Emily M. Albert, The Catholic Witness

Father Daniel Powell, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Selinsgrove, gives Holy Communion to Catherine Muzic, a resident of Selinsgrove Center, during the diocese’s annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities. Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the Mass on Nov. 1 at St. Pius X Church. See page 9 for additional coverage.

Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno, a Navy chaplain who was killed while serving with the Marines in Vietnam, is pictured ministering in the field. In observance of Veterans’ Day, The Catholic Witness recounts the story of “The Grunt Padre,” whose cause for canonization has opened, and talks to local veterans about the spiritual impact of priest chaplains on the lives of soldiers. See page 5.

Woman’s Suicide Called Tragedy, Symbol of ‘Culture of Death’ in U.S.

Brittany Maynard, a young California woman who was suffering from terminal brain cancer and gained national attention for her plan to use Oregon’s assisted suicide law, ended her life Nov. 1. She was 29 years old.

“We are saddened by the fact that this young woman gave up hope, and now our concern is for other people with terminal illnesses who may contemplate following her example,” said Janet Morana, executive director of Priests for Life, in a Nov. 2 statement.

“Our prayer is that these people will find the courage to live every day to the fullest until God calls them home,” she said. “Brittany’s death was not a victory for a political cause. It was a tragedy, hastened by despair and aided by the culture of death invading our country.”

Several days before Maynard’s suicide, Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample urged Maynard and others in similar situations: “Don’t give up hope!”

“We are with you. As friends, families and neighbors we pledge to surround you with our love and compassion until the sacred moment when God calls you home,” he said in a statement issued just before the feasts of All Saints on Nov. 1 and All Souls on Nov. 2.

He said assisted suicide offers the illusion that humans can control death.

“It suggests that there is freedom in being able to choose death, but it fails to recognize the contradiction,” the archbishop said. “Killing oneself eliminates the freedom enjoyed in earthly life. True autonomy and true freedom come only...”

Heroes of Faith

Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno, a Navy chaplain who was killed while serving with the Marines in Vietnam, is pictured ministering in the field. In observance of Veterans’ Day, The Catholic Witness recounts the story of “The Grunt Padre,” whose cause for canonization has opened, and talks to local veterans about the spiritual impact of priest chaplains on the lives of soldiers. See page 5.
New Science Lab at St. Theresa’s School Features Hands-On Education

By Chris Heisey  
The Catholic Witness

St. Theresa School in New Cumberland has added a new science education curriculum that features a hands-on, research-based program provided by LabLearner.

Bishop Ronald Gainer made a pastoral visit to the school on Oct. 28 to bless the new lab that offers students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade the opportunity for science experimentation with a variety of tools including microscopes, scales and conductive meters. Each student participates in a team environment, with set workbook experiments designed to teach students scientific inquiry by analyzing results of their hands-on study. Examples of experiments include the teaching of mass and density correlation, electromagnetic properties of elements, and for younger students, the basic learning of measurements.

The LabLearner program not only provides a fully equipped in-school lab, it also has an on-line interactive Web site to provide parent and teacher resources. The lab’s goal is designed to teach students “science by doing science,” and St. Theresa School is the first school in the diocese to implement the curriculum and lab materials.

Numerous donors helped cover the costs of the lab, including more than $10,000 generously given by parishioners, another $5,000 from the school’s PTO; Select Medical provided monies, as well as the Whitaker Center Foundation for Enhancing Communities, which provided more than $12,000.

After blessing the lab, Bishop Gainer visited classrooms with Mr. Matthew Shore, principal, and Father J. Michael McFadden, pastor.

Putting Green Honors Bishop McFadden

By Chris Heisey  
The Catholic Witness

On a perfect autumnal day, Saturday Oct. 25, Bishop Ronald Gainer blessed the putting green that was recently completed behind the Priests Retirement Residence on the grounds of the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. The green, an artificial carpeted surface, is dedicated to the memory of Bishop Joseph McFadden, who died in May 2013 after having given his consent for the construction of the green to Ryan Underwood – a junior at Red Land High School and parishioner at Holy Infant Parish, York Haven. Mark Totaro, CEO of Catholic Charities, gave his supervision and support to the project.

Mr. Underwood undertook the construction as an Eagle Scout Project, and had the help of his family and friends to not only build the green but to also landscape the area and provide a peaceful atmosphere directly behind the residence. The green also features a plaque that notes Bishop McFadden’s support for the project and pays tribute to his love of the game of golf.

Numerous parishes donated monies, as did the Knights of Columbus and several diocesan priests. Mr. Underwood was also able to secure corporate donations from Penny Supply, Black Landscaping, Lowe’s, and Harrisburg Gardens.
Special to The Witness

World Meeting of Families is Coming to Philadelphia!

The coming year will be an exciting time for Catholic families throughout the world. In addition to the Synod on Families that will convene in Rome next fall, the city of Philadelphia will host the next World Meeting of Families from Sept. 22-27, 2015. A World Meeting of Families takes place somewhere in the world every two years. In 2012, the city of Milan, Italy, hosted thousands of people who attended a conference, followed by a Festival of Families and a closing Papal Mass. The Philadelphia World Meeting will follow a similar schedule and registration is now open for the conference.

Families are the bedrock for all larger communities. Families are domestic churches, places where parents help children discover that God loves them and has a plan for each child’s life.

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The theme of the World Meeting of Families is “Love is our Mission: The Family Fully Alive.” In anticipation of the meeting, the planners have developed a preparatory catechesis that focuses on ten monthly themes that will be at the center of the conference itself. This catechesis has been made available in specially designed materials for grades K-12. An adult version of the catechesis has been published by Our Sunday Visitor and is available at www.amazon.com and other bookstores.

The conference will begin on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 22, 2015, and end early on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 25, 2015. Each day will begin with Mass, followed by one or two keynotes and several breakout sessions.

Registration for the conference is now open at www.worldmeeting2015.org. The conference will be in both English and Spanish, and simultaneous interpreters will make the conference available in several other languages. Young people will be able to register for a Youth Track at the conference, and home stay accommodations will also be available. The conference will be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Although there is already a huge amount of interest in the weekend festivities, which are expected to include a Festival of Families and a closing Papal Mass, there is not yet any information available on either the dates and location. In addition, there is not yet any information available on the dates and location of these events other than the dates and location.

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The tangible, earthly, corporeal world is more than inert matter or modeling clay for the human will. The world is good. He loves us. He made us in his image to share in his joy. He takes an active hand in our lives. Our bodies are created for covenant. Married love is fruitful and offered with other in the manner of God’s covenant. Marriage is a Sacrament. Married love is fruitful and offered with other in the manner of God’s covenant. Marriage is a Sacrament.

The Ten Themes of the World Meeting of Families: (Themes found at http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/about-the-event/catechesis)

November 2014: Created for Joy

We are more than an accident of evolution. We are greater than the sum of our biology. God exists. He is good. He loves us. He made us in his image to share in his joy. He takes an active hand in our lives. He sent his only Son to restore our dignity and lead us home to him.

December 2014: The Mission of Love

God works through us. We have a mission. We are in the world for a purpose — to receive God’s love and to show God’s love to others. God seeks to heal a broken universe. He asks us to be his witnesses and helpers in that work.

January 2015: The Meaning of Human Sexuality

The tangible, earthly, corporeal world is more than inert matter or modeling clay for the human will. Creation is sacred. It has sacramental meaning. It reflects God’s glory. That includes our bodies. Our sexuality has the power to procreate, and shares in the dignity of being created in the image of God. We need to live accordingly.

February 2015: Two become One

We are not made to be alone. Human beings need and complete each other. Friendship and community satisfy that longing with bonds of common interest and love. Marriage is a uniquely intimate form of friendship that calls a man and a woman to love each other in the manner of God’s covenant. Marriage is a Sacrament. Married love is fruitful and offered without reservation. This love is in the image of Jesus’ faithfulness to the Church.

March 2015: Creating the Future

Marriage is meant to be fertile and welcome new life. Children shape the future, just as they themselves are shaped in their families. Without children, the future can be no future. Children born with love and guidance are the foundation for a loving future. Wounded children portend a wounded future. Families are the bedrock for all larger communities. Families are the bedrock for all larger communities.

