Bishops Approve Liturgy Items, Hold Elections at Assembly

Catholic News Service

Though there were no actions on the U.S. bishops’ agenda in Baltimore dealing with immigration, poverty and other public policy issues, the president of their conference said Nov. 11 that he hopes to meet with President Barack Obama and House and Senate leaders soon on several topics.

In a brief comment during the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., said he had heard from many of his brother bishops about those issues and hopes conferring with the politicians will supplement the work that committees and USCCB staff are doing.

He told Catholic News Service that he intends to pursue a meeting with the president and congressional leaders as soon as December.

In other action on the second public day of the Nov. 10-13 meeting, the bishops:

• Approved several liturgical items, including a revised translation of the ritual book used whenever a new church is built or when a new altar is made; the first official English translation of the ritual book “Exorcisms and Related Supplications”; and a supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours that is an English translation of the prayers used for the feast days of saints who have been added to the general calendar since 1984.

• Voted to proceed with a revision of a section of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services dealing with partnerships.

Pope Confirms Visit to Philadelphia

By Francis X. Rocca

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said he would attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015, making it the first confirmed stop on what is expected to be a more extensive papal visit to North America.

The pope made the announcement Nov. 17 in a speech opening an interreligious conference on traditional marriage.

“I would like to confirm that, God willing, in September 2015 I will go to Philadelphia for the eighth World Meeting of Families,” the pope said.

The announcement had been widely expected, since Pope Benedict XVI had said before his retirement that he hoped to attend the Philadelphia event. Popes typically fulfill their predecessors’ publicly known travel plans, as Pope Francis did in July 2013 when he attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was in Rome for the families meeting, told Catholic News Service the announcement was “a surprise in the sense that it was announced so early; you know usually they don’t make these announcements — four months out is the typical and here we are 10 months away, and the Holy Father said he is coming to Philadelphia.”

“The Holy Father has said that he’s going to be coming to Philadelphia for quite a few months,” he told Catholic News Service. “He’s been telling me that personally, but for him to announce it officially that he is coming so early is really quite an unusual thing, so it’s going to re-energize our efforts. There’s lot of enthusiasm already, but I think 90 percent of the enthusiasm’s based on the fact that the Holy Father will be with us, and now that he’s said that I expect that there will be even a double amount of enthusiasm ... and I’m very happy about that.”

CatholicPhilly.com reported the archbishop noted that Pope Francis has focused “on the many challenges that families face today globally. His charisma, presence and voice will electrify the gathering.”

“As I’ve said many times before, I believe that the presence of the Holy Father will bring all of us — Catholic and non-Catholic alike — together in tremendously powerful, unifying and healing ways. We look forward to Pope Francis’ arrival in Philadelphia next September, and we will welcome him joyfully with open arms and prayerful hearts.”

“Today’s news confirming our fervent hope that our Holy Father would come to Pennsylvania next year brings me great joy, said Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg. “I am confident that the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families in September 2015 will be an uplifting and grace-filled experience for all.”

“I strongly encourage Catholics in our diocese and people of all faiths and good will to consider attending the events that call together people from all over the world in faithful celebration of the family—the sanctuary of love and life,” he said.

In August, Pope Francis told reporters accompanying him on the plane back from South Korea that he “would like” to go to Philadelphia. The pope also noted that President Barack Obama and
Conference Bolsters Catechists as Witnesses to Christ

By Jen Reed

_The Catholic Witness_

On the Feast Day of St. Albert the Great, a Doctor of the Church, and a respected philosopher, theologian and teacher known for his intellectual abilities, several hundred diocesan catechists, teachers and youth ministry leaders were bolstered in their roles as witnesses during the annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference.

Gathered before the altar for Mass at the Cardinal Keeler in Center in Harrisburg, they were reminded of the words of Pope Francis from his Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium, on the Joy of the Gospel: “On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: ‘Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.’ This first proclamation is called ‘first’ not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level of understanding.”

With this quote, Bishop Ronald Gainer began his homily during the Mass celebrated at the Nov. 15 conference, reminding the catechists of their roles as “co-workers in the Truth of Jesus Christ.”

“He confident that you are a co-worker in spreading the Gospel of Jesus, not just by the words you say, but more importantly by the way you live,” Bishop Gainer remarked.

“We need to be formed. We need to continue to deepen our love of Christ so that we can proclaim that love. We need to continue to deepen our understanding and our confidence in Christ’s presence with us,” the bishop said. “Be witnesses by your words, but more especially witnesses by your lives to that first proclamation: Jesus loves you. Jesus gave his life to save you. Jesus is at your side to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

The theme of the Catechetical Conference was “The Catechist as Witness to the Person of Christ,” calling catechists to draw people into a deeper faith in Christ and in the Church and to present them with the fullness of the faith.

In an engaging keynote address, Patrick Coffin, host of the national Catholic radio show “Catholic Answers Live,” told the crowd that effective catechesis starts with listening, not speaking.

“Your effectiveness can’t have as its starting point what we know and what we want to share; instead, it’s listening for where the person is titching,” he said. “Every one of your students are completely different. They have different story lines, they have different families of origin, different personalities. There is no one-size-fits-all catechesis, because everyone is unique. Therefore, we need to start with what they need, not with what we know.”

“Our young people are starving for simple truths, and sometimes we give them jargon. But they just really want us to be real with them,” said Mr. Coffin. “They want to hear us say, ‘I don’t know, but I find the answer.’ ‘That’s a really good question, let’s discover it together.’”

“The people we serve—young and old—are bruised and wounded, and they are hungry not for an argument or a debate, but for truth. Witness that truth by your kindness, by your faith,” he said.

Mr. Coffin, an author whose work has appeared in _Inside the Vatican_ and _The National Catholic Register_, pointed to recent statistics regarding the number of people who have left the Church.

“Regarding adults who enter the Church after completing the RCIJ process, roughly half them aren’t attending Mass on a regular basis a year later. Only 30 percent of Americans raised Catholic continue to practice the faith. Nearly 80 percent of people who no longer identify themselves as Catholic have already done so by their early 20s.”

“That’s a tragedy,” Mr. Coffin remarked. “You and I are sitting on the greatest arsenal in history. We have the greatest resources of goodness, beauty and truth.”

“What has to accompany the reasons for their faith is our own discipleship, so that when people see us, they see some reflection of the dynamic and personal touch of Jesus,” he said.

The annual Catechetical Conference is designed to support the work of catechists in the Diocese of Harrisburg by fostering the on-going instruction, formation, and encouragement of parish catechists, catechetical leaders, Catholic school teachers, youth ministry leaders, and adult faith formation and RCIJ instructors.

The daylong gathering also included 35 workshops presented across four one-hour sessions, focusing on such topics as apologetics, medical moral issues, the New Evangelization, and art in religious education.

Catholic Hispanic Charismatic Renewal Conference

The Catholic Hispanic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Harrisburg invites you to the 10th conference which will be held at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111, on Saturday, November 22, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The theme for this event is “Healing and Transformation by the Action of the Holy Spirit.” The special guest presenter is internationally known Father Darío Betancourt from Columbia. He will be assisted by Father Rodrigo A. Arrazola, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall, and the liaison of the Hispanic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Music will be provided by D’GENESIS of Maryland; and there will be additional entertainment by the dance group “Ángeles de God” and the theater group “Totus Tuus” from Chambersburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be present in the morning to greet people. The cost is $10 per person and tickets will be available at the door. Lunch will be an additional cost at the Cardinal Keeler Center.

For more information please contact Father Rodrigo Arrazola at 717-273-1574 or email frarrazola@hbgdiocese.org.

La Renovación Carismática Católica Hispánica de la Diócesis de Harrisburg les invita a la décima conferencia que se llevará a cabo en el Centro Cardinal Keeler, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 el sábado 22 de noviembre de 2014 de 8:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. El tema para este evento es “Healing and Transformation by the Action of the Holy Spirit.” El presentador invitado será internacionalmente conocido Padre Darío Betancourt de Colombia. El padre será asistido por Padre Rodrigo A. Arrazola, Párroco de la iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en Cornwall, y el Coordinador de la Renovación Carismática Hispana de la Diócesis de Harrisburg, asistirá el Padre Betancourt. El grupo D’GENESIS de Maryland será el encargado de la música; y habrá entretenimiento adicional presentado por el grupo danza “Ángeles de Dios” y el grupo teatral “Totus Tuus” de Chambersburg, PA. Obispo Ronald Gainer estará presente en la mañana para saludar a la gente. El costo por persona será $10 y habrá boletos disponibles en la puerta. El almuerzo será un costo adicional en el Centro Cardinal Keeler. Para más información y para comunicarse con el Padre Rodrigo Arrazola por teléfono al 717-273-1574 o por correo electrónico al frarrazola@hbgdiocese.org.
A retreat experience in Poland July 24-26
- Czestochowa, home of the Pauline Monastery on top of Jasna Gora Mountain and the image of Our Lady Known as the Black Madonna
- Auschwitz, the Nazi Concentration Camp and the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Auschwitz II, where Edith Stein was put to death for being born Jewish and joining the Catholic Church
- Lagiewniki, home of St. Faustina’s Shrine of Divine Mercy
- Wadowice, the site of the Underground Salt Catholic Church

