Saint Veneration...

Knights of Columbus members Al Kotlarski, left, and Michael Gilmartin place a reliquary containing relics of St. Margaret Mary near the altar at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Lebanon Oct. 31. The relics visited several parishes in the diocese this past week. See page 6 for coverage.

... and Celebration

Father James Lease, chaplain at York Catholic High School, joins Bishop Joseph P. McFadden in the celebration of a stirring Mass for the school community on All Saints Day. See more photos on page 6.
Bishop Addresses House Panel on ‘Grave Threats to Religious Liberty’

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

Recent “grave threats to religious liberty” serve as “grim validations” of the U.S. bishops’ decision last June to create a special committee to address those issues, Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., told a House subcommittee Oct. 26.

Bishop Lori, appointed in late September to chair the bishops’ new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence require government “to acknowledge and protect religious liberty as fundamental, no matter the moral or political trends of the moment.”

But in recent days, he said, “the bishops of the United States have watched with increasing alarm as this great national legacy of religious liberty, so profoundly in harmony with our own teachings, has been subject to ever more frequent assault and even more rapid erosion.”

In written testimony before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution, Bishop Lori called for “corrective action by Congress” to address six national legacy of religious liberty, so profoundly in harmony with our own teachings, has been subject to ever more frequent assault and even more rapid erosion.”

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The federal legislation, which was passed

The group meets once a month to discuss and promote domestic violence legislation. These meetings took on a renewed urgency during October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month – since the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is set to take place this year.

The federal legislation, which was passed in 1994, set out to improve criminal justice and community responses to domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. It also outlined grant programs to prevent violence against women, established a national domestic violence hotline and gave new protections to victims of domestic violence. The act was reauthorized in 2000 and 2005.

During an Oct. 18 Capitol Hill news briefing on this legislation, sponsored by the Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition, speakers stressed that the legislation’s upcoming reauthorization should more clearly designate a federal partnership with local faith communities.

Speakers from a variety of faith traditions noted that religious groups are often first responders for abused women who don’t know where to turn and these groups could significantly benefit from funding and training in how to best respond to these critical situations.

Each speaker stressed the enormity of the Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition’s role in providing crisis intervention and referrals to local service providers.

She recounted one example where a woman who sought the help of her faith community did not end up getting good advice. When the woman, who had been physically and emotionally abused by her husband, found out that her husband had also been sexually abusing his stepdaughter, she immediately sought the advice of a church leader. He in turn advised her to “go back home to your husband,” citing the passage from Ephesians admonishing wives to be submissive to their husbands.

The U.S. Catholic bishops addressed that specific biblical passage in their 1992 document “Letter to the Bishops of the Church: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women.” The bishops condemned the use of any form, stressing that men and women are created in God’s image and should treat each other with dignity and respect.

The document, updated in 2002, says that “violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified” and “no person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage.”

At the briefing, Loribeth Weinstein, executive director of Jewish Women International, echoed the notion that religious leaders need to be trained and educated about domestic violence issues because they “serve as powerful role models who can connect women to social services.”

Weinstein described the Violence Against Women Act as “landmark legislation for acknowledging domestic violence as a crime and providing federal funds and resources to fight these crimes.”

She said the reauthorized legislation could have an even broader reach if it connected with faith groups and made it easier for them to apply for funding. Currently, she said the provisions of the act are so confusing that many faith groups simply do not apply for funding.

Weinstein also said the reauthorized legislation should do more to address abuse of elderly and college women as well as elderly abuse.

“We are confident in your trust: a relative, friend or church leader.

Recognize you’re not alone; help is available.

Confide in someone you trust: a relative, friend or church leader.

Set up a plan of action to ensure your safety. Hide car keys, personal documents and money in a safe place. Determine somewhere to go in an emergency.

Find local resources that help battered women and their children. Counselors at Catholic Charities agencies can provide emergency assistance and other help.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides crisis intervention and referrals to local service providers. Call 800-799-SAFE (7233) or 800-787-3224 or e-mail ndvh@ndvh.org.

The Rev. Susan Newman, an associate pastoral minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, said abused women are “going to go to church” not only to seek refuge but to look for direction, illustrating the importance of clergy education so church leaders “know how to help people in these situations.”

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School Choice Victory in the Senate

By A.B. Hill

Pennsylvania students and their families are one step closer to getting assistance in the exercise of their right to choose a school that they believe best meets their needs. On Oct. 26, the Pennsylvania Senate passed Senate Bill 1, the Opportunity Scholarship Act, by a vote of 27-22. The measure will now be considered by the House of Representatives in the coming weeks.

Earlier, the Senate Education Committee amended the proposed legislation to reflect Governor Tom Corbett’s plan to create a pilot program for school vouchers and increase the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

The proposed voucher program will be a pilot program, and the neediest students attending the worst performing public schools get the vouchers first. In the second year, every qualified student who lives in the geographic boundary of the failing schools can get a voucher, even if they are already attending a nonpublic school.

Senate Bill 1 lists 144 schools that will qualify for vouchers. The list includes elementary, middle and high schools that have persistently scored in the lowest 5% of statewide tests.

The income qualifications are based on a sliding scale. Families whose income is at 130% of the federal poverty limit or less qualify for a voucher up to 100% of the state subsidy amount for their school. That amounts to about $20,000 a year for a family of four. Families above 130% but below 185% of the poverty limit can get a voucher worth 75% of the subsidy. A family of four at this level can earn up to $41,000 a year. Families can use the voucher to attend any school they choose - private, parochial or even another public school.

The average per pupil state subsidy is between $8,000 and $9,000; each school district is different. The maximum voucher would be based on the actual subsidy amount for the specific school the child attends. Vouchers cannot pay for more than the actual amount of tuition charged. Under this formula, the voucher would adequately cover tuition at Catholic schools.

The school choice proposal also includes a significant increase to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program that provides scholarships to students no matter where they live. The income guidelines for EITC qualify middle class families too. And once vouchers are available, many of the lowest income students who get an EITC scholarship now will get a voucher, freeing up more EITC dollars for others. Senate Bill 1 would fund EITC at $100 million in the first two years, $125 million in the third year with scheduled increases in all future years.

Concerned citizens are encouraged to thank their state Senators who voted in favor of Senate Bill 1 and school choice. And to voice their support to their state Representatives by visiting, writing, faxing or emailing using the online tools of the Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network. Go to www.pacatholic.org/schoolchoice to learn more and send your email message to your state legislators. (Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.)

Special thanks to the state Senators who voted in favor of Senate Bill 1 and school choice:

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Local Church News

Immediate Full Time Vacancy
Business Analyst/Project Manager

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking an experienced analyst/manager with a proven track record of software implementation. We are looking for an individual who has a strong background in defining businesses processes and determining technology capabilities to support key business objectives. Must be able to demonstrate analytical insight, problem solving, project management and application expertise to support the development of processes and applications.

The successful candidate will be an effective communicator (written & verbal) and have excellent skills in the following areas: trouble-shooting; project management and application expertise to support the development of processes and applications.