Throughout the upcoming year, reflections on these ten themes, as well as information about the World Meeting of Families, will be published in The Catholic Witness as a means of catechesis and preparation for the event. A reflection on the first theme, “Created for Joy,” will appear in the Nov. 21 edition. (Victoria Laskowski is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Family Ministries.)

Bishop Gainer’s
Public Calendar

November 6 – Keynote Speaker at St. Thomas More Dinner, Allenberry Playhouse, Boiling Springs, 6:30 p.m.

November 7 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lebanon, 7 p.m.

November 8 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Hope Church, Coal Township, 11 a.m.; Attend Holy Spirit Hospital Gala, Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill, 6 p.m.

November 9 – Celebrate Mass and pastoral visit, St. Mark Church, Greencastle, 9 a.m.

November 9-13 – USCCB Meeting, Baltimore.

November 15 – Celebrate Mass at the Diocesan Catechetical Conference, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9:15 a.m.

November 16 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Peter Church, Elizabethtown, 2 p.m.

November 17 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 7 p.m.

November 19 – Celebrate Mass, St. Anne School, Lancaster, 10 a.m.

November 22 – Welcome address, Hispanic Charismatic Renewal, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.

November 23 – Celebrate Mass and the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, St. Patrick Parish, York, 10:45 a.m.
Catholic Charities works with state and federal governments to resettle refugees who are fleeing oppression in their home countries, helping them adjust to new lives and newfound freedom. Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services teaches individuals with limited English to become economically and socially self-sufficient in their new homeland. Social and education services are provided to immigrants, refugees, visitors and non-English speakers. All services are designed to help individuals surpass the barriers caused by language and cultural differences while still maintaining ethnic heritages and identities. Immigration and Refugee Services of Catholic Charities has a multi-ethnic, multilingual staff who are dedicated to teaching people how to help themselves.

When refugees arrive, everything is uncertain. Many times, they arrive with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing and their dreams of a life free from fear and persecution. Their struggles are not over upon arrival in the United States. They must start a new life in an unknown country with a foreign language and culture. Learn more about the program at www.cchbg.org.

Read about two specific programs below, to learn how you can lend support to Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services.

**Landlord Luncheon** - Are you a landlord in need of a stable, paying family? Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services is hosting a gathering to share information about their program with apartment owners, decision-makers, landlords and rental agents. In the last decade, no refugee family settled by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg has ever been evicted from their home or apartment. Learn more at a complimentary buffet luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 from noon-1:30 p.m. at Mission Central, located at 5 Pleasant View Drive in Mechanicsburg. Reservations required. To RSVP, contact Mira Lukic, Program Director, Immigration and Refugee Services, at 717-232-0568 e-mail mlukic@cchbg.org, or Lynda Myers at 717-440-2985 or LRMyers@cchbg.org. Please RSVP by Nov. 10, or at your earliest convenience.

**The Sewing Circle Project** - Come share your passion for creating and making with eager students! Do you know the basics of using a sewing machine? Do you enjoy teaching sewing to others? You are invited to share your talent and sewing creativity with newcomers to the United States. Gatherings are held at Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services, 939 East Park Drive, Suite 102 in Harrisburg, two or three mornings per week from 10 a.m.-noon, as fits your schedule. We provide the fabric, thread and sewing machines. You can choose to make a variety of items: clothing, curtains, a decorative pillow for the home or even a notebook cover. You are welcome to bring some of your own fabrics to share with your students. Donations of sewing notions and fabrics are always appreciated. For information, contact Mira Lukic, Program Director, at 717-232-0568 or mlukic@cchbg.org.

The Eucharist: communion

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

As a novice, many, many years ago, I was instructed by my fellow novices about the proper way of handling the candles that were used in decorating the various rooms within the novitiate. I was instructed to individually wrap the candles in white paper and store them in a box with like colors. Not really understanding the reason behind this, I shrugged my shoulders and thought, “Well, this is the way we do it in the convent.”

As my initial formation ended, I was assigned to teach grade 8 in a school in northern New Jersey. There, I began to learn the skills necessary not only for teaching, but also those life skills that are necessary to multi-task. Any newly graduated student and sometimes my own, spent many hours sharing a new job, a new living space, and the “new” responsibilities of a car, household, cooking, laundry, etc. Needless to say, some days I got it “right” and other days were “Oops, I’ll never do it that way again.” The lesson of the candles came back to haunt me. Let me explain.

When the Sisters and I were ready to remove our Christmas decorations that year, all the candles were put in a box together, unwrapped and not segregated according to color. I was in charge of this aspect of the process. Upon opening this box the following year, I was horrified to find that our white pillar candles had separated and stripes of red and green. The red ones had stripes of pink and black, and the green ones had black and chartreuse. You see, over time, the dye within the wax migrated to the candles that were touching them. “Oh! THAT was the reason why we separated the candles and rolled them in white or wax paper!” It is true - you do become like those with whom you hang around!

I was reminded of this event in my life as I read a chapter entitled: “The Eucharist makes the Church through Communion” from The Eucharist: Our Sanctification, (The Liturgical Press, 1993) by Raniero Cantalamessa. Even though “Eucharistic communion is so profound that it goes beyond any human comparison we could make”, (Cantalamessa, 30) let us begin with the actual definition of “communion.” From dictionary.com, we read: “1. The celebration of the Eucharist and/or the antiphon at an Eucharistic service. 2. A group of persons having a common religious faith; a religious denomination. 3. An association; fellowship. 4. Interchange or sharing of thoughts or emotions; intimate communication. 5. The act of sharing, or holding in common; participation.” Wikipedia defines “communion” as: “The bond uniting Christians as individuals and groups with each other and with Jesus Christ...”

The definition from Wikipedia focuses, in my opinion, in a nutshell, the two aspects of communion: between God and the individual, and, among all people.

Each and every time we partake of Communion, we enter into the heart of the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This relationship, as with essence of Trinitarian life, has no beginning or end. But, since our language is finite, we must start somehow. Let us begin with Christ.

Through Communion, “Christ is transfused into us and merges with us, changing us and transforming us in him, like a drop of water poured into an endless sea...” (30) We are being slowly changed as we align our hearts and wills to Him in our daily life. Our love toward God and expressed to others brings union with the living Christ. Through this union, we reach the Father and can echo Christ’s priestly prayer, “that they may be one even as we are one. I in them and thou in me.” (John 17:23) This oneness of spirit is the direct work of the Holy Spirit. He creates our intimacy with God. So we can see that the “entire Trinity is invisibly present around the altar.” (31) In a sense, we “dine” around the table with the entire heavenly court: Father, Son and Holy Spirit as well as angels and saints and the entire heavenly cohort. The experience of dining at this heavenly supper should provide a catalyst of action for us. “I can no longer disinterest myself in my brothers or sisters when I receive the Eucharist; I cannot reject them without rejecting Christ himself and cutting myself off from the unity.” (37) As I am one with Trinitarian life, I am even more unified with all of humanity. It is through this binding that we become more human, more willing to give of myself as Christ did for me.

And you wonder why we are what we eat and we resemble with whom we associate? Go figure.

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of the IT Department. An educator for 28 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Vietnam Veterans Reflect on Chaplains

The Catholic Witness

By Emily M. Albert

The Grunt Padre

Sergeant Joseph Novac, who grew up in St. Mary's Parish in Steelton, is in the news again. This time, thanks to a biography written about him, Father Mode wrote. He continued, "Whatever burdens they had to carry, he shared the load. No problem was too large or too small to take to Father Vincent – he was available to them day and night. He did not have that luxury," Novac said.

Sgt. Novac grew up faithfully attending Mass and serving as an altar boy at St. Mary's Church in Steelton. Now he is a parishioner with his wife at the Catholic Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. Much of what Sgt. Novac, a Purple Heart and Cross of Gallantry Recipient, recalled about his time in Vietnam reflected how important and influential the chaplains were and even still are to his faith.