World Youth Day in Krakow July 26-31 with Pope Francis
- Daily Mass and catechesis sessions
- Tours of historical sites, cultural programs and exhibitions
- Walking tours of Krakow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II

World Youth Day Opening Mass February 7, 2015, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 9 a.m. Mass at 10 a.m., followed by a gathering
Catechesis on the Holocaust April 15 and 16, 2015 at Lancaster Catholic High School
Mass marking one year until the WYD Papal Mass, to include Catholic Youth Experience (CYX)
August 1, 2015, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 9 a.m. Mass at 10 a.m., followed by a gathering

World Youth Day Catechesis Sessions December 5, 2015
March 5, 2016
June 11, 2016
Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 9 a.m.
Catechesis sessions from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

World Youth Day Send Off July 16, 2016, at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 9 a.m. Mass at 10 a.m., followed by a gathering
Stateside Vigil and WYD Mass July 30-31, 2016 Location TBA

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar
November 22 – Welcome Address for Hispanic Charismatic Renewal, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
November 23 – Mass and blessing of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Patrick Parish in York, 10:45 a.m.
November 24 – Installation to the Ministry of Reader and the Ministry of Acolyte, St. Vincent Archabchey Basilica, Latrobe, Pa., 7:30 p.m.
November 25 – Groundbreaking for New Memory Support Center, St. Anne’s Retirement Community, Columbia, 2:30 p.m., Sacrament of Confirmation, St. John Neumann Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
November 26 – Homily at Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m.
November 30 – Pastoral Visit to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Catasauqua, 10 a.m.
December 1 – Advent Day of Reflection for Priests, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 1 p.m.
December 2 – Celebrate Mass for the Order of Malta, St. Joseph Church, Lancaster, 5:30 p.m.
December 5 – Keynote Address for the National Association of Diocesan Directors Region III Assembly, Eden Resort, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
December 6 – Celebrate Mass for the National Association of Diocesan Directors Region III Assembly, Eden Resort, Lancaster, 11 a.m.
December 7 – Pastoral Visit to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Marysville, 8:30 a.m.

World Youth Day Krakow, Poland
July 23-August 1, 2016
“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)

A promising spiritual journey of faith for youth ages 16-18 and their chaperones, and for young adults ages 18-35.

A Review of the 2013-2014 Legislative Session
By Joelle Shea
Special to The Witness

Over the past two years, Catholic advocates in Pennsylvania made their voices heard on issues ranging from education to respect for life, from health care to religious liberty. No matter the outcome of today’s legislative session, you have brought the Gospel values and the teachings of the Church into the public square. Catholics across the state, partnered with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC), affected change and promoted the common good in our Commonwealth.

While the 2013-2014 legislative session is over, there is still much work to be done. In January 2015, the new legislators and Governor Wolf will be sworn in and begin their work. Here are some of the major issues we’ve tackled together, and what we might expect in the next legislative session.

One of the most high profile issues for the PCC, Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA), and Catholic advocates was abortion opt-out legislation. Passed in 2013, this law clearly prohibits the taxpayer supported insurance plans created under the federal health care exchange from covering elective abortions. No new laws modifying Pennsylvania’s abortion statute were presented this session. Governor Corbett issued a reprise to Hubert Michael due to the Department of Corrections’ apparent inability to carry out the execution because of a lack of lethal injection drugs. The governor has stated that the reprise will remain in effect until the DOC obtains the necessary execution drugs, which could happen at any time. Once the drugs are acquired, the execution will be rescheduled.

Aaction alert about the death penalty remains active on the PCC website, www.pacatholic.org. Act 130, the Down Syndrome Prenatal and Postnatal Education Act, was supported by the PCC, PCHA and our advocates. One of the goals of this legislation is to reduce the high percentage of Down syndrome babies who are aborted. Passed in 2014, this law ensures that parents are armed with the information and support they need to understand their child’s Down syndrome diagnosis. It requires health care providers to provide resources and information to families who receive a diagnosis of Down syndrome.

In the area of education, the PCC advocated for improvements to the popular Education Improvement Tax Credits and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit programs. While EITC/OSTC programs were level-funded in the 2014-2015 state budget, several changes were made: a business may now elect to apply for an alternate credit if they should prefer it. Credit amounts may be unclaimed, and after January 1 of each fiscal year, the department will be permitted to transfer unused credits from one program to another; large partnerships and LLCs will be able to create smaller subsidiary partnerships, whose members can then participate in the EITC and OSTC programs.

Next session, the PCC will continue to work to defend religious liberty by protecting the autonomy of states to influence religious childcare ministries and curriculum as well as equal fund- ing for textbooks and auxiliary services for non-public schools.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA), and Catholic advocates worked together in the 2013-2014 legislative session to pass a bill to ensure access to health care for all Pennsylvanians by expanding the Health Insurance Program, one of the most improved states in acknowledgement of this legislation.

As a faith-based organization, we are committed to supporting the most vulnerable in our society. Our advocacy work is rooted in the moral vision of the Church, which seeks to build a society that is just, equitable and compassionate.

Join us in supporting the work of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association, and Catholic Advocacy Network. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who are vulnerable and in need of protection and support. Join us in praying for the success of our legislative agenda and in thanksgiving for the work that has been accomplished so far.

Pray for the success of our legislative agenda and for the success of our advocacy work. Pray for the health and safety of our legislators and Governor Wolf. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our work to promote the common good in our Commonwealth.

Correction
The “Faithful Heroes on the Battlefield” article that appeared in the Nov. 7 edition of The Catholic Witness spelled Sgt. Joseph Novak’s name incorrectly. We apologize for the mistake, and thank Sgt. Novak for his graciousness.
The Eucharist: Trinity

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Recently, I had an amazing privilege of visiting one of our elementary schools in the southeastern part of the diocese. I was asked by the principal to continue a conversation with them about virtual integrity and being a Catholic in a connected world that I began several years ago. The children were even more engaged this year than in the past. They were eager to respond and share stories about how they have encountered Christ. The conversation centered on the meaning of the Eucharist in the two realms that any “connected” teen experiences: the face-to-face and the cyber worlds. In the face-to-face world, friends are defined as someone whom you can trust and with whom you can develop a relationship. A “friend” in this world is a noun: a person possessing amazing dignity. In the cyber-world, a friend, the teens pointed out, is someone whom you might not know. A friend is a “posses-sion,” whom you “have,” and whose relationship is based solely on words and a “click.” “Friends,” under this meaning, become a verb, something you do. With this understanding of “friends,” one can easily objectify people. One “owns” them. This attitude is diametrically opposed to the message of Christ.

When I connected these two dots for the students, they were left in utter silence and their mouths hung open. Scowls? They got what I was trying to tell them. Their response to me about their deep need for friendship got me thinking and praying. I realized in a deepened way that our hearts, our very being, were created for relationships. We are indeed made in the image and likeness of God who is in Himself a community. God is Three Persons, a community, a relationship, a communion of Persons that exists in love. According to Father Farfaglia, author of the book for Catholic Online, “When we look upon God as a communion of persons, we comprehend the image of God stamped into all of existence. Human nature, mar-riage, the family, human society, and the Church are all icons of the Trine. God who is a communion of three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Man is a communion because man has been created as male and female. Adam is not complete in himself, he was created for relationships. We are indeed made in the image and likeness of God who is in Himself a community. God is Three Persons, a community, a relationship, a communion of Persons that exists in love.”

The idea of communion in relationship can be seen within the essence of faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “Faith is a personal act – the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life: your faith is formed by others. You do not have faith in yourself, you are raised up to faith by others. You are all on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in a great chain of believ-ers.”

How do we begin to live this life of communion? One Father Farfaglia notes, “First, start by forming the habit of seeing Jesus in each person. This will certainly help when you do not feel like talking to someone. Jesus is hidden in every individual. Secondly, no one should be seen as a stranger. We are all brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus. Thirdly, if you are shy, acquire a new virtue. Force yourself to be outgoing. In this way, you will be sure to make new friends. Fourthly, be universal in your invitation. Do not stick to your own age group or your own nationality.”

We were created in the image of God. This means that we are precious to God and have basic human dignity. God will continue to live in us no matter what we do to darken that image. Because of this, we cannot speak of humanity without also speaking of God. “If the nature of God is to be a Trinity of communion – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and we are made in that image, then our nature is to be interdependent. To be a person, we need communion” (Mulieris Dignitatem, 7). We also need to be in relationship. We need love and be loved. This is the basis for Church teaching on the family.

We believe that in order to understand ourselves, we need to know God. When we speak of marriage, we know that Jesus spoke of the union of husband and wife, how two become one flesh. We know that Paul explained the same plan to the Corinthians, then the Ephesians, and then to the people of Rome. Paul also spoke of how people might turn away from this plan through sin.

We are created for joy. We are not an accident. We were created by a God who was a disinterested observer. We were created by God, who revealed him- self through Jesus Christ. The teachings of Jesus give a meaning to our Catholic faith, family life, and summary. Many people believe that the human person is only “an accident of evolu-tion,” that we are “carbon atoms with an attitude” (Love is our Mission, 2). The existence of modern technology and a high standard of living seems to lend even more crediblity to the rational per-son finding his or her own meaning. But we know that we are much more than random things; we are creations of God and we have a purpose on earth.

