointed pastor in June of this year, and had served St. Philip’s in the early 1980s while ministering at nearby Franklin & Marshall College and Millersville University.

“The people here are already very community- and Church-minded, and we want to celebrate their continued involvement while drawing more people in,” he said.