The successful candidate will also have skills pertaining to application development and database support. Please send résumé and cover letter to employment@hbgdiocese.org or mail application to:
Director of Human Resources
4800 Union Deposit Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Closing date Friday November 11

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s
Public Calendar

- November 4 - Confirmation, Our Lady of the Visitation Church, Shippenburg, 5:30 p.m.
- November 5 - Confirmation, St. Peter Church, Elizabethtown, 10 a.m.
- November 6 - Mass remembering the deceased Knights of Columbus, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 12:15 p.m.
- November 7 - Confirmation, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lewistown, 5:30 p.m.
- November 8 - Speak to Catholic Coaches on Catholic Identity, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 6:30 p.m.
- November 9 - Confirmation, St. Aloysius Church, Latrobe, 5:30 p.m.
- November 11 - Blessing of painting of St. Maria Goretti and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Pauline Center, Kulpmont, 6 p.m.
- November 12 - Mass for Diocesan Catechetical Conference, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
- November 13-16 - USCCB General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.

Marian Tea

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of heavenly tea, celestial conversation, and divine fare, to support the efforts of the Diocese of Harrisburg in assisting women who are discerning a vocation to religious life.

Date: December 3, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Cardinal Keeler Center
Cost: $25.00

For individual seating or full table (6) reservations, please visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org/mariantea, or call (717) 657-4804, ext. 282.

Please reserve seating by November 28, 2011

During our afternoon together we will pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary for vocations to the religious life.
Memorial Archive Honors Distinguished Attorney William Bentley Ball

By Father Paul CB Schenck
Special to The Witness

On Monday night, October 17 in the Good n’ Plenty restaurant in Lancaster, it was my honor to “unveil” the William Bentley Ball Memorial Archive to be located in the shadow of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. I was there together with William Ball’s daughter, Virginia “Ginny” Duncan, Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, and Ginny’s mother, Mrs. Caroline Ball.

The late William Bentley Ball, a Harrisburg attorney, became a distinguished U.S. Supreme Court Advocate. He argued nine cases as lead counsel before the High Court and assisted in 23 others. In his multiple appearances before State Supreme Courts, Federal Appellate Courts and the United States Supreme Court, Attorney Ball defended religious freedom as the first freedom and a fundamental human right.

Mr. Ball graduated from The University of Notre Dame School of Law in 1948. Upon graduation he practiced corporate law as a lawyer for W.R. Grace, Conshy and Pizifer, and served as a founding faculty member of the Villanova University Law School. Mr. Ball was active in the Pennsylvania Equal Rights Council, the Christian Legal Society and the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. He also served as the executive director and legal counsel for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference in Harrisburg.

In 1968 he founded the law firm of Ball, Skel- hy, Murrow, and Conley with offices in Harris- burg which then served as legal counsel for the Pennsylvania Conference. His landmark case, Wisconsin v. Jourdan, involved a state agreement that all children attend a public school un- til 16, which the Amish community violated. First Amendment rights. Mr. Ball represented the Amish, contending that the Wisconsin law violated their fundamental human rights, specifically their right to religious freedom.

One of the issues of greatest concern to Mr. Ball was the primacy of parents in the education and nurture of their children. He is rightly credited as having laid a foundation stone for the school choice movement. In one of his most famous cases, Zobrest v. Catalina Foot- hills School District (1993) he established the legal precedent now being used for the defense of voucher or educational credits by the propo- nents of parental choice. In that case, he suc- cessfully vindicated the right of a hearing-im- paired Catholic school student to the assistance of a sign-language interpreter provided by the local public school district.

William Ball was also a strong pro-life advocate. His defense of the inalienable Right to Life as a fundamental human right was a polestar in his life work and informed his legal, political, cultural and social participation. He lived a life of moral coherence and worked to build coalitions and alliances with others ded- icated to the fundamental human rights concerns of our age. Among his writings were two influ- ential books, “Mere Creatures of the State: On Education, Religion and the Courts” and “In Search of a National Catholic Consensus: A Manifesto for Evangelicals and Catholics”.

William Bentley Ball, in a sense, left two legacies. One developed in a physical place of honor, where his legal work, writings and art- objects will be displayed, in a living legacy that will continue his work. In the words of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, he is one of those “great men” needed at this critical time in history. The William Bentley Ball Memo- rial Archives on Capitol Hill, located in the Justice William Oustowski House of the Na- tional Pro-Life Center will be the location of that work. The website is www.Williambenten- leyball.com.

(Former Paul CB Schenck, Director of the Respect Life Office in the Diocese of Harris- burg, is also Chairman of the National Pro- Life Center in Washington, D.C.)
Bishop Leads Faithful in Prayers for Peace

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of Blessed John Paul II’s Assisi Peace Gatherings which drew representatives of various faiths together to pray for peace, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden led an eucharistic prayer service in Harrisburg to begin the World Vigil of Prayer for Peace. The service took place at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Oct. 26, on the eve of a peace gathering Pope Benedict XVI convened in Assisi (See story below). Elsewhere in the Diocese of Harrisburg that evening, Catholics were encouraged to visit Perpetual Adoration chapels to pray for world peace.

In his homily during the prayer service, Bishop McFadden spoke of the source of true peace.

“We know that true peace is not the product of human beings. It comes when we let God live within us,” he said. “This is the challenge in the world: to have God live among us.”

“The instrument Christ used to bring peace into the world was the cross,” the bishop said. “It is on the cross that Jesus reaches out to his enemies. ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.’

“Unconditional love does not return injury for injury, it returns love for injury,” Bishop McFadden said.

The 1986 Assisi Peace Gathering brought together leaders of different faiths to send a message that religion builds bridges, and highlighted the importance of prayer in bringing about peace.

Bishop McFadden also underscored the significance of prayer, urging believers to “keep our hands high in prayer.”

Top: Altar servers Chris DeVine (foreground) and Mick Devine join in the entrance procession into St. Patrick Cathedral for the World Vigil of Prayer for Peace. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden led the eucharistic service for peace in the world.

Bottom: Lena Crudup (foreground) and Joyce Clark sing a hymn during the World Vigil of Prayer for Peace Oct. 26. The Vigil commemorated the 25th anniversary of Blessed John Paul II’s Assisi Peace Gatherings and was held on the eve of a peace gathering convened by Pope Benedict XVI.

Believers Must Oppose Violence to Promote Peace, True Faith, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Taking 300 religious leaders with him on pilgrimage to Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said people who are suspicious of religion cannot be blamed for questioning God’s existence when they see believers use religion to justify violence.

“It’s their struggle and questioning is, in part, an appeal to believers to purify their faith so that God, the true God, becomes accessible,” the pope said Oct. 27 during an interfaith gathering in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

Marking the 25th anniversary of the first Assisi interfaith gathering for peace, hosted by Blessed John Paul II in 1986, Pope Benedict brought together the religious leaders and, for the first time, four philosophers who describe themselves as humanists or seekers who do not identify with any single religion.

After a train ride of almost two hours from the Vatican, Pope Benedict and his guests arrived in Assisi and were driven to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels for the morning gathering focused on “testimonies for peace.”

Entering the basilica before the pope, the delegates created an unusually colorful congregation: They wore white, black or crimson robes or business suits; on their heads were skullcaps, turbans, scarves or veils.