For centuries, human be-ings have asked the fundamental ques-tions about who we are and why we are here. Many religious traditions took shape in response to those ques-tions. From those creating elements, Christianity emerged and has remained strong for over 2000 years. But the ques-tions continue even to this day, and the complexity and difficulty of life makes these questions even more relevant. For some, agnostic cynicism seems the bet-ter choice. But as Christians, we trust in Jesus Christ.

“Jesus reveals God and the plan begins to unfold.”

Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and sufferings that humans experience. Then he was crucified by his fellow humans, for his fellow humans, and he was resurrected three days later.

God is not a carpenter but a Rabbi being born and raised by a group of people who were followers of a carpenter named Jesus. Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and sufferings that humans experience. Then he was crucified by his fellow humans, for his fellow humans, and he was resurrected three days later.

God is not a carpenter but a Rabbi being born and raised by a group of people who were followers of a carpenter named Jesus. Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and sufferings that humans experience. Then he was crucified by his fellow humans, for his fellow humans, and he was resurrected three days later.

God is not a carpenter but a Rabbi being born and raised by a group of people who were followers of a carpenter named Jesus. Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and sufferings that humans experience. Then he was crucified by his fellow humans, for his fellow humans, and he was resurrected three days later.

God is not a carpenter but a Rabbi being born and raised by a group of people who were followers of a carpenter named Jesus. Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and sufferings that humans experience. Then he was crucified by his fellow humans, for his fellow humans, and he was resurrected three days later.

God is not a carpenter but a Rabbi being born and raised by a group of people who were followers of a carpenter named Jesus. Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and sufferings that humans experience. Then he was crucified by his fellow humans, for his fellow humans, and he was resurrected three days later.

God is not a carpenter but a Rabbi being born and raised by a group of people who were followers of a carpenter named Jesus. Christians have met Jesus “through the witness of the Church and all her Children, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family” (Love is our Mission, 8). God came to earth as the human infant Jesus. He lived a human life with all the joys and suffering...
Celebrating Advent as a Family

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

You might have noticed Christmas decorations in department stores, even before Halloween! There is always such excitement and anticipation for Christmas, but do we give pause to the weeks leading up to the Nativity?

November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent this year. The Catholic Witness will provide several resources to help celebrate the four weeks of Advent.

Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming.” We are celebrating the coming of Christ. And while it is enjoyable to watch Christmas movies and visit Santa, there are fun ways to enjoy Advent too!

The most popular and well-known of course, is the Advent wreath. This can be a fun activity to share, starting with the wreath itself. As a family, you could take a walk in your neighborhood or go for a hike and collect evergreen branches, pinecones and holly berries. This could be a good time to explain what the Advent wreath represents:

The circle of evergreen represents everlasting life, the pinecones used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of resurrection and fruits [holy berries] represent the nourishing fruitfulness of the Christian life. The wreath and candles as a whole symbolize Advent because of the “coming” of light into the world. Each candle represents the four weeks of Advent, three purple and one rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent.

Another spiritual daily activity is a Jesse Tree.

The Jesse Tree was created to help people link the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees actually predates the arrival of Christianity in western Europe and was adopted by the early Church. In order to associate the custom more clearly with Christianity, people made Jesse Trees—Christmas trees with decorations related to the events of Jesus’ birth and the prophecies about him in the Old Testament. Many parishes and families did Jesse Trees during Advent to remind them of these events as they prepare for Christmas.

The story of Jesse, the father of David, is told in Isaiah 11:1-10. David’s story is found in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. (Credited: Loyola Press)

Scripture Readings
Here is the scripture for the first two weeks of Advent to apply during the lighting of your wreath, maybe before or after a family meal:

First Week of Advent
Sunday - 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Monday - Isaiah 2:1-5
Tuesday - Psalm 72
Wednesday - Isaiah 25:6-10
Thursday - Matthew 7:21-27
Friday - Psalm 27
Saturday - Luke 1:26-38

Second Week of Advent
Sunday - Philippians 1:4-11
Monday - Psalm 85
Tuesday - Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday - Zechariah 2:14-17
Thursday - Psalm 145
Friday - Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday - Sirach 48:1-11

Blessing of the Advent Wreath
When your Advent wreath is set up, either from years past or as one you create with fresh resources, celebrate a first Sunday of Advent with a blessing:

When the blessing of the Advent wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord. 

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 6:1 (lines 1-2 and 3-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says: Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:
O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; bid ev’ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

—From “Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers”

Online Resources
For a daily ornament for your Jesse Tree, follow the Diocese of Harrisburg on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/DioceseofHarrisburg. A daily printable ornament will be available for each day of Advent, with an explanation and a Scripture passage. For an interactive Advent calendar, follow this link on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm.

Please follow The Catholic Witness in the next several issues for more Advent resources to apply as a family, and check out the Harrisburg Diocese’s Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org/advent.

(Resources were found at www.catholiconline.org and www.usccb.org.)
A Day of Prayer and Care was held Oct. 18 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg. The day was designed for people who care for persons who are ill, aged or have disabilities. A total of 65 participants and 150 volunteers attended the morning of spiritual renewal and an afternoon of relaxation activities, such as lessons in flower arrangement, cake decorating, jewelry making, as well as spa services, crafts and games. The event was modeled after the Day of Prayer and Care that began in the Lancaster Deanery. The following parishes sponsored the event: Good Shepherd in Camp Hill, St. Patrick in Carlisle, St. Joseph in Mechanicsburg, St. Katharine Drexel in Mechanicsburg, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Mechanicsburg, St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, and Holy Infant in York Haven.

“Our parents were always involved in the Church and in the community. Service was just a part of life. Giving back was something you always did,” said Marie Modesto.

So when Dr. Thomas and Marie Modesto learned about the “Hope for All” community service campaign to benefit the women, infants and families living at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg, they found the perfect way to honor their parents while continuing their legacy of helping those in need.

The Modestos, members of St. Joseph Parish in Danville, are benefactors of a new ADA powder room at the St. Samuel Center, which is home to residents of Catholic Charities’ Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, and Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction.

The “Hope for All” campaign is striving to raise funds to complete renovations that will make the St. Samuel Center fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

Renovations include accessible bedrooms, bathrooms, a powder room, a kitchen, dining room, pantry, living room and play room, as well as interior and exterior ramps that will allow the center to serve those who live with a physical disability.

“In donating the costs for a powder room, we wanted people who are down on their luck to know that others are thinking of them,” Dr. Modesto said. “Even though donors don’t know the recipients personally, they’re offering help in their circumstances.”

The Modestos see the program of the St. Samuel Center as a response of our call as Christians to care for our brothers and sisters in need.

“In donating to this campaign, you can see where your money is going, and that it is used properly to help people in the diocese who are in need,” Mrs. Modesto said. “It’s good to know that, through Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Harrisburg, there are safe places where women, children and families can go for help and get back on the right track.”

(Author: Cindy Wooden)

**Vatican Public Restrooms to Include Showers for Homeless**

By Cindy Wooden

*Catholic News Service*

The archbishop who distributes charity on behalf of Pope Francis has announced that the public restrooms in St. Peter’s Square will include showers where the homeless can wash.

The service will require volunteers and donations of soap, towels and clean underwear, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, told Catholic News Service Nov. 13. “We have to be evangelical, but intelligent, too.”

Several people living on the streets of Rome or in tents say it is not difficult to find a parish or charity that will give them something to eat, but finding a place to wash is much more difficult.

Barbara, a Polish woman who lives in a tent with her teenage son and a companion, said showers in the Vatican’s public restrooms “would be good. We’d thank them if it works.”

Her companion, who calls himself Stefano, said: “I’m a mason without work. I’ll help them build it. No problem.”

The news site Vatican Insider first reported the news that Archbishop Krajewski had asked the office governing Vatican City State to include showers in an already-approved project to remodel the public restrooms in St. Peter’s Square.

The remodeling work and installation of the showers was scheduled to begin Nov. 17. The archbishop said the three shower stalls would be located in the public restrooms a few steps north of Bernini’s Colonnade, just behind the Vatican post office.

The archbishop told Vatican Insider that in early October he was talking to a homeless man near the Vatican and discovered it was the man’s 50th birthday. He invited the man to a restaurant for dinner, but the man declined, saying a restaurant would not let him in because of his odor.

The Rome diocesan Caritas, the Community of Sant’Egidio and other organizations offer shower facilities to the homeless in Rome, Barbara said, “but there are so many things you have to do. You have to get there at 4 in the morning to sign in. Then only 15 people get in each day.”

In addition, she said, because the number of homeless men is so much greater than the number of homeless women, many of the shower facilities are only for men or are open to women only a half day each week.

Archbishop Krajewski told Vatican Insider that he is visiting parishes in areas where homeless people gather and is encouraging them to install public showers if they have not already. His office will help fund the building, he said.

“It is not simple,” he said. “It is easier to prepare sandwiches than to run a shower service – you need volunteers, towels, clean underwear.”
Former Homeless Family Testifies to Success of Interfaith Shelter at Catholic Charities’ Dinner

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Marjorie Conigliaro fought back tears as she recounted her family’s experience of homelessness three years ago.

“When you’re homeless, you feel very low. You feel like you are below things. You feel like you have no hope,” she said.

“You think about putting your kids up for adoption because you have let your family down, you have let your children down,” she expressed, stifling a sob as her husband, John, placed a supportive hand on her shoulder.