Several chaplains are known for their bravery during heavy action in war zones. One specific and significantly noted to our diocese is Father Vincent Capodanno, also known as Father Capodanno. This was a surprise and a disappointment for Father Capodanno was physically safe, but could hear the cries of his wounded men just yards away over the hill.

A call was made over the radio seeking help and as Father Capodanno heard the message, he leaped from the crater and ran toward the other platoon. The radio operator was bucked up and the priest running toward him through the bullets. Father Capodanno grabbed one of the straps of the radio and together they crawled to the top of the hill with it. PFC Stephen A. Lovejoy, the radio operator, is noted in The Grunt Padre saying, "I would never have made it up the hill alive without the Chaplain’s aid."

As soon as Lovejoy was safe, Father Capodanno immediately went back to continue helping. He gave last rites to those who couldn't be saved and carried out bodies to safety. "He made many trips, telling us to ‘stay cool, don’t panic,’” noted PFC Julio Rodriguez in The Grunt Padre. Father Capodanno was physically safe, but could hear the cries of his wounded men just yards away over the hill.

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Evidence Collected for Father Tolton’s Sainthood Cause Heads to Vatican

By Michelle Martin
Catholic News Service

With prayers, songs and sealing wax, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago formally closed the investigation into the life and virtues of Father Augustus Tolton Sept. 29 in a ceremony at St. James Chapel at the Archbishop Quig- ley Center.

The prayer service marked the binding and密封ing of the documents collected by theologians, and then, supporters hope, passed on to the pope, who can declare Tolton “venerable” if the pope determines he had a life of heroic virtue.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, the postulator of the cause, said the collected evidence—which includes everything from newspaper articles to correspondence to eyewitness testimonies—certainly indicates that is the case.

“Everything in the record of the case demonstrates that we had a saint among us and we hardly noticed,” Bishop Perry said. “Father Tolton leaves behind a shining example of perseverance.”

Young Augustus had to leave one Catholic school, where he learned to read and write and was confirmed at age 16, and later established St. Monica’s Church in Chicago. Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George has formally closed the investigation into the life and virtues of the sainthood candidate.

He was born a slave in 1854 on a plantation near Brush Creek, Missouri. His father left to try to join the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1862, his mother escaped with her three children by rowing them across the Mississippi River and settling in Quincy, Illinois.

Tolton had to leave one Catholic school because of threats; he found a haven at St. Peter Parish and school. He began legal and communication studies and wrote and was confirmed at age 16.

He was encouraged to discern his vocation to the priesthood by the Franciscan priests who taught him at St. Francis College, now Quincy University, but could not find a seminary in the United States that would accept him. He eventually studied in Rome and was ordained for the Propaganda Fidei Congregation in 1886, expecting to become a missionary in Africa. Instead, he was sent back to Quincy, where he served for three years before coming to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1889.

He spearheaded the building of St. Monica Church for black Catholics, dedicated in 1894, and died after suffering heat stroke on a Chicago street on July 9, 1897.

Springfield Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, whose diocese includes Quincy, Illinois, founded St. Monica Church in 1894, and died after suffering heat stroke on a Chicago street on July 9, 1897.

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Cardinal George, who is to retire when his successor, Archbishop Blase J. Cupich, is installed Nov. 18, called the opening of Father Tolton’s cause one of the most important, if not the most important, thing he has done in his more than 17 years as archbishop of Chicago.

“The Church, over the centuries, has ordained many priests, most of them quite holy, in some ways, some great ways,” the cardinal said.

Father Tolton was one such holy priest, who “devoted himself to his people, quietly and in his own way,” he said, despite great difficulties and set- backs.

“Virtue has consequences, and virtue is stronger than evil,” Cardinal George said. “History is what God remembers. The rest passes.”

During the ceremony, Bishop Perry thanked members of the Father Tolton Guild, who are working to move the cause forward; members of the historical commission, who examined the records of his life; and members of the theological commission, who looked for evidence of a miracle attribut- ed to Father Tolton’s intercession. The dossier sealed Sept. 29 includes letters already written to Cardinal George tell- ing of favors granted after praying for Father Tolton’s intercession, Perry said.

In general, one confirmed miracle is needed for beatification, and a second such miracle is needed for canoniza- tion.

Andrew Lyke, director of the archdiocese’s Office for Black Catholics and a member of the Father Tolton Guild, said he will continue working to spread the word about the cause. His office and the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union sponsor pilgrimages to sites significant in Father Tolton’s life and ministry, both in Missouri and Quincy and in Chicago, and the guild encourages everyone to pray for the priests interces- sion for whatever their needs are.

At the moment, Father Tolton is among four African-American Catho- lics whose sainthood causes have been opened, Lyke said, and his office tries to draw attention to all four.

The others are Mother Henriette Del- ille, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, who has been declared venerable; Mother Mary Eliz- abeth Lame, foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence; and Pierre Toussaint, who was brought to New York as a boy and later became a well-known philanthropist, also declared venerable.

“But of course I have a special place in my heart for Father Tolton,” Lyke said. “He has always been an inspira- tional historical figure, but I feel much closer to him spiritually since I’ve been praying to him every day.”

November is Black Catholic History Month

In July 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States voted to establish November as Black Catholic Histor- ianly Month, honoring the men and women from Africa who pioneered the faith. They chose the month of November because it marks in several dates in this month that are important to Catholics of African descent, most especially the death and feast day of Saint Martin de Porres (November 3) and the birth of Saint Augustine (November 13).

For more information about the Black Catholic Apostolate in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact: Gwen Summers 717-232-6285 gwsummers@aol.com

Save the Date
Diocesan Mass in Celebration of African American and African Catholic Faith and Culture
January 18, 2015, at 12:15 PM, at Saint Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg
Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist

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If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

The Knights of Columbus are a band of brothers, dedicated to serving communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and neighbor.

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Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. They volunteer time to serve parishes and communities. By working together, they were able to donate more than $1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

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Unity and fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The organization was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communi- ties, protect the wellbeing of their Cath- olic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life’s journey.

The Knights of Columbus organization offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith through living the example of charity that evangelizes and by personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

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Visit www.kofc.org/join, and look for Knights of Columbus in your parish during membership drives.
Saints and Souls

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

From its beginning, the Catholic Church has expressed belief in the communion of saints – the relationship that exists between its members living on earth and those who have died. This communion unites the living with the saints in heaven and the souls in purgatory.

Saints, as we understand them, are those who have given their lives for the faith or who lived with heroic virtue and, recognized as having achieved eternal life, are now intercessors before God. Yet, the Church calls all of us to aspire to become saints ourselves – that is, persons who live lives of charity and virtue, and are worthy of imitation.

“Being a saint is not a privilege of the few, like someone getting a large inheritance,” Pope Francis said on the feast of All Saints last year. “All of us have inherited through baptism the ability to become saints.”

Saints are regular people, “not super-heroes, nor were they born perfect,” he said. “They are like us, each one of us.” What makes them stand out is that they always followed Jesus.

I see that reflected in my life. There are images of saints throughout my home, in statues, paintings and books. But saints aren’t the statues on our shelves or the stained-glass windows in our churches. They are enflamed in the Church today.

St. Nicholas has always been one of my favorite saints. My affinity for him began during my preschool years, when my grandma (“Nan”) would urge me to put a pair of shoes on the front porch to be filled with goodies on his feast day, December 6. Nan would entice me with stories of what she had received from the good saint in her own childhood, as the family tradition was passed down from our ancestors from Austria-Hungary. To this day, I put my shoes outside on the night of December 5.

St. Nicholas, now popularly known as the patron saint of children, lived in the fourth century. Yet, he is just as alive today. I see him in people who give without expecting anything in return. I see him in co-workers who anonymously leave candies or trinkets at someone’s desk, just to brighten their day. Last month, I saw him in the children at St. Joseph School in York, collecting shoes for the less fortunate. For 19 years, I witnessed him in my mother-in-law, who never ended a visit – at her house or mine – without giving a kiss and small gift.