The pope condemned the use of religion to excuse violence and the use of violence to impose a religion, as well as the growing violence resulting from “the loss of humanity” that comes from denying the existence of God and of objective moral standards.

“As a Christian, I want to say at this point: Yes, it is true, in the course of history, force has also been used in the name of the Christ.

Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 27. (CNS/Paul Haring)
Father Michael Reid, left, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon, and Father Antoine Bergeret, chaplain of the Sanctuary of Paray-le-Monial in France, kneel before relics of St. Margaret Mary during the relics’ visit to the Lebanon parish Oct. 31. The relics visited several parishes in the diocese this week.

“God wants us to develop our gifts and talents. Everyone has different gifts,” he told the student body during Mass in the school auditorium. “Every one of us is important. We are important because God said so.”

“If you want to see God, look to the person beside you. He made you and all of us in his image.”

During his pastoral visit to York Catholic marking the Holy Day, the bishop also visited with students in their classrooms.

Since at least the ninth century, the Catholic Church has honored everyone in heaven on All Saints Day, including angels, martyrs and saints, and all those who died in God’s friendship.

Not long after entering the Monastery of the Visitation in Paray-le-Monial, France, in 1671, Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced numerous apparitions in which Jesus revealed his heart burning with love for man and confided to her 12 promises to those who would be devoted to his Sacred Heart:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will bless every home in which an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
4. I will console them in all their difficulties.
5. I will be their refuge during life and especially at the hour of death.
6. I will shed abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
7. Sinners shall find in My Heart a fountain and boundless ocean of mercy.
8. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
9. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to perfection.
10. I will give to priests the power of touching the hardest hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart never to be blotted out.
12. I promise you, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all who communicate on the First Friday of the month for nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without the sacraments: My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Relics of St. Margaret Mary visited several parishes in the diocese Oct. 29-Nov. 3, accompanied by Father Antoine Bergeret, priest of the Emmanuel Community and chaplain of the Sanctuary of Paray-le-Monial, the city of the Sacred Heart.

Relics are reminders of the holiness of a saint and their cooperation in God’s work, and are venerated by the faithful. The parishes that hosted the relics of St. Margaret Mary held special Masses, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and catechetical presentations to draw the faithful nearer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Celebrating Mass with York Catholic High School students to mark All Saints Day Nov. 1, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden reminded the youth that they are important because they are made in the image and likeness of God.

“God wants us to develop our gifts and talents. Everyone has different gifts,” he told the student body during Mass in the school auditorium. “Every one of us is important. We are important because God said so.”

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At Order of Malta Event, Papal Biographer Extols Virtues of Blessed John Paul II

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Exulting the personal attributes of Blessed John Paul II, the biographer of the late pope addressed a crowd of several hundred, exhorting them to live lives of virtue as well.

George Weigel, a leading Catholic author and speaker and Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, addressed a crowd of some 450 people gathered for the Defense of the Faith Series event hosted by the Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta.

The event, held at Liberty Place in Lancaster Oct. 26, began with the celebration of Mass. The series celebrates the Eucharist and witnesses to Catholic doctrine.

In an interview with The Catholic Witness, Mr. Weigel commented on the virtues, contributions and legacy of Blessed John Paul II.

“The world will remember him for his pivotal role in the collapse of European Communism and for his making Christianity compelling and interesting in a season of skepticism and unbelief,” he said. “The Church will remember him for bringing the Second Vatican Council to fruition, thus ending the era of the Counter-Reformation and launching us into the adventure of Evangelical Catholicism: Catholicism focused on mission rather than institutional maintenance.”

Blessed John Paul II was often referred to as “The People’s Pope” because so many were drawn to him, especially youth and even those of other religions.

“He was a magnet for young people because he challenged them to lead lives of heroic virtue and because he was transparently honest,” Mr. Weigel said. “He could engage world religions because he was a radically converted Christian disciple who believed that all truths, from whatever source, point eventually to the one Truth, who is Jesus Christ the Incarnate Son of God.”

The liturgical celebration in Rome on Oct. 22 marking the first feast of Blessed John Paul II “brought home the reality of his beatification in a powerful way,” Mr. Weigel remarked. “Here is someone we knew, through whom we now pray. That’s something special.”

Mr. Weigel said he welcomed the opportunity to speak as part of the Defense of the Faith Series.

“There is so much ignorance of the Catholic Church these days that initiatives like this are always welcome,” he said. “I hope I can help make clear that the Catholicism in the 21st century is perhaps the world’s foremost institutional defender of the dignity of the human person.”

The Order of Malta is the fourth oldest and first lay order of the Catholic Church, founded in 1048 and given order status by a papal bull in 1099. Its mission is to defend the faith and care for the poor and sick.

The Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta—which has 12 Knights, three Dames and three others in formation to be invested next year—consistently participates in service projects on local, national and international levels, noted Hospitaller Patrick Whalen.

These projects include volunteering at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia and at the Catholic Worker House, rebuilding homes in New Orleans, serving at a hospital in Haiti and taking sick and dying people on pilgrimage to Lourdes, France.

The Defense of the Faith Series is conducted in the spring and fall.

“We have coined this series as a celebration and understanding of the Catholic Church,” Mr. Whalen said. “It is our hope to educate and inspire both active and inactive Catholics, and attract non-Catholics to the richness of our wonderful faith.”

For more information on the Order of Malta in Lancaster, and to learn about service projects, visit www.orderofmaltalancaster.com.

LARC Day Addresses Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict was at the center of the annual LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) Day of Dialogue, drawing a number of local religious leaders and people of different religious backgrounds for the Oct. 24 event at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

In two presentations, Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton, Rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Barrytown, N.Y., and Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College, offered a history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and spoke of the theology that informs peacemaking.

In an interview with The Catholic Witness, he said it is critical to examine the conflict in a broad historical context to understand the Palestinian and Israeli attachment to the land.

Dr. Chilton suggests the best way to resolve the conflict is through the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel. “The difficulty, as is often the case, is in the details, and yet it’s my conviction that if we keep our focus on that result, these details can be dealt with. We should not allow the details to get in the way of accomplishing the goals.”

Christian religions should invest in progress and productively engage toward a resolution, Dr. Chilton said. He pointed out that the number of Christians living in the West Bank continues to decrease, and expressed concern about the treatment of the Christian minorities there.

“As churches, we should show our genuine religious and cultural interest in that part of the world,” he said. “This is an issue of great concern to all of us.”

Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton presents a historical view of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict during the annual LARC Day of Dialogue.