“I can’t even tell you how hard it is on the family when you’re homeless,” she cried.

With Marjorie at the podium, the Conigliaros told their story of homelessness and newfound success during Catholic Charities’ “Come and See” benefit dinner.

The annual event, held this year on Nov. 4 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, raises much-needed funds for Catholic Charities’ three Homes for Healing located at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg: the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Lourdes House maternity home, and Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction.

The dinner draws benefactors for a meal, a guest speaker, donor opportunities and information on the three residential programs. This year, patrons heard a first-hand account from a family who found a better life after a successful stay at the Interfaith Shelter.

Three years ago, the Conigliaros—a family with four children—were struggling to make ends meet in their native New York.

“We were always living in bad neighborhoods, worrying about the children being outside, and just trying to put food on the table all the time,” Mrs. Conigliaro said.

“We always had to go to the pantries, or find help to get diapers for the baby, or even milk,” she said.

They decided to move from New York in order to find a better life for their family. They chose Pennsylvania, because their daughter was already setted there, but living arrangements with her weren’t permanent. Eventually, the Conigliaros were connected with the Interfaith Shelter.

“When we went into the shelter, we felt like we belonged there. We felt like we were part of something,” Mrs. Conigliaro expressed.

Like all residents of the 30-day shelter, they were given a private room, bedding and toiletries. Shelter staff connected Mr. Conigliaro to a steady job, and assisted the family in securing permanent housing while helping to care for their children.

“When we had nobody to help us, the people at the shelter opened their arms and opened their facility to us,” Mrs. Conigliaro said.

Since their stay at the Interfaith Shelter in 2011, the family has relocated to better neighborhoods, and John has received several promotions at his job. Their children are succeeding at school; a ten-year-old daughter is one of the top readers in her class, and a college-aged son recently began studies at Valley Forge University. Mrs. Conigliaro has since earned her GED and now is employed at the shelter, and said she feels blessed to be able to give to others in return for what she and her family have received.

“I can’t thank you enough for your support,” she told the crowd at the dinner. “It means so much to the families who have nothing. You have helped us become something.”

The Homes for Healing at the St. Samuel Center serve residents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at no charge to clients.

The Interfaith Shelter provides 30-day emergency shelter, assistance in securing permanent housing, food, clothing and baby supplies, and referrals for employment, healthcare and child care.

Lourdes House provides maternity care and residential services to pregnant women and their babies, including childbirth education, parenting classes, transportation and aftercare.

Evergreen House provides a safe and secure environment for women recovering from addiction. The program helps them achieve long-term recovery, find stable housing and learn job skills.

Donations of supplies, wish list items and monetary assistance can be made to the three Homes for Healing at any time of the year. For more information on assisting the programs, visit Catholic Charities’ Web site at www.cchbg.org or contact Christopher Meehan at 717-657-4804, ext. 264, or cmeehan@cchbg.org.

Catholic Charities Receives Reaccreditation

Following an 18 month process, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg received its 9th reaccreditation from the New York based Council on Accreditation (COA).

“The COA reviews are exhaustive and sometimes exhausting” said Pete Biasucci, the agency member who spearheaded the effort. The reaccreditation begins with the submission of an electronic self-study that documents each of the agency’s programs with adherence to hundreds of standards. The standards relate primarily to service and client care, although administrative and governance receive attention as well.

In addition to the self-study preparation and submission, the process includes comprehensive review of surveyors including clients, staff members, contractors, funders and board members. The final stage of the process is a four-day, on-site visit with reviewers from the council.

The reviewers begin their site visit with review of records. They then travel to the program sites to see agency facilities, and to interview clients as well as staff members. Members of the agency board of directors are also interviewed.

“During their visit, they maintain a packed schedule and seek to verify the information contained in the self-study,” Mr. Biasucci said. “This cycle, it seems that there was an emphasis on risk management, prevention and other client safety measures.”

The accreditation from COA is a voluntary review mechanism that ensures high quality, service delivery on a variety of levels. In addition to COA, Catholic Charities is also accredited under the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations’ Standards for Excellence (PANO), which requires adherence to standards relating to administration, fundraising, board membership and governance. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg is the only Catholic Charities in the state to hold both accreditations.

“These accreditations are extremely important to us” said Mark A. Totaro, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO of Catholic Charities. “They convey to our donors and funders that we have successfully achieved rigorous standards both programmatically and from a governance perspective.”

John and Marjorie Conigliaro recount their experience of overcoming homelessness through the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, during Catholic Charities’ annual “Come and See” dinner.

Gilda Villa examines Bishop Ronald Gainer’s Episcopal ring following the bishop’s keynote address at the “Come and See” dinner in Harrisburg Nov. 4. Mrs. Villa, 86, recently refurbished the draperies at the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, one of the three Homes for Healing operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.
By Chris Heisey
*The Catholic Witness*

Last year on a balmy November day, the Shamrocks of Trinity High School’s girls’ soccer team felt the sting of losing the state final. A year later, with a cold, stiff wind in their face and temps barely in the 30s, the Shamrocks scored two goals in the first half to jump on top of the Centurions of Greensburg Central Catholic.

When Trinity’s midfielder Ashley Rogliano netted her third goal midway through the second half, the thrill of victory was blowing with the polar breeze at their back. With the 3-0 win, the Shamrocks won the Class A PIAA State Championship at Hersheypark Stadium and finished a stellar season at 22-1-2.

Trinity’s run through the state championship bracket after winning the District 3 championship was hardly a breeze. They beat Christopher Dock in overtime and bested Warrior Run 3-2 in penalty kicks to advance to Hershey.

“It’s an awesome, awesome feeling,” hat trick scorer Ashley Rogliano said as her teammates celebrated around her. “I could not have done it without my teammates.”

While the Shamrocks can score goals, it’s their defense that won this championship, paced by goalie Amanda Knaub, who made three critical stops on Greensburg Central Catholic, who had their chances in the match’s early going. And junior defender Emily D’Amico shutdown the Centurions’ leading scorer (59-goal scorer Bailey Cartwright) and in the second half, Trinity’s goal was not threatened.

“We just worked so hard this year,” Emily D’Amico said. “To get so close last year and lose last year, it was just an awful feeling. To come back this year and redeem ourselves is just the best feeling in the world.”

Trinity Earns Redemption in State Final Win
Winning the last football game of the season in December is always the mission of the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt High School. After an undefeated regular season this year, the Crusaders are poised to make their annual run at that Class AAA state title that has heartbreakingly eluded the program.

With two solid wins to begin the District 3 playoffs, the Crusaders seem destined to win their fifth straight District gold come November’s end. The Crusaders are led by senior signal caller Nick Marsilio, who has multiple wideouts with great speed and size to break a big play on any given down. And Andre Robinson, future Nittany Lion, is a running back that dazzles with his slashing cuts and is rarely brought down with one tackler.

Defense wins championships, they say, and McDevitt’s front is not easily pushed around. They blanked run-happy Cumberland Valley from a touchdown in September. To win that last game in December at Hersheypark Stadium, it seems stopping the run will be a must to hoist the championship trophy.

When Bishop McDevitt played Manheim Central in the second round of the District 3 Class AAA football championships at Rocco Ortenzio Stadium, the Crusaders’ 35-10 victory over the Barons marked the last game for legendary head coach Mike Williams, who coached at Manheim Central for 34 years. In those three and half decades, he won 348 games, 20 Lancaster-Lebanon League Section 2 titles, 16 District championships, including 10 straight during the 1990s, and the AAA state title in 2003.

Coach Williams is a faithful parishioner at St. Richard Parish in Manheim, which is located right next to the football field in the history-rich town.
Lourdes Regional Welcomes Bishop for Celebration of Mass

Students, faculty and the community of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township came together Nov. 5 in the school’s gymnasium for Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer during a pastoral visit to the PreK-12 school.

Before Mass began, the younger students sang several songs of praise. The young voices echoed through the gym, ready for prayer and the solemn Mass. The students welcomed the bishop with smiles and song, and to start his homily, he gave the students a homework assignment. He asked the students to go home and thank their parents for their choice of a Catholic education.

Lourdes Regional is currently home to more than 480 students in grades PreK-12, as it has focused on increased enrollment. This past summer saw upgrades and renovations to the school, including energy-efficient windows and a resealed parking lot, as officials continue to consider future upgrades. Lourdes Regional has been spreading Catholic education in the coal region since it opened its doors to students in September of 1959. For more information on Lourdes, visit www.lourdes.k12.pa.us.

At Lourdes, Sister Celebrates 50 Years of Education

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Painters have a piece of work on canvas after their job is complete, doctors watch as their patient recovers, even journalists like me get to see a finished product. But how often does a teacher get to see a child they taught as an adult?

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Theresa Vincent Kozlowski was recognized at this year’s Diocesan Education Conference for 50 years of service in Catholic education. In a recent interview at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township where she is now assigned, Sister Theresa said her fondest memory is returning to Lourdes after some 25 years of service in several other schools throughout the dioceses of Allentown and Harrisburg and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and teaching the children of parents she had taught in years prior. For her, it was coming full circle to see them with children of their own. And even though she has taught in three different dioceses and at least 12 schools, Sister Theresa said, “Children are children wherever you go.”