As an eighth-grader discerning the saint whose name I would choose in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, I selected Elizabeth of Hungary, who connects me to ancestors who came here from Austria-Hungary in the early 1900s. Though she was the daughter of a king, Elizabeth led a simple life, practiced penance and devoted herself to charity. She built a Franciscan hospital and cared for the sick until her death in 1231 at the age of 24.

I’ve seen her legacy embodied, too, in the priests and parish staff who give money to parishioners struggling to pay for groceries, or a brown bag lunch to a hungry person on the street. I see St. Elizabeth of Hungary in the parishioners and school students who donate wish-list items to pro-life pregnancy centers, food banks and shelters. I’ve seen her in the loving and sorrowful touch of my aunt, who de-votedly cared for her husband as he was dying of cancer.

Over the years, as I’ve come to learn about the saints, I’ve called upon them while seeking intercession for ailing relatives, strength in time of distress, or models for witnessing the faith.

Of the intercession of the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, “Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness... [T]hey do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.... So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped.” (CCC, 956)

The doctrine on the communion of saints refers to the relationship that exists between the members of the Church: the Church Triumphant (saints in heaven), the Church Militant (the pilgrim Church on earth), and the Church Suffering (the souls being purified in purgatory).

We seek the prayerful intercession of the saints in heaven. We assist the souls in purgatory through our prayers and sacrifices. This communion of saints most fully experienced during the Mass, where “the whole Church is united with the offering and intercession of Christ.”

In full consciousness of this communion, the Church encourages us to honor the memory of the dead, and to pray for them.

And so, in these days surrounding All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, we recall the saints in heaven, we remember our deceased loved ones, and we ponder God’s promise of eternal life.

I couldn’t have been more than ten years old when I learned my first lesson in praying for the dead. It’s tied to the first memory of have of being in a cemetery. I held Nan’s hand as we walked along a row of tombstones in St. Gertrude’s Cemetery in Lebanon.

Nan carried several arrangements of flowers – live ones and artificial ones – and we walked in silence. I remember looking at the rows and rows of headstones, and feeling a bit amazed that Nan knew just where we were headed. When we reached the spot, she knelt down to clear away grass and dirt from the base of a headstone so that she could anchor the flowers.

“Where is your Grandmom and Granddad buried,” she told me, pointing to the graves of her parents, both of whom had died by the time I had reached elementary school. I remembered them, and being at their graves for the first time, I felt like I was visiting them with them, though the occasion was somber.

Then my grandma imparted the lesson.

“Now watch me, so that you know what to do when you come to a cemetery,” she said. I stood looking at her, waiting for her to show me how to water the fresh flowers, spread the stems of the artificial arrangements, or brush away dirt from the headstone. But she didn’t move. Instead, she stood with her head bowed in prayer. She said nothing more.

The image of her in prayer in that cemetery came to my mind whenever I visit the graves of loved ones – including that of her husband, my “Pap,” who died in 1991, and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lebanon. I visit there several times a year, and then stop at Grandview Memorial Park in Annville, where my paternal grandparents are buried. I smile for the memories. I cry for missing them. I thank God for placing them in my life.

Two weeks ago, my husband and I spent a Sunday visiting Nan, the matriarch of our family.

When we drove home from our visit with her, we stopped by cemeteries where loved ones are buried. And on their graves, like a fingerprint, were the silk flowers that Nan always leaves there, along with her prayers as part of the communion of saints.

“We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we hold it in this communion, the merciful love of God and His saints is always [attentive] to our prayers.” (CCC, 962)
**Couple Trusts in God throughout Cancer Diagnosis, High-Risk Pregnancy**

By SueAnn Howell

**Catholic News Service**

Keith and Donielle Wilde know what it means to live this every day: “Jesus, I trust in you.”

Married for 17 years, the Catholic parents of nine children under the age of 12 and the owners of a concrete business in Summerfield, N.C., rely heavily on their faith in Christ and the Church. But shortly after Donielle became pregnant with her 10th child in April, doctors found that her breast cancer, which had been in remission for the past nine years, had returned—and their faith was put to the test again.

“The beginning of this year was extremely difficult for Keith and me,” Donielle recalled. “The business, financial stressors, and 11 of us living under the same roof had us both feeling maxed out. In our minds, we were sure that God had given us all that we could handle.

“However, God would soon reveal that he had other plans. Since we were using NFP (natural family planning), we were not pregnant with our 10th child, a fifth daughter. But when Donielle went to her OB-GYN for a routine ultrasound nine weeks into her pregnancy, life took another unexpected turn. The ultrasound revealed a large mass on one of her ovaries.

“The tumor was cancerous. At 16 weeks safely into her pregnancy, Donielle underwent surgery to remove it.

“With God’s grace, we never lost our peace in spite of all that was happening,” she said. “In fact, our faith grew stronger and our hope for a healthy pregnancy and delivery was in the forefront of our prayers, as well as all those praying for us.”

Tests revealed that the tumor was not ovarian cancer, but Stage IV breast cancer that had metastasized. The breast cancer she had successfully fought in 2005 had returned, and doctors told her the hormones produced by her pregnancy were speeding its growth.

Both the ovarian specialist and the oncologist strongly advised Donielle to begin treatment immediately. She had two options: abort her unborn daughter, then undergo surgery and chemotherapy, or undergo aggressive chemotherapy throughout her pregnancy and risk a possible miscarriage.

“It felt as if the moment was frozen in time,” Donielle said. “Looking back, it was as if we were in the midst of a spiritual battlefield, and the forces of good and evil were intently watching to see what our choice would be, but reality there was no hesitation in making our decision. We would not abort our child or place her in harm’s way for any reason.

Keith recalled the day they met with the oncologist and heard the diagnosis.

“As a father, it is very strange to sit across from someone, at arm’s length, and listen to that person tell you to kill your child,” he said. “I know that there is a very blunt description of what took place – but it is also accurate. I realized that he did not see it that way. The doctor is a good man, in kind, a father. He is a competent professional and very dedicated to doing all he can to save Donielle’s life.

“But he simply did not see the child in her womb as a person. The pregnancy was a condition to be dealt with so that Donielle’s treatment could begin.”

But he said he and his wife never wavered on their decision.

“We calmly accepted the news, and calmly refused the abortion,” Keith added. The couple decided to postpone treatment for Donielle’s cancer until after their daughter is born.

She was to have a C-section in early November, four weeks before her due date, which will be “followed by the start of any suggested cancer treatments,” Donielle said. “Further treatment will be determined upon testing after she is born.”

Dr. Lewis Lipscomb Jr. is a pro-life OB-GYN who is caring for Donielle and the couple’s unborn baby, and he has dealt with life-threatening situations like this before.

“I have cared for courageous moms who have fought through cancer during their pregnancies—including women with breast cancer, melanoma, lymphoma, cervical cancer and uterine cancer,” Lipscomb said.

Despite some medical complications, Donielle “is doing very well,” he said, and the baby is developing normally.

“Donielle is a courageous and prayerful woman,” Lipscomb said. “She has faced multiple life-threatening and life-changing situations with genuine grace. She is an authentic witness for life to everyone she encounters.”

Said Donielle, “We feel very hopeful that our little girl will be healthy and strong. We’ve accepted in our hearts whatever it is God has willed for my life. Whether it be healing from cancer, strength in suffering or a peaceful death, my heart remains at peace knowing Christ and our Blessed Mother will give my family and me all the grace we need to live it out.”

Donielle Wilde

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**“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”**

*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

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A Mass to Celebrate All People

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

The seventh annual Diocesan Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities was celebrated at St. Pius X Church in Selinsgrove on Nov. 1. Bishop Ronald Gainer was the celebrant and homilist for the joyful Mass, concelebrated by Father Daniel F. X. Powell, pastor.

Demonstrating their gifts to the Church, persons with disabilities served as greeters, ushers, altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and gift bearers.

Ginny Duncan, Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, reflected on the occasion:

"Its purpose is to bring together a community devoted to ministry that works for true welcome and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of parish life. We celebrate the unique gifts that parishioners with disabilities bring to their own parishes," she said.

"The Mass helps us recognize that all people are children of God, and as such have a command to love and to do good works," she continued. "Our call is universal and extends to people with disabilities as well. Our parish’s doors must, therefore, be ‘open’ to all people.