Members of various religious traditions attended the Day of Dialogue to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and possible solutions.
**Matthew 25 Collection November 20**

25% of the Collection Remains in Your Parish

**“It is with the deepest gratitude that I write to thank you for your generosity and kindness toward the Ann Joachim House. God knows the Project Grant has been received in a much-needed time. Caring for the elderly is a caring and costly work of love.”**

Agnes Delaney and residents of Ann Joachim House

**“This grant will enable us to provide for our clients a greater assortment of foods and will also assure that there are enough supplies for the great number coming to our door.”**

Gary and Nancy Sargent, President and Vice President, Saint Vincent de Paul Society

**“Our continued support of the Northeastern Food Pantry for those in need is greatly appreciated.”**

Robert D. Custer, Treasurer, Northeastern Food Pantry, Mount Wolf

**“We will be very diligent in assuring that the monies will be used to assist families in moving from homelessness to emergency shelter and eventually to permanent housing. As you might expect many of the clients in need of this assistance are single mothers with young children. Your grant came at a most critical time for us when operating funds were at a precariously low point placing our ability to help those in most need of funds at risk.”**

Frank P. Castrina, MD, Chair of Grant Application Committee, The Samaritan Fellowship, Inc., Carlisle

**“Meeting Jesus in Each Other is overseen by Sister Sue Ann Steves and her group called Mary’s Helpers, who staff our clothing store and food bank. The grant will allow us to continue this good work to the poor in Steelton.”**

Reverend Monsignor James M. Lyons, Pastor, Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton

**“The grant will be used by Chaplain Dow at the back of the track at Penn National, another place of great need. I’ve been there on numerous occasions and the grant will help them meet the basic needs of the people laboring under difficult situations.”**

Reverend Monsignor James M. Lyons, Pastor, Prince of Peace, Steelton

**“On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I would like to extend a very appreciative and heartfelt thank you for your contribution in response to our application for the Matthew 25 Direct Service Project Grant. We are blessed to have this support that will go a long way toward meeting the needs of so many women, children and families in our community.”**

Lori A. Peters, Executive Director, Carlisle Area Family Life Center

**“This gift will enable us to provide for our clients a greater assortment of foods and will also assure that there are enough supplies for the great number coming to us in these difficult economic times. As Chestnut Street in Coal Township increases its outreach to the poor through the soup kitchen, and clothing outreach, know that your part in assisting us is deeply appreciated.”**

Reverend Adrian Gallagher, OFM Conv. Pastor, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Parish, Coal Township

**“What a blessing for our members of the New Oxford community – the Service Project Grant! With these funds, we will be able to continue meeting the needs of our community.”**

Ann Rollins, Vice President, New Oxford Community Food Pantry

**“On behalf of the Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi and the Soup Kitchen, we thank you for the generous contribution to the work of our soup kitchen. We are able to continue our direct service to the needy of our area because of the generosity of so many good people and groups.”**

Farack Kevin Thompson, OFM Cap. Former pastor, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Harrisburg

**“You uniquely understand the challenges Shalom House face every day to adequately fund the work we do to help women and children in their time of crisis. Our mission is to give women who have been homeless the tools they need to move toward self-sufficiency, rather than simply to provide them with a place to stay.”**

Corinna Vesey Wilson, Chairman Board of Directors, Shalom House, Harrisburg

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**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

“I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in Him you were enriched in every way” (1 Cor 1:4-5).

The goodness of God the Father has truly enriched us in Christ. As we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving, our minds naturally take account of the many gifts we have received. Yet, our gratitude extends not merely to our own gifts, but also to the gifts bestowed upon our brothers and sisters. As the Church of Christ, we recognize that we share with one another the multitude of riches that the Lord pours out upon us.

The annual Matthew 25 Collection gives us the opportunity to share with those most in need a portion of what has been given to us. We share with others because we recognize Jesus in the eyes of those who hunger and thirst, those who are estranged and imprisoned, those longing for care and basic needs. In doing so, we act in response to what we have heard in the Scriptures, “Whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me?” (Matt 25:40).

I ask all the faithful in the Diocese of Harrisburg to make a donation to the Matthew 25 Collection this year. Every dollar received goes directly to support the poor and the needy in the fifteen counties that make up the Church in Harrisburg.

It is important to understand that no donation is too small as Jesus reminds us in the gospel passage about the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41-44). The small sacrifices of the poor are as significant to God as the sacrificial donations of the rich. It is important that all of us do our part to care for our brothers and sisters in need.

This Thanksgiving day be assured that you and your loved ones hold a place in my prayers before the Lord, the Giver of all good gifts. Together, may we never stop giving thanks to God for His many blessings and gratefully share with others what we have received.

Sincerely yours in Jesus,

Bishop of Harrisburg

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**“Whatever You Did for the Least of My Brothers and Sisters, You Did for Me”**

The substantial need for food, clothing and utility assistance is tangible in our communities. According to the United States Census, 15.3 percent of people were living in poverty in 2010, up from 14.3 percent in 2009. As the poverty rate increases, so does the need for food, clothing and other basic necessities.

Parish-supported projects like soup kitchens and clothing banks work to provide these basics to those in need. They rely on the generous financial support of others to operate on a daily basis.

You can help these parish-supported programs assist those in need in by contributing to the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Matthew 25 Collection, which will be conducted in parishes November 20. All funds will remain within the diocese.

Taken from the Gospel account from Matthew 25:40, the collection allows the diocese to address the needs of food, shelter and clothing on a local level through food banks, soup kitchens and similar parish-supported projects.

The Matthew 25 Collection affords individuals and parishes a chance to help community organizations and the disadvantaged in their own backyard. One hundred percent of the monies collected will remain in the diocese. Twenty-five percent will stay in the parishes for their support of people in need, while 75 percent will go to a diocesan fund for distribution to such projects as soup kitchens, food pantries and job-training programs.

The collection offers an opportunity for care for the least of our brothers and sisters, right here in our own communities. Please give generously. Poverty, hunger and material need can be as close as a neighbor on your block, at your church, or in your school.
The Story Behind the Man

Homeless John from Canada sitting next to his broken down wheelchair near the civic center. He has a white and blue blanket covering his legs. Though out of sight, they're clearly small, barely registering below. Almost as though his waist is poking out of some pond or hole. And he barely moves, frozen there.

I can only see the corner of his eye as I pass. I return a few moments later. I ask if I can take his picture, but he says “I'd rather not been seen like this,” and smiles surprisingly, painfully. Then says, “I’m sorry.”

I tell him I only want to shoot his face. “You can do that then. But why would you want to take a picture of me?”

“You eyes,” I respond.

John had polio as a child and then meningitis. And the polio recurred later. His legs have gotten worse and worse over the years. Especially from neglect more recently. He says they seem to get worse almost daily. He was a teacher once, but that didn’t pay.

He’s been sitting here since yesterday when his motorized wheelchair broke down. A “nice lady-cop” came by that day and tried to help him get a manual wheelchair, but she could only find one for $60 a week. He won’t have his benefits check until next week. He thinks she’ll come by again today. He’s waiting.

(The image of John shown in the Matthew 25 Collection poster is from American Poverty, a set of 190 photographs of the homeless and poor in San Francisco. The photo and commentary are used with permission from photographer Tom Stone.)

Grants Awarded from 2010 Collection

The following are the grants requested and awarded from the 2010 Matthew 25 Collection.