Her favorite subject to teach is religion because, Sister Theresa said, “You see the innocence of the children in the lower grades and they eat up everything you say.” And she feels blessed and is thankful to the Lourdes community for having her there to continue to participate in education, attending sporting events and being there to congratulate the athletes during their success.

When asked if there was a specific student that stands out in her 50 years of education ministry, she spoke about a child she remembered while teaching at St. Jerome School in Tamaqua, Pa., who would cry every day because she missed her mother. Sister Theresa would share in the girl’s sorrow and tell her she missed her mother, too. Eventually the child would feel better. This child is now grown and is a teacher in Harrisburg. Sister Theresa said she received a letter from her, explaining that Sister was the reason the woman decided to become a teacher, because of her kindness to her as a student.

Sister Theresa shared her advice for a new teacher: “Don’t be discouraged. The first year is a learning experience.” She feels it is important to keep the enthusiasm throughout the years, and commented about her own enthusiasm for her students: “Mine is from the glory of God. If you love what you are doing, you will continue. Because the children are so special and you watch your classes grow, they can do so many different things.”
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, thousands of people from Italy, Tyrol, and present-day Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia left their homelands behind and immigrated to the Mount Carmel area to mine a great-nephew, Jared Shutt.

One of them, the Lithuania immigrant Casimira Kaupas, who became Mother Maria Kaupas, returned in spirit Nov. 2 to Mount Carmel, the place where she took some of her first steps toward sainthood over a century ago. Her journey was commemorated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Divine Redeemer Church as part of efforts by the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Sisters of St. Casimir and Divine Redeemer Parish.

"How wonderful it is to welcome her spirit back to the community," said Father Martin Moran, pastor. He blessed a portrait of Mother Maria donated by the Sisters of St. Casimir, the congregation she founded. The artwork was carried to a prominent place near the altar by Marion Wydra, one of Divine Redeemer's oldest Lithuanian members, who was accompanied by her great-nephew, Jared Shutt.

Mother Maria was declared venerable in 2010. Her cause is awaiting confirmation of one miracle that would permit her canonization as a saint.

"On behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, I am very happy to express our gratitude and excitement to the Sisters of St. Casimir for their provincial council and to Father Moran for these initiatives that are emerging to honor the legacy and promote knowledge of the good works of the Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas," Bishop Ronald Gainer noted in a statement.

"This holy, valiant woman's life, faith, her devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist, her courage and deep trust in God enabled her to respond generously to the needs of her time. This is the charism that inspires the Sisters of St. Casimir and so many others who are leading the cause for Mother Maria's canonization moves forward and as we eagerly await her canonization," he said.

"We feel very blessed at this time, because the love for Mother Maria Kaupas continues to grow ever wider, embracing and inspiring many more toward holiness of life and service in God's name." The superior general pointed out the appropriateness of Mother Maria Kaupas' return "in a way, the love for Mother Maria Kaupas has come to full circle through the efforts to give her a place of honor in Mount Carmel, home of the first mission of the Sisters of St. Casimir," she stated. "How appropriate that her portrait was placed near the statue of the Sacred Heart. There is a beautiful experience related in Mother Maria's account of the founding in which she describes how she and two other sisters entered the house where they were to live. In the entrance was a statue of the Sacred Heart. The three of them knelt down. Mother Maria writes that one hand of Jesus was placed on his heart and the other was extended toward the windows. She said that it was as if she could hear him say, 'My love has gathered you here.' I believe that that same love is gathering us together once again."

"Something new is happening in the Mount Carmel area, and the Sisters of St. Casimir, former teachers there, are saying it is truly a blessed renewal," commented Sister Margaret Petcavage, who directs the cause of Mother Maria Kaupas. "Through the inspirational leadership of the pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish, Father Moran, and his parishioners, the devotion to Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas has taken a wonderful revival."

"Mother Maria and her first two sister companions arrived in Mt. Carmel in 1897 when she opened up the first Sisters of St. Casimir School at Holy Cross. How awesome to think that a true American saint had walked the streets of Mount Carmel for the three years when she had taught there," she said.

"It is also quite probable that Mother Maria Kaupas actually prayed in Divine Redeemer Church [then Our Mother of Consolation] for the Sisters of St. Casimir that great devotion to visit churches on Holy Thursday. Mother Maria always held a special place in her heart for the little town and its people. Subsequently, several young women entered the community from Mount Carmel and touched many people's lives," Sister Margaret Petcavage noted Mother Maria cherished the Harrisburg place in which she lived. Bishop John Shanahan supported the efforts to found the Sisters of St. Casimir and placed a special interest in this new community. "How blessed are we that Bishop Gainer is following in Bishop Shanahan's footsteps by continuing that tremendous work and place the Sisters of St. Casimir, Mother Maria, a saint of the Coal Region." "It was a parishioner at the former Holy Cross Parish and part of local efforts to honor Mother Maria. "Not only the Lithuanian community, but our entire community was truly blessed to have had the physical presence of Mother Maria Kaupas in our community and to know that through this saint the students of the Sisters of St. Casimir was found and that sisterhood is found within our borders," he said. "We are equally blessed to have her spirit watch over us today and pray that soon one day, the people of the Mount Carmel Area can have their own patron- (This article by Walt Kozlowski originally appeared in the The Catholic Witness, November 21, 2014, with permission.)

By Walt Kozlowski
Special to The Witness

Those of Lithuanian descent joined Father Martin Moran, pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, on Nov. 2 for a photo surrounding a new portrait of Mother Maria Kaupas, which was donated to the parish. Seated is Marian Wydra. Standing are, from left, Father Moran, Carol Ann Luschas, Jared Shutt, Greg Sacavace, Eleonore (Guzevich) Mann, Evelyn Pedergranda, (Yonelevich), Evelyn (Savage) Wozney and Anna (Caltinan) DiFranco.

COURTESY OF ROB WHEELERY AND THE NEWS-ITEM

2013 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients

A Womans Concern of Lancaster $1,500
Birthright of Sunday, Inc. of Selinsgrove $1,000
Brethren Housing Association of Harrisburg $7,500
Carlisle Area Family Life Center of Carlisle $1,000
Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. $2,500
CC Evergreen House of Harrisburg $10,000
CC Interfaith Shelter of Harrisburg $10,000
CC Lourdeshouse Maternity Services of Harrisburg $10,000
Catholic Harvest Food Pantry of York $5,000
Domestic Violence Services of Carlisle $5,000
Gate House Shelter of Danville $5,000
Healthy Steps Diaper Bank of Harrisburg $10,000
Manos Unidas American Center of Gettysburg $10,000
Mary's Helpers of Steelton $10,000
Morning Star Pregnancy Services of Harrisburg $3,000
New Hope Ministry of Mechanicsburg $2,500
Off The Streets of Lancaster $2,500
OMPH Benevolent Society of Ephrata $2,500
Our Lady of Hope Food Pantry of Coal Township $4,000
Parish Outreach Through Soup of Kulpmont $10,000
Pennsylvania National Race Track Chaplaincy of Granville $10,000
Pregnancy & Family Resource Center of York $10,000
Saint Francis Soup Kitchen of Mount Hope $10,000
Salvation Army of Harrisburg $7,000
San Juan Baptista Social Outreach of Lancaster $10,000
Shalom House of Harrisburg $10,000
Shining Light Thrift Shop of Harrisburg $10,000
Silence of Mary House of Harrisburg $10,000
Community & Human Services of Waynesboro $10,000
Weekend Food Program of Harrisburg $7,500
Total Granted $176,500

Please give in prayer and treasure.
With several minutes remaining before his 18th birthday on Aug. 7, Eagle Scout Miles Wagler was wide awake, completing the requirements for the last Scouting badge he earned at the annual St. George Trek, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting promotes. Emblems and patches can also be earned at any level.

The committee promotes religious emblems, recognitions and activities they’re learning in Catholic school or in religious education. "Scouting has made me a hardworking and dedicated person," he said. "It has made me a helpful and respectful person and leader."

Ethan Hess is a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, cuts boardbse for the laundry room at the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, where he completed his Eagle Scout project in September.

"I'm a completely different person from when I started Scouting," said Linda Brown, Chairperson of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS). "Throughout my years in Catholic Scouting, I've learned things you can do through Boy Scouts," Miles said, pointing to the myriad of badges ranging from First Aid, orienteering and conservation to woodworking, chemistry and electronics. "There is a badge for almost every job you could possibly want, for any interest you might have, and for knowledge about the Church that you didn’t know before." The Waglers – Miles’ siblings Grace, Liam, Pierce and Mercy also dedicated Scouts – also are members of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey. While Miles joined Troop 203 with the First United Methodist Church, he availed himself of faith-based opportunities offered through the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS).

Under the auspices of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the DCCS gives guidance, direction and leadership in the spiritual phase of Boy Scouting to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters in the diocese. The committee promotes religious emblem programs and holds Scouting development and training meetings, as well as an annual Boy Scout retreat in September at Camp Bashore, which includes religious activities, campouts and outdoor Mass.

A joint Mass for Catholic Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer is planned for April 19, 2015, at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill. Details will be available at www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting/ and in The Catholic Witness as the day draws near.

Through these various activities, the DCCS assists Scouts in deepening their faith and recognizing the ways in which the values associated with Scouting complement the teachings of the Catholic Church.