This means that we must be physically accessible and have an attitude of welcome and acceptance. We must also recognize the struggles that persons with disabilities and their families encounter in their daily lives, which sometimes lead to spiritual questioning. Those spiritual needs must also be addressed. Anything less sends a message that the practice of our faith is for some, but not for others.

"This can be a daunting task, and to do this, we need God’s grace and the discernment to know how this should be done in our individual parishes and in our diocese," Mrs. Duncan said. "In this Mass we are called to pray as a community for His grace, patience and understanding. We are called to celebrate His gifts to all of us. We are called to be thankful for the faith he has given us and ask for an eternal home with Him where there will be no limits, no boundaries and where we will know His peace."

For information on ministry with persons with disabilities, contact Mrs. Duncan at 717-657-4804, or vduncan@hbgdiocese.org.

Above: Paul Bettendorf of Sacred Heart Parish in Lewisburg distributes programs for the Mass, during which he served as a greeter.

Right: Faithful present the offertory gifts during the diocesan Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities.
The Matthew 25 Collection provides us with a vehicle to answer the challenge before us and to directly assist those in the Diocese of Harrisburg who are less fortunate. The dollars received provide direct support and assistance in the form of food, clothing and shelter. I ask that you be generous.”

~Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

**Matthew 25 Collection’s Mission…More Important Than Ever**

The Collection was established in 2010 to provide funding to assist those in need of food, clothing and shelter. Twenty-five percent of monies collected by the parish remain at the parish to meet the needs of specific parishioners. Seventy-five percent of monies collected by the parish are used to fund grants for diocesan and/or community agencies that are empowered to meet a larger need. To date the Collection has provided grants to 42 organizations totaling $564,328.

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<th>2013 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients</th>
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<td>A Womans Concern</td>
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<td>Morning Star Pregnancy Services</td>
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<td>OMPH Benevolent Society</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Hope Food Pantry</td>
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<td>Parish Outreach Through Soup</td>
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<td><strong>Total Granted</strong></td>
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“…whatever you did for the least…”
November 23, 2014
...to those brothers and sisters who are less fortunate

WAYS TO DONATE

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

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

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

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

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...of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”
York Catholic Golfers Play Solidly at States

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Championship golf courses today usually total nearly 7,500 yards in length, given today’s equipment advantages. Lively core golf balls so explode off of titanium drivers, making 300-yard plus drives the norm rather than the exception for talented players.

Of course, the way golf superintendents limit the power game so prevalent today is to grow rough, bring trouble closer to the fairways and greens, hide flagsticks over knobs in the green and hope the wind blows a bunch.

All of this came into the game at this year’s PIAA golf championships held at Heritage Hills Golf Resort, pinched into the rolling suburban landscape just east of the city of York. The golf course, built just 25 years ago, only stretches to 6,500 yards, but what it lacks in distance is made up in large knobby, tiered greens and tight fairways bordered by out-of-bounds markers. Two such holes – the par-four 6th and 16th – are the course’s signature holes for quirkiness. Both are barely 300 yards, but both are diabolical in design and truthfully not championship caliber holes. With no room to drive the ball, both holes bring luck into play more than skill.

York Catholic senior Nick Geiman, a solid ball-striking left hander, was in the lead to win in the final round of the Class AA championship, until he made a quadruple bogey eight at the sixth, hitting two out of bounds to dash his hopes in the 36-hole competition. Standing on the tee three-under for the day, Geiman had it going after a first round 2-over 73 had left him a couple of shots back. And though he climbed back to within two shots of the lead standing on the 16th tee, he doubled 16 to dash his hopes of winning. Still, he finished third with a total of 150, losing to Sewickley Academy’s Jason Li, who shot 145.

The District 3 champions from York Catholic, brother and sister duo Lauren and Joe Parrini (pair of 77’s) also competed in the championship, as did Lancaster Catholic’s Richard Reva. York Catholic played in the team championship, which followed the two days of the individual completion. Three straight days of golf on the tight track at Heritage Hills left the Fighting Irish weary, as they shot 336 to finish third, only three shots behind the winners of New Hope-Solebury.
Tough Road Ahead for Squirettes to Defend State Title

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

For the second time this season, the Squirettes of Delone Catholic lost a tightly played match with the Saints of Berks Catholic, this time in the District 3 Class AA final played at Dallastown High School on Nov. 1. Losing 3-1, Delone won the second set 28-26, but lost the final two sets to the Saints, who bring size and great hitting power on the outside.

The loss throws the Squirettes into the bottom half of the PIAA draw, where they will face difficult contests with District 11 and District 1 teams to reach the state semifinals, where most likely Berks Catholic will be waiting to deny Delone’s quest to repeat as state champions and return to the state final three years running.

Delone Catholic Has Good Run in States after Winning District Gold

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

The District 3 cross country championships run at Hershey’s Parkview course on Oct. 23 tests a runner’s ability to handle steep terrain and tight turns on the way to the finish line. Delone Catholic’s Kate Mowery, junior, had the finish line in sight but was caught from behind in the race’s final 100 meters to place second in Class A. But her superb effort paced the Squirettes to successfully defend their District 3 team title, as they edged York Catholic to win gold. Four Delone and York Catholic runners placed in the top-ten respectively, Leanne Sneeringer, DC; Katelyn Macdougall, YC; Alyssa Alberghini, DC; Lindsey China, YC.

At the PIAA state championships run on the same course ten days later on a raw, rainy and windy Nov. 1, Kate Mowery placed in the Top 30 with a time 20:28 – seven seconds faster than her district run.

Trinity Wins District Title in Overtime Thriller

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Goals often come rarely in soccer, and that was proven in the Class A, District 3 final that pitted Trinity (18-1-2) against the Tulpehocken Trojans at Hersheypark Stadium on a chilly Oct. 30. Deep into the second overtime period, some 108 minutes worth of back and forth soccer, Trinity’s Ashley Rogliano’s broken play goal cracked a tense, scoreless tie, giving the Shamrocks their second district title in three years, after losing a heartbreaker in last year’s final. When the Trojans’ defense mistakenly let the ball get behind them, Rogliano had enough left in the tank to slip the ball around Tulpe’s goalie, who decided to make a play on the loose ball out of the net to cut the angle.

It may be a stretch to say the Shamrocks were outplayed, but the Trojans did have more quality scoring chances, including hitting the crossbar early in the second half. And they nearly doubled the Shamrocks in corner chances, especially so in the overtime periods, but the Shamrocks were resilient defensively and able to fend off Tulpehocken’s tall and speedy midfield.

These two quality soccer teams seem destined to play again in the state playoffs if the bracket holds.
Pope Francis called for abolition of the death penalty as well as life imprisonment, and denounced what he called a “penal populism” that promises to solve society’s problems by punishing crime instead of pursuing social justice.

“It is impossible to imagine that states today cannot make use of another means than capital punishment to defend peoples’ lives from an unjust aggressor,” the pope said Oct. 23 in a meeting with representatives of the International Association of Penal Law.

“All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to struggle not only for abolition of the death penalty, whether it be legal or illegal and in all its forms, but also to improve prison conditions, out of respect for the human dignity of persons deprived of their liberty. And thus, I connect with life in imprisonment” he said. “Life imprisonment is a hidden death penalty.”

The pope noted that the Vatican recently eliminated life imprisonment from its own penal code. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, cited by Pope Francis in his talk, “the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor,” but modern advances in protecting society from dangerous criminals mean that “cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically nonexistent.”

The pope said that, although a number of countries have formally abolished capital punishment, “the death penalty, illegally and to a varying extent, is applied all over the planet,” because “extrajudicial executions” are often disguised as “clashes with offenders or presented as the undesired consequences of the reasonable, necessary and proportionate use of force to apply the law.”

The pope denounced the detention of prisoners without trial, who he said account for more than 50 percent of all incarcerated people in some countries. He said maximum security prisons can be a form of torture, since their “principal characteristic is none other than external isolation,” which can lead to “psychic and physical sufferings such as paranoia, anxiety, depression and weight loss and significantly increase the chance of suicide.”