Community Service Project Grants
(Programs supported by parishes and parishioners, but not directly run by a pastor or priest)

- SCCAP, Inc. Adams County Shelter for the Homeless, Gettysburg
  - $5,000
- Shalom House Emergency Shelter Program for homeless women and their children, Harrisburg
  - $10,000

New Oxford Community Food Pantry, New Oxford
- $10,000

Program for Those in Need, Harrisburg
- $5,000

Samaritan Fellowship, Carlisle
- $7,500

Meeting Jesus in Each Other, Steelton
- $10,000

Central Penn Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Grantville
- $5,700

Direct Service Grants
(Programs run by a parish and in which the pastor is involved in the daily operations)

- St. Vincent de Paul Society, Lewistown
  - $1,000
- St. Vincent de Paul Society, Manheim
  - $1,000
- Our Lady of Hope Food Pantry, Coal Township
  - $5,000
- Carlisle Area Family Life Center, Carlisle
  - $1,000
- Northeastern Food Panty, Mount Wolf
  - $2,000
- A Diaper a Day to Give Away, Harrisburg
  - $1,000
- St. Francis Soup Kitchen, Harrisburg
  - $10,000
- The Silence of Mary Home, Lemoyne
  - $3,000
- Healthier Choices Nutrition Course, York
  - $1,000
- Ann Joachim Personal Care Home, Kulpmont
  - $10,000

To Donate

Find more resources on the Matthew 25 Collection and learn how you can donate online at www.hbgdiocese.org/matthew25. Gifts are welcome at your parish or by VISA/MasterCard by visiting www.hbgdiocese.org/matthew25.
When Mark Twain was old and gray some hundred years ago, he penned a line that makes you think.

“We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it — and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again — and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.”

Every season, the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt field an excellent football team destined for a late season run in the playoffs. After losing the state championship last December, gone with the title hopes was its senior leadership that was the key reason why the Crusaders made it to that final Class AAA tilt with Allentown Central Catholic.

Even the sincere optimist had to wonder if the program’s youth would be experienced enough to lead another charge. The pessimist would have said no way, and with two early losses this season to Gateway and Cumberland Valley – losses in which the offense sputtered and stalled – the talk was that the Crusaders might not gel into a solid football team. With only 14 seniors on the entire roster, experience is not the strength of this team; youth is.

But this team seems not to be scared to sit on the stove-lid again. With sophomore Rashad Lawson and freshman Andre Robinson running the football, this team can grind out yards when the weather is bad and the footing is poor. That’s important in November. And on turf, this team has three more gears as junior quarterback Alec Werner just gets better every week and has wide-out weapons everywhere. He takes care of the football, plays within his abilities, which never loses football games.

You have to think this team might be better off than last year’s. Just enough experience to give needed wisdom, maybe enough wisdom to not sit on hot a stove-lid again, but not too scared to sit well on the cold lid this time.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their families.


**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Betty Bischof.


**DALLASTOWN** – St. Joseph: Ferne M. Stein, Mary A. Tutino.

**DANVILLE** – St. Joseph: Mary Graham.

**EAGLE** – Our Lady of Lourdes: William D. Harling, Mary Ann Sersa. **HARRISBURG** – Parish of St. Patrick: Veronica Fox, Helen Reuren; Holy Name of Jesus: Edna M. Lencioni; St. Catherine Labouré: Mary Harris.

**KULPMONT** – Holy Angels: James Breene, Lulu Roberts, Caroline Williams.

**LANCASTER** – St. Anthony: Helen Hammes, Rose Jacobs.

**LEBANON** – Assumption BVM: Eva Horn, Paolo Passalaqua, Kenneth Roof, Robert Smith, Nancy Spitzer, Katherine Louise Verna.


**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Elizabeth Barletta, Mary R. Kwiatkowski; Our Lady: Teresa Hart, Mary Decihcy, Kortni Kenenish.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. Theresa: Elaine Delone.

**NEW FREEDOM** – St. John the Baptist: Louis Bencells, Jnr.

**NEWPORT** – St. Joseph: Domenica "Mamie" Alfano.

**REMEMBER OUR Deceased Clergy**

Please pray for the following clergy who died in November during the past 25 years: Father Anthony Kane, 1986; Father Martin Zarko, 1992; Father Michael G. Conley, 1996; Msgr. Damian McGeever, 2000; Father Thaddeus Strzelecki, 2005.

**National Catholic Charismatic Committee Presents at Day of Renewal**

The Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg was filled with Charismatic prayer group leaders and members from throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg for the Annual Diocesan Charismatic Day of Renewal Sept. 17. The day featured presentations by members of the National Catholic Charismatic Service Committee.

Walter Matthews, the Executive Director of the Committee, spoke on the need to develop a deeper sense of community within prayer groups and noted that if others fail to see the gifts they have, then the group is diminished. Jim Archer spoke on holiness and noted that holiness can come only through the door of suffering. Caroline Gambale-Dirkes challenged all to do the work of evangelization. Father Frank Karwacki, Diocesan Liaison for Charismatic Renewal, spoke on prayer and noted that the "possi-" for prayer is not simply a physical posture but a heart and soul filled with a desire of prayer and a sense of the awesomeness of God.

Father Karwacki was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass in which he described the "stormy ground" in the parable of the sower as those who have a “take-it-for-granted” familiarity with the Word of God, while the fertile soil are those open to discover the ever newness of the Word. Deacon Philip Ladouceur served as the Deacon of The Word and Deacon Thomas Boucek served as deacon of the Eucharist. Music was provided by the Upper Room Prayer Group from Abbotstown under the direction of Fred Staub.

**Belle Voix Plans Fall Concert Series**

Belle Voix Vocal Ensemble will present their Fall Concert series “Joyful Song!” beginning Nov. 6 with a series of three concerts. The first concert is at 6 p.m. on Nov. 6 at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro. On Nov. 9, they will present their concert at The Eichelberger Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. as part of the Conservatory Series. The third concert is at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Baltimore on Nov. 13. Free-will offerings will be taken at the concerts at the churches. Tickets for the Eichelberger Conservatory Series Concerts are available through the box office or at www.theeich.org.

The program includes music by Russian, English, French, German, and American composers in varied styles: motets, madrigals, part songs and spirituals.

**Belle Voix** has presented concerts throughout central Pennsylvania, from Lewistown to Harrisburg, from Lewistown to Bethersda, Md. The group is featured on several “Christmas in Hanover CD’s” has sung at an attempted rape as she resisted because of her love for Jesus. The St. Pauline Center in Kulpmont Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. to bless a painting of St. Maria Goretti by artist, produced the painting and well as the painting of St. Maria Goretti.

**Bishop to Bless Image of St. Maria Goretti at Pauline Center**

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will visit the St. Pauline Center in Kulpmont Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. to bless a painting of St. Maria Goretti.

The St. Pauline Center and Foundation, through its mission, promotes faith and life of the Latino youth, not only in our community, but throughout the world. To continue its effort, a beautiful painting on canvas of St. Maria Goretti will be displayed in the Center and available to the public. St. Maria’s first class relic will be available for veneration, and a prayer card from the St. Pauline Center will be distributed.

Mark Sassani, Eucharistic Minister of the Church of Our Lady in Mount Carmel and a well-known artist, produced the painting and well as the painting of St. Pauline Visitinman that hangs at the Center. The prayer card is named “A Lily White Soul.” St. Maria Goretti is the patron saint of chastity, rape, youth, teenage girls, poverty and forgiveness. St. Maria Goretti, one of the Catholic Church’s youngest martyrs, was an Italian girl who in 1902 at the age of 11, was stabbed to death by an attempted rape as she resisted because of her love for Jesus.