"The project was fulfilling to me, because the people I worked with and the people who came through the shelter, they were all people I wanted to help, and it made me feel good. I really enjoyed those moments," said Ethan. "I wanted to do something that I felt would be deserving of the Eagle rank, and that would help people in need," he said.

The Hess family considers Scouting as an extension of their Catholic faith. Ethan’s siblings Ava and Dylan are also involved in Scouting, and their parents Allison and Brian see the merits of the organization in their children’s lives.

"The experiences that they gain and the opportunities that they have to learn different things is of great value," Mr. Hess remarked. "They can go in the directions that they want to with the various merit badges. The boys have done welding, sail-boating, rock climbing, spelunking. We’ve done a 50-mile trek in the back of Canada canoeing and foraging for a week."

Service is a significant component, too, and the Hess family has assisted with the Special Olympics, food drives, toy drives, and collections of shoes for children. For Ethan, who joined the Scouts in first grade as an activity to share with his friends, Scouting has become an avenue for developing leadership, responsibility and virtue as a Catholic young man.

"Scouting has made me a hardworking and dedicated person," he said. "It has made me a helpful and respectful person and leader."

For information about Catholic Scouting, contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804, or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting. You can also check out the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DCCS. Harrisburg, PA

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

With that accomplishment, Miles had earned an awe-inspiring 102 merit badges in his three years and seven months as a Boy Scout with Troop 203 in Hershey. He has a patch blanket, featuring all 102 badges, a microphone wired to speakers inside a classroom, and shrubs in a rock bed to provide shelter for the birds.

Miles’ inspiring achievements are a testament to his determination, and to the wide range of educational opportunities and expansive activities that Scouting – and Catholic Scouting – can offer.

"There are a million things you can do through Boy Scouts," Miles said, pointing to the myriad of badges ranging from First Aid, orienteering and conservation to woodworking, chemistry and electronics. "There is a badge for almost every job you could possibly want, for any interest you might have, and for knowledge about the Church that you didn’t know before." The Waglers – Miles’ siblings Grace, Liam, Pierce and Mercy also dedicated Scouts – also are members of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey. While Miles joined Troop 203 with the First United Methodist Church, he availed himself of faith-based opportunities offered through the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS).

Under the auspices of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the DCCS gives guidance, direction and leadership in the spiritual phase of Boy Scouting to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters in the diocese. The committee promotes religious emblem programs and holds Scouting development and training meetings, as well as an annual Boy Scout retreat in September at Camp Bashore, which includes religious activities, campouts and outdoor Mass.

A joint Mass for Catholic Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer is planned for April 19, 2015, at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill. Details will be available at www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting/ and in The Catholic Witness as the day draws near.

The DCCS is also planning an inaugural summer camp for Boy Scouts from July 19-25, 2015, at Camp Tuckahoe in Dillsburg, with outdoor activities, prayer services, and programs on various saints and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Fulfilling Tasks

When Ethan Hess, a member of Troop 368 in Harrisburg, set out to plan and execute his Eagle Scout project, he wanted to take on a task that would be fulfilling.

“I wanted to do something that I felt would be deserving of the Eagle rank, and that would help people in need,” he said.

Ethan centered his efforts on the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg, which houses Catholic Charities’ three “Homes for Healing,” the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Lourdeshouse maternity home for women and their infants, and Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction.

For information about Catholic Scouting, contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804, or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting. You can also check out the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DCCS. Harrisburg, PA

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

With several minutes remaining before his 18th birthday on Aug. 7, Eagle Scout Miles Wagler was wide awake, completing the requirements for the last Scouting badge he earned at the annual St. George Trek, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting promotes. Emblems and patches can also be earned at any level.

With that accomplishment, Miles had earned an awe-inspiring 102 merit badges in his three years and seven months as a Boy Scout with Troop 203 in Hershey. He has a patch blanket, featuring all 102 badges, to provide it. It was on display at Miles’ Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the Hershey Gardens on his 18th birthday.

To earn his Eagle Scout honor, Miles planned and constructed a bird-feeding observation station at the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park in Cameron and Potter counties. The project includes bird feeders, a microphone wired to speakers inside a class-room, and shrubs in a rock bed to provide shelter for the birds.

Miles’ inspiring achievements are a testament to his determination, and to the wide range of educational opportunities and expansive activities that Scouting – and Catholic Scouting – can offer.

“There are a million things you can do through Boy Scouts,” Miles said, pointing to the myriad of badges ranging from First Aid, orienteering and conservation to woodworking, chemistry and electronics. "There is a badge for almost every job you could possibly want, for any interest you might have, and for knowledge about the Church that you didn’t know before.” The Waglers – Miles’ siblings Grace, Liam, Pierce and Mercy also dedicated Scouts – also are members of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey. While Miles joined Troop 203 with the First United Methodist Church, he availed himself of faith-based opportunities offered through the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS).

Under the auspices of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the DCCS gives guidance, direction and leadership in the spiritual phase of Boy Scouting to all Catholic Scouts and Scouters in the diocese. The committee promotes religious emblem programs and holds Scouting development and training meetings, as well as an annual Boy Scout retreat in September at Camp Bashore, which includes religious activities, campouts and outdoor Mass.

A joint Mass for Catholic Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer is planned for April 19, 2015, at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill. Details will be available at www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting/ and in The Catholic Witness as the day draws near.

The DCCS is also planning an inaugural summer camp for Boy Scouts from July 19-25, 2015, at Camp Tuckahoe in Dillsburg, with outdoor activities, prayer services, and programs on various saints and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Fulfilling Tasks

When Ethan Hess, a member of Troop 368 in Harrisburg, set out to plan and execute his Eagle Scout project, he wanted to take on a task that would be fulfilling.

“I wanted to do something that I felt would be deserving of the Eagle rank, and that would help people in need,” he said.

Ethan centered his efforts on the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg, which houses Catholic Charities’ three “Homes for Healing,” the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Lourdeshouse maternity home for women and their infants, and Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction.

For information about Catholic Scouting, contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804, or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting. You can also check out the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DCCS. Harrisburg, PA

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness
Visit
Continued from 1
the U.S. Congress had invited him to Washington, D.C., and that the secretary-general of the United Nations had invited him to New York.

“Maybe the three cities together, no?” Pope Francis said, adding that he could also visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico on the same trip — “but it is not certain.”

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters Nov. 17 that Pope Francis wanted to “guarantee organizers” that he would be present at the meeting in Philadelphia, “but he did not say anything about other possible stops or events during that trip. And for now I do not have anything to add in that regard.”

Although few details of the papal visit have made public, organizers for the families’ congress expect Pope Francis to arrive Sept. 25 for an afternoon public visit with civic officials. That would begin his first trip as pope to the United States and the second papal visit to Philadelphia in a generation; St. Pope John Paul II visited the city in 1979. The visit will mark the fourth time a sitting pontiff has visited the U.S.

Elections
Continued from 1
the communities that receive them.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle, USCCB secretary and chairman of the Committee on Priorities and Plans, told the bishops that a myriad of activities revolving around four key goals of the USCCB is an indication that “the conference planning process is working quite well.”

The current four goals, or priorities, are faith formation and sacramental practice; strengthening marriage and family life; the life and dignity of the human person; and religious liberty.

The bishops also heard a report on the work of various committees — pro-life, domestic justice, international justice, evangelization and religious liberty — which together are trying to pinpoint what Catholics in the pew are thinking and why they accept or disregard Church teaching.

The compilation of vast data is being assembled for the Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops to read and also will be relayed in a series of talks, discussions and activities. In the months leading up to the World Meeting of Families, The Catholic Witness is presenting a series of reflections on the ten themes of the conference. See page 4 for the start of this series.

Pope Francis is expected to celebrate a public Mass for an estimated 1 million people on Sept. 26 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in full view of the crowds arayed from the museum down the Ben Franklin Parkway.

Bishop John J. C. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the pope’s announcement.

“The presence of Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in our country will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will. Our great hope has been that the Holy Father would visit us next year to inspire our families in their mission of love. It is a blessing to hear the pope himself announce this much anticipated news,” Archbishop Kurtz said.

(Contributing to this story were Matt Gemmio in Philadelphia, Jen Reed in Harrisburg and Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.)

Visit
Continued from 1
Philadelphia has hosted St. Pope John Paul II’s visit, the city has “not had anything like this unique Festival of Families. It’s really going to be something special.”

Registration for the congress opened in mid-November. The meeting will be a weeklong series of talks, discussions and activities. In the months leading up to the World Meeting of Families, The Catholic Witness is presenting a series of reflections on the ten themes of the conference. See page 4 for the start of this series.

Pope Francis is expected to attend the Festival of Families Sept. 26, a cultural celebration for hundreds of thousands of people along Philadelphia’s main cultural boulevard, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families and its chief planner, said although

Elections
Continued from 1
Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, the committee — extended for another three years — planned to focus more on teaching and expounding rates “as with Catholic lay groups and interfaith and ecumenical partners. He said threats to religious liberty remain a great concern.

“The challenges to religious liberty with regard to the redefinition of marriage grow daily,” said Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, in his report.

He said that for several years, the subcommittee has “sought to defend marriage’s unique meaning, while also calling forth the real consequences and anticipated threats that marriage redefinition poses to religious liberty and freedom of conscience.”

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia formally opened its arms to the world as Archbishop Charles J. Chaput announced that registration has officially begun for the World Meeting of Families next year there.