He also rebuked unspecified governments involved in kidnapping people for “illegal transportation to detention centers in which torture is practiced.”

The pope said criminal penalties should not apply to children, and should be waived or limited for the elderly, who “on the basis of their very errors can offer lessons to the rest of society. We don’t learn only from the virtues of saints but also from the failings and errors of sinners.”

Pope Francis said contemporary societies overuse criminal punishment, partially out of a primitive tendency to offer up “sacrificial victims, accused of the disgrace that strikes the community.”

The pope said some politicians and members of the media promote “violence and revenge, public and private, not only against those responsible for crimes, but also against those under suspicion, justified or not.”

He denounced a growing tendency to think that the “most varied social problems can be resolved through public punishment... that by means of that punishment we can obtain benefits that would require the implementation of another type of social policy, economic policy and policy of social inclusion.”

Using techniques similar to those of racist regimes of the past, the pope said, unspecified forces today create “stereotypical figures that sum up the characteristics that society perceives as threatening.”

Pope Francis concluded his talk by denouncing human trafficking and corruption, both crimes he said “could never be committed without the complicity, active or passive, of public authorities.”

The pope spoke scathingly about the mentality of the typical corrupt person, whom he described as conceited, unable to accept criticism, and prompt to insult and even persecute those who disagree with him.

“The corrupt one does not perceive his own corruption. It is a little like what happens with bad breath: someone who has it hardly ever realizes it; other people notice and have to tell him,” the pope said. “Corruption is an evil greater than sin. More than forgiveness, this evil needs to be cured.”

**Tragedy**

Continued from 1

when we accept death as a force beyond our control:

Garrow became the first U.S. state to allow doctors to prescribe lethal overdoses. Voters approved the Death With Dignity Act in 1994 and then reaffirmed it three years later. Since then four other states have since passed similar laws – Washington, Montana, Vermont and New Mexico.

The Oregon law says a patient must be of sound mind and must prove to a doctor he or she is a legal resident of the state. The patient must swallow the lethal drug without anyone’s help.

At the start of 2014, Maynard, a newlywed, learned she had brain cancer. A few months after she underwent two surgeries, doctors delivered the news that the cancer had returned and that most patients die from such tumors in about a year. She decided against further treatment.

Maynard and her husband, Dan Diaz, moved to Oregon, to become legal residents of the state and thus able to take advantage of its assisted-suicide law.

On Nov. 1, as she had planned, she took a legal overdose. AP reported she died at home peacefully in the arms of her loved ones,” quoting Sean Crowley, a spokesman for the advocacy group Compassion & Choices.

At one point Maynard, who would have turned 30 Nov. 19, said she might postpone taking her life to see how the disease progressed, but she stuck with her original plan. In interviews she said her husband and other family members accepted her decision to end her life.

Archbishop Sample in his statement said: “Cutting life short is not the answer to death.”

“Instead of hastening death, we encourage all to embrace the sometimes difficult but precious moments at the end of life, for it is often in these moments that we come to understand what is most important about life,” he said. “Our final days help us to prepare for our eternal destiny.”

Across the country in the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina, a 30-year-old Catholic seminarian facing the same disease as Maynard wrote a poignant essay in mid-October responding to Maynard’s announced decision to end her life.

Philip Johnson called her story heartbreaking and one “that really hit home,” because he was 24 when his doctors told him he had inoperable brain cancer. The news came when he was “beginning an exciting career as a naval officer with my entire life ahead of me. I had so many hopes and dreams, and in an instant they all seemed to be crushed.”

“I have lived through six years of constant turmoil, seizures, and headaches. I often changed hospitals and doctors every few months, seeking some morsel of hope for survival. Like Brittany, I do not want to die, nor do I want to suffer the likely outcome of this disease,” he wrote. “I do not think anyone wants to die in this way.”

His doctors have told him that as the disease progresses he likely will gradually lose control of his bodily functions as a result of paralysis and incontinence. “It is very likely that my mental faculties will also disappear and lead to confusion and hallucinations before my death,” Johnson said.

“This terrifies me, but it does not make me any less of a person,” he continued.

“My life means something to me, to God, and to my family and friends, and barring a miraculous recovery, it will continue to mean something long after I am paralyzed in a hospice bed,” he said. “My family and friends love me for who I am, not just for the personality traits that will slowly slip away if this tumor progresses and takes my life.”

He noted that he has lived longer than expected, which is its own miracle.

Johnson added: “I know exactly what she is going through. I still get sad. I still cry. I still beg God to show me his will through all of this suffering and to allow me to be his priest if it be his will, but I know that I am not alone in my suffering. I have my family, my friends, and the support of the entire universal Church. I have walked in Brittany’s shoes, but I have never had to walk alone. Such is the beauty of the Church, our families, and the prayerful support that we give to one another.”
LARC Day Focuses on Decree on Ecumenism

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The annual LARC Day of Dialogue drew a number of Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic church leaders and faithful to the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Oct. 27 for a discussion of the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism, Unitas Redintegrata.

Internationally known speaker Dr. Massimo Faggioli, the keynote presenter for the gathering, offered insights on the historic Vatican II document, which helped to pave the way for greater ecumenical dialogue.

A Church historian, Dr. Faggioli studied from the Second Vatican Council,” Dr. Faggioli told The Catholic Witness prior to his keynote presentation at the LARC Day of Dialogue.

“Ecumenism has always been, in some sense, part of the American experience. But in Europe, ecumenism had to be a conscious choice. Here, the document 50 years ago gave language or wording to what was taking place in dialogue. In Europe, the decree was a beginning of something, because nothing had been happening on that level.”

“Gatherings like the LARC Day are not possible without the Decree on Ecumenism from the Second Vatican Council,” Dr. Faggioli said.

At the LARC Day, the focus was on the provisional, of conflict, of the in-between, he said. Why? Because we are living in a culture of short-termism, of destruction, instead of created. Why? Because we are living in a culture of the provisional, of conflict, of the in-between “to make alliances,” he said.

What is needed is a Church and Christians who are willing to “waste time” on people, not just principles, and accompany face-to-face those needing to discover the truth in Jesus Christ, he said.

The pope’s comments during a 90-minute encounter with about 8,000 lay members of the international Schonstatt movement Oct. 25 in the Vatican audience hall. The movement, founded by the late German Father Joseph Kentenich, was celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Regarding questions, the pope answered five questions, ranging from how to help strengthen families to his secret to breaking from and being free of all everlasting bonds and forms of solidarity, Pope Francis said.

“Talking about problems of the family, there is no point in speaking of a culture that is shortsighted, where everything is being called a family, where the family is bastardized” and debased, since God’s goodness, he added.

The family is under attack now more than ever before because of today’s culture of division that seeks to break from and be free of all everlasting bonds and forms of solidarity, Pope Francis said.

In response to a question about how to help families, Pope Francis said he sees the same thing even in his own family with couples living together “part time: Monday through Friday with my family, they are ‘bludgeoned’ by All Sides, new forms, totally destructive and limiting of the greatness of the love of marriage.

When asked about the best way to share the faith with others, the pope said going out into the world and living in such a way that people have made Jesus a full part and the heart of their lives.

Everyone, however, is weak, makes mistakes, has problems “and we don’t always give a witness, but the ability to become humble inside, to ask for forgiveness when our witness is not what it should be,” this is part of being good Christians.

The Church also needs to “go out,” he said, “to help, to share, to let people see what we do and how we do it.

If a lay association or the Church itself doesn’t go out, “it is a Church of snobs,” and instead of looking for people and helping them, attracting them to the faith, “they stay home and think, ‘something is terribly wrong with our Church,’ he said. "It is not what it should be."

A community that goes out makes mistakes. Mistakes are made, but it is wonderful to ask forgiveness when one makes a mistake,” he said. “Do not be afraid!”