The St. Pauline Center also operates Camp Pauline, a camp for children with diabetes. Brochures for the camp in 2012 will be available in the near future. For further information about the center, visit www.saintpaulinecenter.org.
Young Church in Action

St. Joseph’s Students Delve into Agricultural Experiments

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Acting as chemists, laboratory technicians, botanists and farmers, students at St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg participated in hands-on agricultural experiments during the week of Oct. 17 through the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab.

The lab, a 40-foot trailer complete with 12 stations and all the equipment and supplies necessary for a variety of experiments, is a program of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and Friends of Ag. It is designed to help students make the connection between agriculture and the food on their table.

“The lab helps to increase students’ awareness to the importance of agriculture in people’s daily lives through hands-on science experiments related to Pennsylvania’s agricultural commodities,” assistant principal Mary Earnest told The Catholic Witness.

The mobile lab was stationed at St. Joseph School for the school week, providing 50-minute hands-on experiments each day for students in all grades.

The Catholic Witness photographed students participating in the Pigment Power experiment. Using different fruit beverages, students tested for the presence of phytochemicals, naturally occurring plant chemicals that give plants their color and provide health benefits.

The wide variety of laboratory experiments included research on grains, nutritional contents of foods, water analysis, health benefits of certain foods and the identification of insects.

Each experiment emphasized a different aspect of agriculture, including Pennsylvania’s commodities, the environment, biotechnology and nutrition.

“We are happy that the PA Friends of Ag Foundation make this available to schools,” Mrs. Earnest said. “We are especially grateful to the Cumberland County Farm Bureau because we received a sponsorship from them which paid for half the cost of the visit, and the St. Joseph’s Home and School Association which covered the cost for the other half of the visit.”

Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry Highlights

The Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry humbly stands before God desiring that everything that we do in Youth and Young Adult Ministry bring us closer in our relationship with Jesus Christ and deeper in our understanding of Church and what it means to be Church. Our office works to foster a comprehensive, holistic and collaborative approach to total Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

National Evangelization Team
NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. They help young people understand God’s love for them, to offer faith of the team members as a witness to the youth that faith in God is a desirable, acceptable, and exciting part of their lives, and to encourage young people to grow in their commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church. NET conducts junior high, senior high, Confirmation, and mixed-age retreats. A NET Team will in the Diocese of Harrisburg Nov. 28-Dec. 13, 2011 and Feb. 14-24, 2012. If you would like the NET Team to come to your parish/school, Dec. 8 and 9 and Feb. 19, 22, 23 and 24 are open for retreats. Parish or school leaders considering booking a NET Retreat during the 2012/2013 school year should contact our office to discuss the possibility of previewing one of this year’s retreats.

Catholic Campus Ministry

The Pennsylvania Catholic Campus Ministry Association (PCCMA) Conference will be held Feb. 6-7, 2012 at the Hotel Hershey. This conference will focus on Social Media featuring Mike Hayes. Mike Hayes is an expert in the world of young adult ministry (20s and 30s) in the Catholic Church and the author of Googling God (Paulist, 2007). Mike co-founded the award winning Busted Halo.com.

Diocesan Catholic Scouting

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will celebrate Mass at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Camp Hill on Sunday, April 15, 2012. The Mass will begin at 2 p.m. and will be followed by reception/displays in the parish hall. Catholic religious emblems earned by Girl Scouts in the Diocese of Harrisburg will be presented at this Mass.

Theology on Tap

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Theology on Tap is a ministry for and by young adults, listening and responding to what matters to young adults (21 to 30 something; single and married) in the Church. Currently there are three groups in the Diocese, Lancaster and Franklin/Adams area. The next date in each location is: Harrisburg – Nov. 10, 2011, Franklin/Adams – Nov. 11, 2011 and Lancaster – March 7, 2012.

Diocesan Youth Council

The DYC presents an opportunity for high school youth (grades 10, 11, 12) to serve in an active leadership role on the diocesan level. Approximately 57 council members met recently to discuss and plan various projects, such as the World Youth Day Celebration on Palm Sunday, which will be held on April 1, 2012 at the Saint Patrick Cathedral.

Calling All Musically Gifted High School Youth

The Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry is seeking high school youth to serve as liturgical instrumentalists and vocalists at the World Youth Day Celebration on Palm Sunday. Prepared auditions to evaluate skill level will be held at the Cardinal Keeler Center on either Monday, Nov. 28, 2011 or Thursday Dec. 1, 2011. Appointments will be scheduled in 10-minute intervals between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Coaches Orientation

The CYO Basketball Coaches in the Diocese are required to attend the CYO Coaches Orientation Program at least once before they begin their services as a coach. There are two remaining opportunities available: Nov. 9, 2011 from 6-8:30 p.m. or Nov. 29, 2011 from 6-8:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youthchurch or contact Rich Hinnenkamp at either rhinnenkamp@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 315.

For further information regarding these ministries and events, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youthchurch or contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at oyym@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 x327.
Retreats & Pilgrimages

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is being hosted by Karen M. Harkins and is being held at Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York beginning on Oct. 10. The pilgrimage will be live as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Tour includes: Daily Mass, Sea of Galilee, Church of the Multiplication, Church of the Mount of Beatitudes, Tiberias, Jerusalem, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Old City of Jerusalem and the Via Dolorosa. A trip for two persons accompanied by Mrs. Harkins is offered. Tour includes round trip airfare, land transportation, hotel accommodations, most meals, cultural, historical, and religious sites. Contact Mrs. Harkins at 717-845-8728 or mharkins@immaculatetalk.com.

Theology on Tap – Harrisburg

The “Theology on Tap” group in Franklin County is hosting sessions in November and December. Theology on Tap offers young adults in the 20-30 age group a relaxed environment to learn more about their faith. Father Dwight Schlaline will be the presenter Nov. 12, 7-9 a.m. and Dec. 9, 7-9 a.m. at the Archdiocese of Harrisburg office at 570-759-8113.

Education, Employment & Support

The “Theology on Tap” group in Harrisburg will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - noon. This year’s theme is “giving gifts for every occasion.” Items include jewelry, decorated ornaments, floral decorations, a chance tree, raffle and more. Kitchen Open Friday from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. for lunch, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for dinner. For information, call the parish at 757-696-8531.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Allentown will host its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov 4 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be several bazaar vendors as well as several opportunities for food and beverages. There will be a “Secret Santa” where children can shop. Free crafts and raffle for children. For information, contact Kitty at 610-922-4132 or kitty@choc.org.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the St. John Neumann Parish Center. The bazaar will feature arts and crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, home décor, and baked goods. For information, contact the parish office at 717-235-2156.

St. Matthew Parish in Grantville will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the St. Matthew Parish Center. The bazaar will feature arts and crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, home décor, and baked goods. For information, contact the parish office at 717-657-4043.

Sacred Heart School in Hanover will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - noon. This year’s theme is “giving gifts for every occasion.” Items include jewelry, decorated ornaments, floral decorations, a chance tree, raffle and more. Kitchen Open Friday from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. for lunch, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for dinner. For information, call the parish at 717-698-7070.

Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown will host its annual open house Nov 6 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Attendees interested in entering 9th grade for the 2013-2014 school year are encouraged to attend. Students will be on hand to answer questions from 12-3. Following the assembly the band will perform at 12:30 p.m. Tour of the school, including the new 2010 renovation, will also be offered. For information, call 717-637-9030 or e-mail msh@delonecatholic.net. Visit www.delonecatholic.net.

A Polish pottery and Longaberger basket sale will take place at Saint Benedict’s School in Hanover Nov. 6. Doors open at 9:00 a.m., 2 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m. for games, door prizes, raffles. Tickets are $20 available at the parish office at 717-569-8531.

St. Philip the Apostle Parish in New Freedom is holding a annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Nov 5 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The annual Christmas Bazaar will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will include various vendors located in the church basement and the Parish Center. A raffle with various prizes will be held at 1 p.m. at the Parish Center. For more information call the Parish Office at 717-238-3215.

An Election Day Spaghetti Dinner will be held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Annville Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women, the dinner is $7 for a large dinner, $5 for a small dinner. Includes spaghetti & meatballs, tossed salad, bread, sauce and beverage. Proceeds will benefit St. Philip’s youth and adult chaperons for Youth in Action (YIA) trip to Beveridge, Jamaica.

An Election Day Spaghetti Dinner will be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Conewago Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Sponsored by the Parish Community Council, the dinner is $7 for a large dinner, $5 for a small dinner. Includes spaghetti & meatballs, tossed salad, bread, sauce and beverage. Proceeds will benefit the Innercircle for Family Shelter for Homeless Families Nov. 11 from 5-7 p.m. at St. Paul’s social hall. Bowls will be available for the traditional “splat a bowl” for $10, donated country songs, unlimited soup and bread. The Keep as a reminder to your family and friends. Proceeds will benefit the Innercircle for Family Shelter for Homeless Families.

A one-time rule change for sale are either made or donated by parishioners or local businesses. Items available include baked goods, holiday decorations, wreaths, wreath, sweets, jewelry, and home décor. There will be a 50% draw for each raffle for $2 per person per occupant. For more information, contact Adria Heister at 717-657-4308 or caca@comcast.net.

Sacred Heart Parish in Hanover will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Resurrection Parish Center. The bazaar will feature arts and crafts, gift baskets and jewelry. Contact the parish office at 717-929-9292 or stjohnn@comcast.net.

The Saint Anne’s Retirement Community Auxiliary will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at St. Anne’s Parish Center. Items available include baked goods, crafts, raffle tickets, and jewelry. Contact the auxiliary office at 717-538-4562.

The “Theology on Tap” group in Harrisburg will celebrate Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. This is an opportunity to gather in prayer as we remember our deceased loved ones. Reflections will follow.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster will host its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster. Items available include baked goods, crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, and homemade gifts. Contact the Parish Office at 717-509-6556 or SADest4812@gmail.com.

Because of the large volume of children attending, the church will hold a St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster. Items available include baked goods, crafts, raffle tickets, and jewelry. Contact the auxiliary office at 717-538-4562.

Sacred Heart School in Hanover will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the St. John Neumann Parish Center. Gifts available include homemade cakes and candies, needlework and crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, baked goods, supermarket, chicbox, and flea market items. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

Sacred Heart School in Hanover will hold its Catholic Craft Show and Bazaar in the school gym Nov. 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. A wide variety of crafts and vendors will be available. Parking will be available at St. Anne’s and across the highway at the Mart. A variety of refreshments will be available.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 19 at the State Dine Social Hall from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Walnut, poppy seed cake, fruitcake, coffee cake, and other sugar cookies will be available. Homemade candies and candles, needlework and crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, baked goods, supermarket, chicbox, and flea market items. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

St. Matthew Parish in Grantville will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the St. Matthew Parish Center. The bazaar will feature arts and crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, home décor, and baked goods. For information, contact the parish office at 717-657-4043.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - noon. This year’s theme is “giving gifts for every occasion.” Items include jewelry, decorated ornaments, floral decorations, a chance tree, raffle and more. Kitchen Open Friday from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. for lunch, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for dinner. For information, call the parish at 717-698-7070.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Allentown will host its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov 4 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be several bazaar vendors as well as several opportunities for food and beverages. There will be a “Secret Santa” where children can shop. Free crafts and raffle for children. For information, contact Kitty at 610-922-4132 or kitty@choc.org.
Pope Celebrates Blessed John Paul Feast Day; Sainthood Cause Proceeds

By Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

Thousands of Catholics in Rome celebrated the first feast of Blessed John Paul II Oct. 22 and the promoter of his sainthood cause said he has received several reports of healings that could be the miracle needed for the late pope’s canonization.

Msgr. Slawomir Oder, the postulator of Pope John Paul’s sainthood cause, told Vatican Radio, “I have received several very significant testimonies and am waiting for the complete documentation” that would allow him to judge which would be the most appropriate to submit to the Vatican.

“I was particularly struck by the healing of a little girl who was in an almost desperate situation and died as a result of social disadvantage in Europe. The canons took place on World Mission Sunday, and the pope said their witness showed that love is at the center of the missionary task.

The new saints are:
- St. Guido Maria Conforti, an Italian who founded the Xaverian Foreign Missionary Society, dedicated to the sole purpose of evangelizing non-Christians. He sent missionaries to China in 1899 and personally traveled to China in 1928 to visit the order’s communities.
- Plagued by ill health, he also served as a diocesan bishop in Italy for many years, making religious instruction the priority of his pastoral ministry and establishing schools of Christian doctrine in all parishes.
- St. Louis Guanella, the Italian founder of the Servants of Charity, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, and the Confraternity of St. Joseph, whose members pledge to pray for the sick and dying. Having worked with young women in northern Italy, he came to Rome and founded an association of prayer for the dying.
- “It is impossible to stop as long as there are poor people to be helped,” he would tell his colleagues. In 1912, at the age of 70, he traveled to the United States to work among Italian immigrants in North America.
- Pope Benedict, in his homily, called him a “prophet and apostle of charity.”
- St. Bonifacia Rodriguez Castro, a Spanish cordmaker in Salamanca who gathered working women for spiritual encounters in her house-shop. The group became the Servants of Charity, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, and the Confraternity of St. Joseph.
- Her religious did not wear habits and they worked side by side with laywomen in the shop, practices that aroused the resentment of the local clergy. Opposed by the bishop, she was removed as superior of the community and left Salamanca in humiliation; she opened a new foundation on the edge of society’s disadvantaged in Europe.
- All three founded religious orders in the 19th century, working in missionary areas and on behalf of society’s disadvantaged in Europe. The canons took place on World Mission Sunday, and the pope said their witness showed that love is at the center of the missionary task.

Pope Proclaims Three Saints, Calls Them Models of Christian Charity

By John Thavis Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed three saints and said their lives demonstrated that true faith is charity in action.

“These three new saints allowed themselves to be transformed by divine charity,” the pope said at a canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 23.

“In different situations and with different gifts, they loved the Lord with all their heart and they loved their neighbor as themselves, in such a way as to become models for all believers,” he said.