On Nov. 10, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will mark the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Baltimore, the first diocese created for the United States. It was made an archdiocese in 1808.

Archbishop Lori said in his homily that all Catholics are heirs “to this precious legacy” set forth by the first nation’s first Catholic bishop — Bishop John Carroll.

“Let us humbly ask for the grace to build on the foundations that John Carroll set down,” Archbishop Lori said.

(Contributing to this round-up were Patricia Zapor, Mark Pattison and Carol Zimmermann.)

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 remembrance, please visit your local Diocesan cemetery office or online at www.hqdiocese.org/cemeteries.

All memorial wreaths will be reverently placed on or about the second week in December. Please ensure that your order is received by December 8, 2014. All memorial tribute orders must be in good condition will be displayed until February 28, 2015.

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

Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, invited the bishops to a 2015 Lay Ecclesial Ministry Summit. The June 7, 2015, event will mark the 10th anniversary of the bishops’ statement “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord.” It will be held just prior to the USCCB spring general assembly in St. Louis.

In elections, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans won the secretary-elect spot. The committee-chairmen-elect are: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, pro-life activities; Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis, communications; Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, cultural diversity; Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, doctrine; Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, national collections. Each will assume their offices next November for a three-year term.

The meeting included reports on the recently concluded extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, the ad limina visit to Hispanic students in underserved communities; the progress of planning for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia; the status of the 2013-16 USCCB strategic plan, “The New Evangelization: Faith, Worship, Witness”; the 2015 Fortnight of Freedom; and the defensive of marriage.

Several bishops who participated in the synod talked about their experience there, and also discussed it in one of three news conferences during the meeting’s public sessions. Cardinal Dolan said at the news conference that he thought reports of the synod as “confontational and divisive” conflicted with his impressions. “The one we were at was hardly as spicy and juicy,” he said.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington and chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, the committee — extended for another three years — planned to focus more on teaching and expounding rates “as with Catholic lay groups and interfaith and ecumenical partners. He said threats to religious liberty remain a great concern.

“The challenges to religious liberty with regard to the redefinition of marriage grow daily,” said Archbisho
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their families:

AUBBVTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Emma “Betty” Smith.


BONNEAUVILLE – St. Joseph the Worker: Yvonne Little, August Schwab, James Snearinger.


CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Theresa (Bokceko) Tutsic.

COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Kathleen Douchir.


GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Robert Staley.


HARRISBURG – Holy Name of Jesus: Laura W. Budd, Dolores J. Grubb; Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament: Shabon James Williams, Il; St. Catherine Laboratory: Stephen Wilsbach; St. Margaret Mary: Jessica L. Snyder, Louise Zimmerman.


NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Josephine Russ.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Joyce Cooper, Roger Glafelter-Krout.

NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Mary Martin.

ROARING CREEK – Our Lady of Mercy: Thomas Nazarchyk.

ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Cary Dors.

SELINGROVE – St. Pius X: Mary Spangler.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Madeline Letcavage Veronica (Vera) Schichcianito, Patricia Telkoskie.

ST. JOSEPH – St. Andrew: Esther Hockenberry.

YORK – St. Patrick: Antonetta Condon, Mary Sibol.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOWS AND BAZAARS

St. James Parish in Lititz will have its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 21 from 4-8 p.m. and Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Crafts, wreaths, floral arrangements and knitted items. White elephant sale, book sale, children’s room with games, activities and snacks, baked goods, basket raffle, 25 cent bingo, fish bowl and our popular raffle for fabulous prizes. St. James Café will be open Friday evening with hot and cold food items. Saturday’s menu includes light breakfast options, our famous soups, sandwiches, homemade pierogies and salads for lunch, and a ham/turkey dinner in the evening. Call the parish office at 717-626-5580.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove will hold its Christmas bazaar on Nov. 22 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call the parish office at 717-301-3877 for more information.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Quarryville will hold its annual Holy Craft Bazaar Nov. 22, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., with 33 vendors and featuring its 18th parishioner-handmade Christmas character mouse. Specialty breakfast burritos, homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, sausage muffin cakes on a stick, baked goods and hot meatball subs.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 22, at the State Drive Social Hall from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Walnut, poppyseed and apricot strudel, sugar cookies, homemade candies and caramels, gift baskets, jewelry and handbag boutique, chance booth, flea market items, a children’s booth and a Christmas booth. Kids will be served a lunch included with the fair. Reserve your table by calling 717-237-6253.

St. Aloysius Parish in Littlestown will hold its Holiday Bazaar Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish hall. Breakfast, lunch, delicious snacks, homemade baked goods, unique crafts and raffles. Vendors include: Stamp-it-Up, Wiggles and Whimsy, Simply Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl, Celadon Road, Azuli Skye, Avon, ScentSvy, It Works, Mary Kay, Spellbound Dragons, Golden Creations Alpacas, Celebrating Homes, Perfectly Posh Jewelry in Candles, Scent-Sations/ Mia Bella, Nerium and dotTERRA, Dove chocolates, Christmas decorations, flower arrangements and more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6855 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicstown will host Christmas Fest on Nov. 20 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Parish Life and Education Center. Silent auction, raffle, bingo, food and baked goods, entertainment, children’s games, face painting, Christmas crafts, religious items 18” doll clothes, Madame Alexander Dolls, jewelry, accessories, bags and scarves, book angels, stained glass, photography prints, cosmetics, candles, soaps and more. For more information, contact Valerie Spangler at vjdspn@verizon.net or 717-790-9172.

St. Columbus School in Bloomsburg will host its Winterfest Craft and Food Festival on Nov. 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school cafeteria and gym. Eat in or take out delicious homemade lunch selections and baked goods. Vendors include: Naturally Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl, Celadon Road, Azuli Skye, Avon, ScentSvy, It Works, Mary Kay, Spellbound Dragons, Golden Creations Alpacas, Celebrating Homes, Perfectly Posh Jewelry in Candles, Scent-Sations/ Mia Bella, Nerium and dotTERRA, Dove chocolates, Christmas decorations, flower arrangements and more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6855 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville will hold its annual Bazaar Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish hall and lunch will be available for purchase. For information, call 717-259-0611.

St. Pius X Parish in York will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Breakfast and lunch will be available. For information, call 717-259-0611.

St. John the Baptist Parish in York will hold its Holiday Bazaar Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase. For information, call the parish office at 717-225-1704.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown will hold its Holiday Bazaar Nov. 22, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase. For information, call the parish office at 717-225-1704.

Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in New Oxford will host its Winterfest Holiday Bazaar Dec. 6 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the New Oxford Social Club Pavilion. Find those special gifts while shopping over 30 vendors, including Fully Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl, Celadon Road, Azuli Skye, Avon, ScentSvy, It Works, Mary Kay, Spellbound Dragons, Golden Creations Alpacas, Celebrating Homes, Perfectly Posh Jewelry in Candles, Scent-Sations/ Mia Bella, Nerium and dotTERRA, Dove chocolates, Christmas decorations, flower arrangements and more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6855 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicstown will host Christmas Fest on Nov. 20 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Parish Life and Education Center. Silent auction, raffle, bingo, food and baked goods, entertainment, children’s games, face painting, Christmas crafts, religious items 18” doll clothes, Madame Alexander Dolls, jewelry, accessories, bags and scarves, book angels, stained glass, photography prints, cosmetics, candles, soaps and more. For more information, contact Valerie Spangler at vjdspn@verizon.net or 717-790-9172.

St. Columbus School in Bloomsburg will host its Winterfest Craft and Food Festival on Nov. 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school cafeteria and gym. Eat in or take out delicious homemade lunch selections and baked goods. Vendors include: Stamp-it-Up, Wiggles and Whimsy, Simply Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl, Celadon Road, Azuli Skye, Avon, ScentSvy, It Works, Mary Kay, Spellbound Dragons, Golden Creations Alpacas, Celebrating Homes, Perfectly Posh Jewelry in Candles, Scent-Sations/ Mia Bella, Nerium and dotTERRA, Dove chocolates, Christmas decorations, flower arrangements and more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6855 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville will hold its first Holy Bazaar on Dec. 6 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. featuring homemade crafts, jewelry, baked goods, and many more vendors. Food will be served in the Deacon Rich Weaver Parish Pavilion. Find those special gifts while shopping over 30 vendors, including Fully Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl, Celadon Road, Azuli Skye, Avon, ScentSvy, It Works, Mary Kay, Spellbound Dragons, Golden Creations Alpacas, Celebrating Homes, Perfectly Posh Jewelry in Candles, Scent-Sations/ Mia Bella, Nerium and dotTERRA, Dove chocolates, Christmas decorations, flower arrangements and more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6855 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville will hold its first Holy Bazaar on Dec. 6 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. featuring homemade crafts, jewelry, baked goods, and many more vendors. Food will be served in the Deacon Rich Weaver Parish Pavilion. Find those special gifts while shopping over 30 vendors, including Fully Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl, Celadon Road, Azuli Skye, Avon, ScentSvy, It Works, Mary Kay, Spellbound Dragons, Golden Creations Alpacas, Celebrating Homes, Perfectly Posh Jewelry in Candles, Scent-Sations/ Mia Bella, Nerium and dotTERRA, Dove chocolates, Christmas decorations, flower arrangements and more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6855 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.
Eucharist, winner of the 2014 Pro-Life Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, will speak about her personal and moving experiences as a pro-life advocate in a student campus workers’ council. The lecture begins with a Happy Hour at 7 p.m., followed by the speaker at 7:30 p.m. Please consider bringing a donation of baby clothing and diapers for WARM Babies Concern Pregnancy Resource Center. Visit www.totidagmane.com for information.