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

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

**ABBOTTSTOWN** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Paul Hollembrock.

**ANNVILLE** – St. Vincent de Paul: Tom McVey, Gerald Sax, Donald Willet.

**ABBOTTSTOWN** – St. Francis of Assisi: Donna Notarangelo, Dolores Swiegard.

**HARRISBURG** – St. Catherine Laboure: Patricia Taylor; St. Francis of Assisi: Donna Notarangelo, Dolores Swiegard.

**KULPMONT** – Holy Angels: Helen D. Miller.

**LANCASTER** – St. Anne: Dolores A. Eckman.

**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Holy Angels: Helen D. Miller.

**NEW BLOOMFIELD** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Charles G. Horwedel.

**HANOVER** – St. John the Apostle: Terry A. Bennett, Jacqueline Heim.

**FAIRFIELD** – Holy Angels: Helen D. Miller.

**MCBETZ** – Holy Angels: Helen D. Miller.

**STEELTON** – Prince of Peace: Barbara Szada.

**TREVORTON** – St. Patrick: Theresa Heint.

**WAYNESBORO** – St. Andrew: Saundra Perry, Nellie Snoddyer.

**FAIRFIELD** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Paul Hollembrock.

**HANOVER** – St. Vincent de Paul: Tom McVey, Gerald Sax, Donald Willet.

**NEW BLOOMFIELD** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Charles G. Horwedel.

**SCHECENGLISHOSS** – St. Joseph: Janette M. Heim.

**FAIRFIELD** – Holy Angels: Helen D. Miller.

**HARRISBURG** – St. Catherine Laboure: Patricia Taylor; St. Francis of Assisi: Donna Notarangelo, Dolores Swiegard.

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**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Holy Angels: Helen D. Miller.

**ANNVILLE** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Paul Hollembrock.

**ANNVILLE** – St. Paul the Apostle: Ronald Krall, Jr., Dora Macian, Generoso (Jerry) Russo, Joseph Zengerle.

**BERWICK** – St. Joseph: Janette M. “Jan” Bower, Mary Youshock.

**CHAMBERSBURG** – Corpus Christi: Francis Hare, Marie Miller, Richard Schrecengost.

**COAL TOWNSHIP** – Our Lady of Hope: Marie Scandle, Patricia Tektoskie.

**DANVILLE** – St. Joseph: Edward Coleman.

**FAIRFIELD** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Paul Hollembrock.

**HANOVER** – St. Vincent de Paul: Tom McVey, Gerald Sax, Donald Willet.

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To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313.

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608.
**The Catholic Witness**

Saturday, November 8, 2014

**Diocesan Notebook**

**Recitation of the Rosary for America** is held every third Thursday at 7 p.m. at the home of Mo and Tom Liebe in Lititz at noon. The next gathering will be Nov. 15.

**Mass in the Polish language** will be celebrated at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. Confessions will be offered in the Polish after Mass.

**Education, Enrichment & Support**

The St. Francis Xavier Parish Adult Education Program is presenting a five-week series on Marian Theology and Marian Spirituality on Wednesday evenings through Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Xavier Center, Gettysburg. St. John Low, PTO representative, and Fr. Michael Jarema, Msgr. Max’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., will instruct. For more information, contact John Knowles, Adult Education Coordinator at 717-454-1714.

The Oblates of St. Benedict, St. Anselm Deanery will be meeting on Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in Selinsgrove. Oblates of St. Benedict are Christian individuals or families who live in a Benedictine community in order to enrich their Christian way of life. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions about attending or joining, contact Parish Nurse Pagel at 540-584-0113.

What would you say if your child told you or she felt called to the priesthood or religious life? Do you think he would have the courage and love to encourage his or her vocation? Come and learn how you, as a parent, can ask the right questions and guide your son and daughter in the right direction to answer God’s call. Nov. 16 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in St. Anselm’s Parish Hallway, Millersboro. There will be a video shown and four seminars present to talk about their call to the priesthood and to answer questions you may have. Coffee, tea and breakfast items will be served. Open to parents/adults of children in grades K-12.


**Theological Symposium on Theology** will conclude this fall with a series of events focusing on the Holy Spirit. The next event will be held Dec. 13 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York. This year’s theme will be “The Church and the Holy Spirit.” The evening will include a video shown and questions will be taken. Light refreshments served. All are welcome.

**Bingo Night** at the Holy Family Church, St. Joseph School in York will be held Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $6 for children ages 12 and under. For information, call Wanda Egan at 717-921-3432.

**Knights of Columbus Council 887** will hold their annual Turkey Party on Nov. 14 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the church home at 1575 New Danville Pike in Lancaster. Admission is $10 for adults and $6 for children ages 18 and under. For tickets, call 717-797-3485.

**The Men’s Club of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville** will host a Toy Train Show on Nov. 15 from 9 a.m.-noon in the parish gym and classrooms. There will be nearly 100 table top train displays, including new and collectible items, as well as a few operating layouts. There is a nominal charge to attend the meet. For information about the show, or to learn about getting to know more about your trains, call Charlie Sau at 717-972-8481.

**St. Patrick Parish in Trevorton** will host a Soup and Apple Dumpling Sale on Nov. 15 from 1-3 p.m. and Nov. 16 from 10 a.m.-noon in the parish hall. A variety of soups: chicken noodle, ham and bean, ham and string bean, chicken vegetable, beef vegetable, cheese tortellini, New England clam chowder, and more. Apple dumplings are $3 each, must be ordered in advance by Nov. 10. Regular prices: $6 per quart, $3 per pint. Call the parish office Monday-Thursday at 570-797-6251 to order an appointment.

**York Catholic High School students** will present “The Hound of the Baskervilles” adapted by Kent Brown on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m., Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Tickets are available at the door at a cost of $5 for adults, $3 for senior citizens, and $2 for children under 12.

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg** will host a Cash Bingo Fundraiser on Nov. 16 in the parish hall, directly behind the church. Tickets are $20 and are available at the parish office. Tickets at the door will be $25 (only 150 tickets will be sold), so get your ticket early! Games start at 3 p.m. and payout will be 75%. First game of packet will be played at 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 2 p.m. A 20-game packet includes six cards each, prizes ranging from $100-$750 payout), three $50 payouts and 14 regular bingo games with $40 payouts. Major blackout games, sold separately, have a $500 payout, or a $250 payout, or a $100 prize, or a $75 prize, or $10 prizes, five 50-50 games sold separately. Additional cards available. Paper bingo – please bring your own. Limit of 100 number of tickets will be sold. Kitchen open from 2:15-6 p.m.

**The Annual St. Joan of Arc PTO Spaghetti Dinner** will be held Nov. 22 from 4-8 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey. Delicious food, live entertainment and spectacular bakesale. All proceeds will go toward the menu of spaghetti and meatballs (or) penne with “Pronio’s” sweet Italian sausage. Adult tickets are $9 for spaghetti and meatballs and $10 for penne with meatballs. Kids’ spaghetti and meatballs (ages 3-14) are $5, and kids under 3 are free. Take-outs available. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time at the school or at the door. St. Joan of Arc School in Camp Hill invites all students, parents and parishioners to its Annual Open House 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 717-761-1162 x2329.

**Celebrate the 90th anniversary of St. Anne Parish** in Lancaster on Nov. 23 at the Eden Resort Inn and Conference Center at 5 p.m. If you are a part of St. Anne Church history, we would love to have you. Come celebrate 90 years of history, faith, family and friends. All former parishioners are invited and welcome. Details and a copy of the banquet invitation and RSVP card can be found on the St. Anne Parish website, www.bishopmcdevitt.org. Adults are $30 and students are $20. Register before Nov. 26, price increases by $5 and race shirts are not guaranteed. If you are interested in seeing your name or business name on a four-county fondue lining the course, contact Ein Conaghan, Assistant Director of Advancement at 717-236-7973, ext. 2135, or econaghan@bishopmcdevitt.org.

**Celtic Celebrations” is a collaborative venture formed in 2013 by one of the midstate’s favorite Irish artists in order to raise money for Hurricane Sandy relief. After raising over $6,500 in 2012, this year, the Celtic Culture, Seance, Inc. The Rebel Heart Irish Dancers return this year with a concert benefiting Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors. Join these great acts in an explosion of Celtic and Christmas melodies along with elegant and rhythmic dance. Fifty percent of all proceeds go to Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors. The concert will be held Saturday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. at the Millersville Catholic Church R.C. Cathedral Auditorium in Harrisburg. Ticket prices are $15 for adults, $12 for students, seniors, and military, and $5 for kids. For more information and a link to tickets, visit http://celticcelebrations.wordpress.com.