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- Her religious did not wear habits and they worked side by side with laywomen in the shop, practices that aroused the resentment of the local clergy. Opposed by the bishop, she was removed as superior of the community and left Salamanca in humiliation; she opened a new foundation in the city of Zamora, where she was welcomed by the bishop. Only in 1941 was she recognized as the foundress of her congregation.
- A sung prayer during the Mass proclaimed: “The mission of Bonifacia is not finished: In God she looks after the dignity of the women workers of the world.”

In his sermon, the pope said the lives of the new saints underscored that love is the essence of the Christian message.

“The visible sign that Christians can show the world to witness Christ’s love is love for one’s brothers and sisters,” he said. These saints, he said, demonstrated that when faith is strong, there is a sense of urgency in announcing this love to all.

In Rome, Blessed John Paul’s feast was marked with two particularly large celebrations: the Diocese of Rome held a prayer vigil and Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the diocesan cathedral.

The Church of the Holy Spirit near the Vatican, known for its dedication to the Divine Mercy devotion promoted by Pope John Paul, hosted a special Mass and a concert featuring important texts written by the late pope set to music.

A tapestry showing St. Louis Guanella is seen as Pope Benedict XVI arrives to celebrate the canonization Mass of three new saints in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Oct. 23. The new saints are St. Guido Maria Conforti, an Italian who founded the Xaverian Foreign Missionary Society; St. Louis, the Italian founder of the Servants of Charity; the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Confraternity of St. Joseph; and St. Bonifacia Rodriguez Castro, a Spanish cord maker in Salamanca who gathered working women for spiritual encounters in her house-shop.
U.S. bishops are preparing to make their "ad limina" visits to the pope this fall, a traditional pilgrimage that will see many of them face-to-face with Pope Benedict XVI for the first time since the German pope was elected in 2005.

The visits also give Pope Benedict a platform for commentary, and Vatican officials hope that the large number of outgoing bishops will show their support for his leadership.

The meetings with the pope have always been the highlight of the "ad limina" visits. Pope Benedict has been a passionate advocate for the importance of the church's role in addressing issues of poverty, exploitation and the trafficking of organs and people.

The influx of people from all corners of the world, with their unique experiences, presents new challenges for the church as it seeks to navigate the world's changing social and political landscape.

The meetings also serve as an opportunity for the pope to address key issues of the day, such as religious freedom, education and the particular importance of Catholic communities in fostering real human progress.

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The visits also give Pope Benedict a chance to connect with the church's diverse global family, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

In his message, the pope said increased mobility of peoples today's globalized world also presents greater urgency for dialogue and respect for legitimate differences.

Every Christian has a duty to evangelize and to provide material and spiritual care to those in need, he said.

These discussions involve shared concerns and interests, but some bishops also schedule private meetings with Vatican officials to deal with specific diocesan issues.

The pope also addresses the larger regional groups of bishops, usually on a particular theme or aspect of the church's experience in the region.

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A priest, Father John Bateman lives a life of service – service to God and service to the Church and her people. And now, as a priest chaplain in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, he extends his service to our military men and women.

As a pastor and as a chaplain, Father John Bateman, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Wayneboro, was sworn in as captain in the 193rd Special Operations Wing out of Harrisburg International Airport in Middletown on July 16 of this year.

Father Bateman remained pastor of St. Andrew’s as he assumes his duties as chaplain, and says he welcomes the added responsibility of providing spiritual care to airmen and their families.

“The whole idea of military service and wanting to help people has always been there,” Father Bateman said.

In high school, he considered joining the Air Force. He applied for an ROTC scholarship at Penn State University and was accepted and got a job.

Even after his ordination to the priesthood in 1996, he still considered how he might serve those in the military. Last December, the opportunity arrived.

“There was an e-mail from the Bishop’s Office that said the 193rd needed a chaplain and asked if anybody was interested,” Father Bateman said.

He replied to the inquiry, and within a month received Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s permission to assume duties as Catholic chaplain. Father Bateman also received the endorsement of Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, which gives pastoral and spiritual services to those serving in the United States armed forces.

After passing the required physical fitness and medical tests and completing paperwork, he was sworn in as the Catholic chaplain for the 193rd.

He attends drill duty one weekend a month and also takes part in other training exercises throughout the year.

“As a reserve chaplain, my responsibilities are very much like my responsibilities as a pastor in a parish, primarily for the Catholics who are there, who are taking time from their civilian jobs and their families to serve,” Father Bateman explained. “I provide Mass for them on the weekends, but much broader than that is being there for the entire unit, to make sure that we’re meeting their spiritual needs.

In serving the men and women in the Air National Guard, the chaplains also focus on pastoral and spiritual services to those experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and on suicide prevention.

But Father Bateman’s ministry as chaplain doesn’t focus only on those who are Catholic.

"Whether or not someone is Catholic frankly doesn’t matter. We’re there to provide spiritual support to everybody there, no matter their faith," he said.

People know that I’m a chaplain and so they come to seek advice or counsel. But they also know I’m in the Air Force with them, so I’m in their combat. That’s certainly something about the armed forces; immediately you are part of that military family," he said.

Though he is a captain, Father Bateman isn’t concerned with his military rank.

"It’s not about my rank, it’s the fact that I'm a chaplain who is there for them, not necessarily their commanding officer," he said.

The parishioners at St. Andrew’s have been overwhelmingly supportive of his role in the Guard.

“When I announced the assignment to the parish, I put it in a context that most people who have somebody in the military would understand: any family who has a member in the military makes certain sacrifices for them to do that. As a parish family, we make very sure any time and money for me to be able to support our men and women in the military,” Father Bateman said.

St. Andrew’s is located near several military installations, and a number of veterans and service men and women belong to the parish. Father Bateman has found that support to be helpful in both of his roles.

He has also found support in Father Raymond LaVoie, Diocesan Vocations Director and a chaplain in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

“We’ve stayed in close contact in terms of what I could expect…as well as our common experiences with Guard weekends and trainings,” Father Bateman said.

In January, Father Bateman will attend several weeks of officer training, where he’ll learn military protocols and what to expect if he were to be deployed.

The previous chaplain spent time in Germany, where men and women were coming back and were in need of spiritual support or sacraments. A number of chaplains have been in the theater in different places in the Middle East and providing the spiritual support for our military right there when they’re in battle. That’s certainly a possibility, and I’m ready for it,” Father Bateman said.

As a pastor and as a chaplain, Father Bateman dedicates himself to service.

“Service and sacrifice for others – whether it be in the parish or those who come day-in and day-out, or in the military, whether deployed or on a Guard weekend – is about giving of yourself, disregarding your own time and abilities in order to be the presence of Christ to others,” he said. “That’s really what it’s all about.”

Work is steadily progressing on the construction for the new Bishop McDevitt High School in Lower Paxton Township. The walls are beginning to take shape and most of the steel skeleton on the academic wing has been completed.

A Topping Off Ceremony is slated for just before Thanksgiving. At the ceremony, guests will be invited to write messages on the steel beams that will complete the frame of the building. For an exact date and time for the Topping Off Ceremony, refer to www.bishopmcdevitt.org.

School officials are thankful for all of the support of our community and the project. “Without your help, we could not have broken ground on the project. However, we are still counting on our entire community to see the project through to completion.” To make a donation or pledge your support, contact Chris Comasco, Bishop McDevitt Advancement Director, at 717-236-5973, ext. 400.