Retreats & Pilgrimages
Join Sister Mary Bednar, bishop of McDevitt High School’s “Santa 5K Run” will be held on Dec. 6. All participants have the choice to run or walk a 5K. The race and walk will begin and end at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Center Avenue, at 475 Table Rock Road. Registration is accepted up at race time, and the fees are $25 for the 5K run and $15 with a t-shirt ($10 without a t-shirt) for the 1-mile walk. Registrants for the 5K can join the walk at no additional charge. All proceeds will benefit the parish and its youth group. For event information, contact Heather Hoffman at hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org or call 717-273-7371.

Bishop McDevitt High School’s “Santa 5K Run” is set for Dec. 6. All participating will be encouraged to use non-perishable options for their child for grades 7-12 will have a chance to tour the school with teachers who will be answering questions, and hear from York Catholic students who will be mingling with guests and sharing personal experiences. For more information, contact Heather Hoffman at hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org or call 717-847-8511.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill invites all students, parents and parishioners to its Annual Breakfast on Nov. 23 from 1-3 p.m. See what life is like at Trinity – meet our students and faculty. No registration is required. Please direct any questions to the Admissions Office at 717-761-1112 x202.

Breakfast in Bethlehem will be held at St. Benedict the Abbott Parish in Lebanon on Dec. 6. Breakfast is provided by the Knights of Columbus with a one-man dramatization of the Nativity story presented by Father Michael Rothan, a member of St. Benedict the Abbott Parish and a member of the Knights of Columbus. For information and tickets, send an e-mail to doreypjs@aol.com or call 717-273-7371.

The Lancaster Catholic High School Fine and Performing Arts Program will host Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 13 from 8-10 a.m. Breakfast with Santa will be presented Dec. 6 at 4:30 p.m. – 15

Diocesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

**SUSTAINABLE OFFERINGS**

Children’s Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Tuesday in Advent at St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster in the Adoration Chapel in the Lower Church from 4-5 p.m. Children are welcome to bring their own free fruits and vegetables. Please use the handicap accessible. For information, or to learn about starting children’s adoration in your parish, call Mrs. Wam Catechetist, at 717-392-9135.

The Holy Day with Prayers for Healing will be celebrated Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Theressa Church in New Cumberland, by Father Samuel House. Please note the time change for this month’s issue.

The Magnificent Prayer Group welcomes all to a Charis- mass with prayers for healing at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 at St. Joseph Church in York. Prelude music will begin at 6:30 p.m. by Father Louis Pelucki, OPM. Cap., pastor, will administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to any Catholic in attendance who wishes to receive it. Prayer teams will be available for anyone who wishes to be accompanied by the prayer team following the Mass. For more information, contact Lynne by 717-845-7033 or Paul at 717-757-3441, or visit www.sjzy.org.

St. John of Arc Parish in Hershey will participate in the 28th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life Dec. 8 from 8 p.m.-midnight. The right of prayer unites churches across the country in prayer to end abortion and to restore life and religious liberty to America. The service will take place at both evening and morning sessions. Morning sessions begin with Mass at 9 a.m., and evening sessions begin at 7 p.m. Monday’s topic is What God’s Word Says! “Why Should We Have a ‘Right to Work?’” Wednesday’s topic is “Ten kinds of people we don’t have to love.”

**EDUCATION, ENRICHMENT & SUPPORT**

Are you, or someone you know, experiencing feelings of grief and loss? Join Donna Cori Gibson and Lauren Credner, Bereavement Counselor at the Pathways Center for Grief & Loss at Hospice & Community Care, will discuss challenges faced by the bereaved during the holiday season during a seminar at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia Nov. 21 from 2-3 p.m. RSVP to Christina Gallagher, 717-285-5443.

An Advent Evening of Reflection, sponsored by St. Katha- reined Drexl Parish Council of Catholic Women in Mechanics- burg, will be held Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. in the parish center. “Run with Me” is a presentation by Reverend Lisa M. Ammerman, who will encounter Him not only in the manner of Christmas morning, but also in the least of our brothers and sisters. Catholics are called to live their faith – not just in church, but in the public square. For further information, call Stella at 717-326-7336.

St. Clare’s for Justice will hold a “Check Us Out” event from 12-2 p.m. at the high school. Live families will give an informational option for their child for grades 7-12 will have a chance to tour the school with teachers who will be answering questions, and hear from York Catholic students who will be mingling with guests and sharing personal experiences. For more information, contact Heather Hoffman at hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org or call 717-847-8511.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill invites all students, parents and parishioners to its Annual Breakfast on Nov. 23 from 1-3 p.m. See what life is like at Trinity – meet our students and faculty. No registration is required. Please direct any questions to the Admissions Office at 717-761-1112 x202.

Breakfast in Bethlehem will be held at St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon on Dec. 6. Breakfast is provided by the Knights of Columbus with a one-man dramatization of the Nativity story presented by Father Michael Rothan, a member of St. Benedict the Abbott Parish and a member of the Knights of Columbus. For information and tickets, send an e-mail to doreypjs@aol.com or call 717-273-7371.

Bishop McDevitt High School’s “Santa 5K Run” is set for Dec. 6. All participants have the choice to run or walk a 5K or 1 mile loop. All participants receive and race in a Santa hat. Additional registration fee of $20 is due at the race for non-parishioners. Parents and students are $20 and students are $20 before Nov. After Nov. 30, price increases to $30 and race on-site registration fees are $30. Contact Heather Hoffman at hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org or call 717-273-7371.


St. Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville will host an Advent Reflection Afternoon entitled “Sing O’ Corne,” presented by Sister Jeanne Ambre, SSCM, on Dec. 6 from 1-4:55 p.m. The afternoon will reflect on the season of Advent through readings and prayer, and will highlight the order of purification, the learning of the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies and the purpose of the Incarnation. Offering is $20 with registration deadline of Dec. 1. Register by calling 717-273-5851 or by visiting www.sscm.org and clicking on “current events.”

Tri-County Young Adults/Theology On Tap (Adams, Franklin, and Lebanon Counties) is a free monthly theol- ogy on tap also to be open during the same time for your housing holiday.

An evening of Christmas Jazz will be presented Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Patrick Catholic Cathedral in Harrisburg. The evening will begin in a tribute to the great music of Christmas. Guaraldi from his Charlie Brown Christmas soundtrack. It is a Jazz Trio comprised of Kevin Myers on piano, Andrew Bibrey on drums, and Adam Morey on the bass. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music department at the Cathedral Parish.

The Sacred Heart School Development Committee will host an “All We Need” Christmas Store on Dec. 10 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Conewago. Once again, Chef Wade will be whipping up omelets with cheese, ham, bacon, sausage, green pepper, onions and mushrooms, with help from seventh-grade as- sociate principal, MaKayla. New to the menu this year will be our special holiday breakfast. Our menu will also include beef grilled steak, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, donuts, fruit salad, cottage cheese, fruit and orange juice. The cost of an all-you-need breakfast is $8 for those ages 12 and older and $8.00, $6 for children 6-11, and free for children five and under.

The Order of Malta presents Donna Cori Gibson in concert, “A Traditional Christmas” on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church in Lancaster. Journey through the Christmas story from the perspective of Mary, as she may have experienced it. This unique Christmas program will offer a meditative experience of the birth of our Savior. Once a professional singer/songwriter in New York’s secular market and now a lay Carmelite, Donna has been on a series of Christmas carols, hymns and original songs, offering a unique way to reflect on the story. Celebrate Christmas with the Way Bray from the Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren, admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music ministry of St. Joseph and the Cathedral parishes.

St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg will host its Second Annual Noreen Neitz Memorial Run on The Rock 5K and Sufficiently tovodam. The event will begin and end at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Center Avenue, at 475 Table Rock Road. Registration is accepted up at race time, and the fees are $25 for the 5K run and $15 with a t-shirt ($10 without a t-shirt) for the 1-mile walk. Registrants for the 5K can join the walk at no additional charge. All proceeds will benefit the parish and its youth group. For event information, contact Heather Hoffman at hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org or call 717-326-7336, ext. 329.

The Catholic Theology on Tap – Lancaster will have its next gathering, “Shepherding the Poor,” scheduled for Dec. 10 at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub in Lancaster. Delores
Bishop Ronald Gainer made a pastoral visit to Saint Mark the Evangelist Church in Greencastle on Nov. 9 – the Feast of the Dedication of the Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome, which is the oldest and first of the four Papal basilicas of Rome and houses the cathedra (or chair) of the Pope and the Diocese of Rome. Bishop Gainer celebrated Holy Mass for more than 350 faithful and his homily highlighted the historical significance of the archbasilica.

Concelebrating Mass with the bishop was Father Joseph Stahura – pastor at Saint Mark’s and its mission church, Saint Luke’s in Mercersburg, for nearly 30 years.

Bishop Ronald Gainer blessed Father Joseph Stahura as the pastor proclaims the Gospel reading.