**Parish & Organization News**

Volunteers are needed for hospital ministry at the Harrisburg Hospital and the Community General Osteopathic Hospital of PinnacleHealth. Contact Father Stephen Shin at 717-796-2680 or stephenshin@hotmail.com if you are interested and available for this rewarding ministry.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago is selling Christmas ornaments depicting the basilica’s stained-glass windows. The parish has featured a different window for three years in an effort to raise awareness of the basilica and craftsmanship. Ornaments include the Annunciation, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and – this year – the Nativity. Cost is $20 per ornament. Those interested in purchasing can contact the parish office at 717-637-2721.

**Submission Deadlines**

The deadline for announcements for the November 21 edition of The Catholic Witness is November 12 at 4:30 p.m. Submissions should be e-mailed to Witness@hbgdiocese.org. A list of upcoming issue dates and deadlines can be found on The Witness’ page at www.hbgdiocese.org, or requested via e-mail.
HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOWS AND BAZAARS

(The listing of holiday craft shows and bazaars can also be found on the diocesan Web site www.bhyp.org.)

Our Lady Help of Christian Parish in Lykens will hold its Christmas bazaar in the church hall Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Door prizes, bake stand, craft stand, second-hand jewelry, chance stand and homemade gifts will be available. More information, call Parish Office at 717-587-9992.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar, “All That Glitters,” on Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Nov. 8 from 9 a.m.-noon. Handcrafted items, aprons, baby blankets and totes, Christmas decorations, ornaments, angels, Santas; send photo; flowers; and a chance to win a white elephant sale. For more information, contact Carolyn Benshoof at 717-586-9324.

St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon will hold their annual Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and Nov. 9 from 9 a.m.-noon. Handcrafted items, aprons, baby blankets and totes, Christmas decorations, ornaments, angels, Santas, and more; people; floral; and a chance to win. For more information, call church at 717-564-8531.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster will hold its Christmas Bazaar Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster. For more information, call 717-273-1693.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will hold its 14th annual Christmas market Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Handcrafted items, aprons, baby blankets and totes, Christmas decorations, ornaments, angels, Santas, and more; people; floral; and a chance to win. For more information, call church at 717-337-2777.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will hold its Christmas bazaar, “Share the Love,” Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Xavier Center. Local vendors and artisans on site. For more information, contact Anna at 717-334-5007.

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October marked the beginning of the 75th anniversary year of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Seventy-five years ago, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius fulfilled a dream as the construction of a dwelling place for God was completed on the grounds of Villa Sacred Heart in Danville.

The motherhouse chapel, which was later named a basilica, was from the beginning a monument to the simple faith of simple people. The Sisters in the 1930s were the daughters of working-class immigrants. The people who contributed to the building of the chapel worked in coal mines, steel mills, factories, and on farms across America. The construction of the chapel was a testament to thousands of generous people's sense that what was lasting was what one gave to God.

The basilica was designed by architect Henry D. Dagit and Son of Philadelphia. They designed the building according to the historic cruciform plan, combining elements of the Romanesque style with modern styles. The basilica is renowned for its perfect blend of several types of marble. The soft white of the unadorned Travertine marble walls diffuses a joyful brightness throughout the whole interior. The vaulted masonry polychrome ceiling is built entirely of Guastavino tile: blue, red, buff and gold, laid in Romanesque design. The exterior walls of the basilica are built of Foxcroft stone, matching the academy building to which it connects. The door and window casements are Indiana limestone.

In the Middle Ages, religious truths were taught to the faithful through stories in the stained-glass windows that were an integral part of the churches. They illuminated not only the interior of the edifice but also the hearts of those who came to worship there. Today, stained-glass windows still teach important truths, even though those who participate in the ceremonies are literate. The basilica’s vibrant, jewel-like windows in red, blue and gold glass are reminiscent of the craftsmanship of the Middle Ages. Executed by the Willet Stained Glass Company, they express both spiritual truths and natural beauty.

The basilica is a place where one can go to worship amidst beauty rendered in color and symbol. For the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, it is the place where their history, charism, spirituality and mission are emblazoned in the windows and inscribed in symbols throughout the church. For example, in the window of community history and ministry, one of the panels commemorates the opening of a girls’ academy in Danville which became St. Cyril’s. Others show a Sister at prayer, a Sister preparing a class for First Communion, Sisters serving orphans, and teaching in a parish school, Sacred Heart in Wilkes-Barre, the first school staffed by the Sisters.

Groundbreaking for the basilica took place on June 14, 1938. The cornerstone was blessed on June 6, 1939, with the completed chapel being dedicated on October 17, 1939. On June 30, 1989, St. John Paul II conferred on the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius the title and dignity of Minor Basilica, the only basilica in the world dedicated to Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Since 1939, the basilica has been used for prayer by hundreds of thousands of people, and the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have gathered here for prayer every day and have brought the whole world with them in their prayers. In this 75th anniversary year of the basilica, the Sisters rejoice to be able to share the blessings they have received.

(Article provided by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.)
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

On All Souls Day, when the Church commemorates the faithful departed, the members of St. Joseph Parish in Hanover gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving to close the parish’s 150th anniversary year, remembering the lay faithful, clergy and religious who laid the foundation of their parish.

“This has been a year to show our gratitude for the people who had the vision to begin St. Joseph Parish,” Msgr. James Lyons, pastor, told The Catholic Witness prior to the Nov. 2 Mass. The parish traces its roots to November 1863, with a baptismal registry written by Jesuit Father Peter Dompieri from Conewago: “Here begin the names of those baptized from the town of Hanover where at this time the Jesuit fathers from Conewago, in the house of Jacob Hill, on Wednesday heard confessions, distributed Holy Communion, and instructed the youth in Catholic doctrine.”

In the midst of the Civil War, as troops crossed through Hanover and its surrounding towns, Catholic faithful worked to create the parish. In 1864, with St. Joseph’s established, a Methodist Church was purchased for St. Joseph Church and its parochial school. The Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in 1872, and have been ministering continuously in the parish and its school. In 1877, under the leadership of their first resident pastor, Jesuit Father John Emig, the congregation began to build a new church, which was dedicated on Nov. 1, 1880. The parish continued to grow, and in 1950, the cornerstone for St. Joseph School was laid. Then, in 1963, the church was deemed unsafe for public use and was demolished. The school auditorium served as a temporary worship space, until the current church on Grandview Road south of town was built in 1975, under the leadership of Msgr. Robert Gribbin, who served as pastor for more than three decades. The parish center was dedicated in his name in 1996. Father Joseph Gotwalt, a native son of the parish, was appointed pastor in 1998, and led a capital campaign for a new parish administrative center and priests’ residence. He also introduced a stewardship initiative, which continues today with nearly 70 parish ministries, electronic giving, and a connectedness among parishioners. Father Gotwalt retired in 2012, and was succeeded by Msgr. Lyons.

“The richness of our heritage needs to be honored,” Msgr. Lyons said of the parish, which is home to a diverse group of parishioners, including Hanover natives, families who have moved to the area, and a growing Hispanic Catholic community which gathers for a weekly Spanish-language Mass. “We honor our heritage while serving the people of the Church today, as we focus our efforts on evangelization, to share the traditions of the Catholic Church,” he said.

Late afternoon sunlight casts colorful hues through the stained-glass windows at St. Joseph Church in Hanover, as parishioners gather for Mass to mark the close of the parish’s 150th anniversary year.

Bishop Ronald Gainer receives the gifts from members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, whose congregation has continuously ministered at St. Joseph Parish and School since 1872. Pictured are Sister Susan Wagaman, background, who currently teaches second grade at St. Joseph School; Sister Anne Leonard, center, who taught first grade at St. Joseph School; and Sister Rita Smith, foreground, a native of St. Joseph Parish and current principal of Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg.