Capuchins Celebrate 35 Years in York

The Pastoral Council at St. Joseph Parish in York honored the Capuchin Franciscan Friars who have served the parish since 1979 with a special anniversary Mass celebrated at the church on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

A number of Capuchin priests and brothers who have ministered at the parish returned for the celebration.

“We friars are greatly honored that members of the pastoral council wanted to celebrate the 35 years of Capuchin ministry to the people of St. Joseph Parish,” said Capuchin Franciscan Father Louis Petruha, current pastor.

“Having St. Francis of Assisi as our spiritual father and inspiration for our personal life, the ministry certainly brings to the parish the essence of the Franciscan spirit. That essence is the brotherhood we have and desire to share with you,” Father Petruha said in a message to parishioners. “We journey with you as brothers and we minister to you sacramentally and pastorally. The simplicity of Capuchin life hopefully enables you and us to work together and to be one with each other in our common pursuit of holiness and evangelization. That is preaching and living the Gospel life, the very heart of the Franciscan spirit.”

Opening Family Synod, Pope Warns Bishops of Hypocrisy, Pride and Greed

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Opening a two-week Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis warned participants against the temptations of hypocrisy, pride and greed, urging them instead to serve the Church with “freedom, creativity and hard work.”

“We can thwart God’s dream if we fail to let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit,” the pope said Oct. 5, during Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. “The Spirit gives us that wisdom which surpasses knowledge, and enables us to work generously with authentic freedom and humble creativity.”

Pope Francis’ homily drew on the day’s reading from the Gospel of Matthew (21: 33-43), in which Jesus de-
‘Fishers of Men’ Continues to Build Culture of Vocations

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Since its inaugural event in 2009, the diocesan Fishers of Men dinner draws several hundred benefactors to the annual fundraiser, held each fall at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

The dinner raises much-needed funds for the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund, which provides financial assistance for diocesan seminarians in formation.

Here, as a means of expressing gratitude to the people who support them with prayer and financial contributions to attend seminary, the diocese’s seminarians serve dinner and drinks and offer hospitality to attendees.

This year’s Fishers of Men dinner, held Oct. 4, again drew a crowd of faithful supporters. Among them were members of the Serra Club, which promotes religious vocations, Knights of Columbus, Councils of Catholic Women, parishioners, priests, religious sisters and deacons, all of whom work to promote a culture of vocations.

“Every one of us is charged to help others discern, identify and say ‘Yes’ to whatever call God is placing on the young men and women here in our diocese,” Bishop Ronald Gainer told the crowd during dinner. “You are an essential part of our effort to create a culture of vocations in the diocese.”

He observed the quantity and quality of the diocese’s 37 seminarians—a number that has tripled since 2004, and one that requires financial help from benefactors and the Fishers of Men dinner. The average cost for one seminarian’s education is approximately $40,000.

The bishop noted that the number of seminarians also points to the culture of vocations that has been cultivated in the diocese, especially in families and parishes, and through the efforts of the Diocesan Vocations Office, led by Father Raymond LaVoie. He pointed to the prayers, camaraderie and support that seminarians receive from the people of the diocese, as well as initiatives like Quo Vadis Days, the St. Joseph Farm program and the wilderness experience that develop and strengthen seminarians who will one day serve as priests.

“The purpose of the ordained minister in the Church is to serve the faithful of the Church, to equip and help you to be that leaven in the world,” Bishop Gainer said at the dinner. “Our seminarians know this, they exemplify this, because our priests know this, and live their ordained ministry in that very generous, self-forgetting ministry in service of the people of God. It’s a great gift here in the diocese, and we are truly blessed.”

Deacon Ryan Fischer and seminarian Richard Mowery bow their heads in prayer during the dinner.

The annual ‘Fishers of Men’ dinner drew hundreds of benefactors to the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Oct. 3 in providing financial assistance for diocesan seminarians in formation.

Catholic Perspective Radio

Week of October 12: “Saying Hello to Life” was the topic of Bishop Ronald W. Gainer’s address to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation at their annual banquet recently. This powerful, insightful and inspirational talk will be broadcast in its entirety this week on Catholic Perspective.

In the talk, Bishop Gainer praised the strength of the pro-life movement in this country, saying, “No other democracy in the world . . . can lay claim to a pro-life movement that is a fraction of the movement in the United States.” He urged “raising our voices” in protection of the unborn. In the talk, Bishop Gainer also makes the point and gives examples of how the pro-abortion movement in the country has gotten out of touch with reality.

Catholic Perspective is produced in cooperation with the Office of Communications of the Diocese and AM 720 WHYF. It can be heard Mondays at noon and Sundays at 3 p.m. on AM 720 WHYF and on Sunday mornings on WHVR-AM 1280, Hanover, at 8 a.m.; WKOK-AM 1070, Sunbury, at 6:30 a.m.; WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown, at 8 a.m.; WWSM-AM 1510, Lebanon, at 7 a.m.; and WWEC-FM 88.3, Elizabethtown, at 9:30 a.m. It is also available on line at www.OldiesRadio1620.com at 6:30 a.m. and at www.WISL1480.com on Sunday at 11 a.m. It can also be heard on line at www.hbgdiocese.org.

LARC Day of Dialogue

October 27 • Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The Decree on Ecumenism at 50
Massimo Faggioli, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Theology
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s historic Decree on Ecumenism, Unitatis Redintegratio. This decree, along with the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, impacted the lives of Roman Catholics, Lutherans and Episcopalians in ways that we now take for granted. Our 2014 LARC Day of Dialogue will be a celebration of this “golden jubilee” in the life of the Church.

We are pleased to have the internationally known speaker, Dr. Massimo Faggioli to offer his insights on the formulation of this document at Vatican II. Time will also be set aside for participants to speak to the ongoing relevance of the Vatican II decrees as our communities move forward ecumenically.

Cost of the day is $30 for a single registration, $25 each for two registrations from the same parish, and $20 each for three of more registrations from the same parish. Register online at www.hbgdiocese.org/LARC.2014.
Bryn Mawr Trust Company recently provided $25,000 in scholarship assistance to benefit students at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. The contribution was made possible through the company’s participation in Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, which provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to scholarship organizations, such as the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation. Lisa Piergallini, of Bryn Mawr Trust Company, right, presented the check to Donald Kaercher, Diocesan Chief Financial Officer; Livia Riley, Diocesan Superintendent; and Father Robert M. Gilletlan, Diocesan Vicar General. For information on how your business can participate in the EITC program, contact Paula Lasecki, Director of the Diocesan Office of Development, at plasecki@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804.

A playground is on the way for children at the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families in Harrisburg, thanks to a $10,000 prize that the shelter recently received as one of six finalists in a national contest. Mortgage lender Guaranteed Rate sponsored “The Ultimate Neighborhood Give Back Challenge” this year to assist community improvement projects across the country. The Interfaith Shelter’s playground project was one of the top six finalists from more than 320 entries received. Representatives from Guaranteed Rate visited the shelter last month to volunteer and then present the $10,000 check to Mark Totaro, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, left, and Hillary Hoover, center. Since moving from the grounds of the former Harrisburg State Hospital to its current location at the St. Samuel Center, the Interfaith Shelter has been without a playground. “We are so happy to provide the much needed recreational area for our children, who deserve this,” Mrs. Hoover said. The playground project is part of additional renovation and construction at the St. Samuel Center, which also houses Lourdeshouse Maternity Home and Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction. Plans include new handicapped-accessible bedrooms and bathrooms, a new elevator, indoor and outdoor ramps, and other building and technology upgrades. Learn more about the programs and renovation at www.cchbg.org.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

October 11 – Celebrant and Homilist, Diocesan Homeschool Mass, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.; Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Spirit Church, Palmyra, 1 p.m.
October 12 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Joan of Arc Church, Hershey, 2 p.m.
October 14 – Preside at Closing of 40 Hours Devotions, Mary, Gate of Heaven Church, Myerstown, 7 p.m.
October 15 – Welcome Address at Conflict Management Workshop, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.; Celebrant and Homilist, Mass of Thanksgiving, Discalced Carmelites, Danville, noon; Celebrant and Homilist, Mass for Carmelite Sisters, Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Elysburg, 5 p.m.
October 17 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Margaret Mary Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
October 18 – Celebrant and Homilist, Mass of Respect Life Conference, Cardinal Keeler Center, 9 a.m.; Confirmation, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg, 1 p.m.; Celebrant and Homilist at Mass and Blessing of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Painting, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg, 5 p.m.
October 19 – Celebrant and Homilist at Diocesan White Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
October 20-24 – Priest Workshop, Hunt Valley, Maryland.
October 25 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Theresa Church, New Cumberland, 10 a.m.
October 26 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Andrew Church, Waynesboro, 2 p.m.
October 27 – LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg.

Blessing of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Painting, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg, 5 p.m.

Confirmation, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg, 1 p.m.; Celebrant and Homilist at Mass and Blessing of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Painting, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg, 5 p.m.

Diocesan Catechetical Conference is November 15

Catechists as Witnesses to Jesus Christ

By James F. Gontis
Special to the Witness

The annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference is being held this year on Nov. 15 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. The theme of the Conference is: “The Catechist as Witness to the Person of Christ.”

It will emphasize catechists drawing people into deeper faith in Christ and His Church through the witness of their own lives lived in union with Christ Jesus. There will be a focus on an evangelizing catechesis. While distinct, evangelization and catechesis are inseparable. We could say the “hand in hand move.” “What this conference will strive to address is an evangelizing catechesis that helps put people in communion with Jesus.

The conference begins with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, with Bishop Ronald W. Gainer as principal celebrant and homilist.

Our keynote speaker will be Patrick Coffin, a dynamic speaker and host of the top-rated national Catholic radio show, “Catholic Answers Live.” A former airport manager, he has appeared on FOX Channel, Comedy Central, and EWTN. As a writer, his work has appeared in Inside the Vatican, The National Catholic Register, The Toronto Star, St. Austin Review, and others.

Following the keynote, there will be 35 workshops presented across four one-hour sessions. In addition to a blue-ribbon panel of speakers from within the diocese, there will be presenters from other dioceses and states, including Emily Stimpson, James J. Drummey and Sister John Sheila Galligan. Topics include: “Winning Souls through Apologetics,” “The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Gospel of Life,” “Catechesis via the Church Fathers,” “The Pope Francis Effect,” “Marriage throughout Scripture,” “Homosexuality and Contraception,” “The Catholic Church Stor y: Symbolon: RCIA Process,” “Catechizing Martyrs,” “Medical Moral Issues” “Teaching the Faith to Young Children,” “Original Sin,” “The Four Last Things,” “Examination of Conscience for the New Evangelization,” “Grace Untoished,” and Religious Education,” among others.

In his 1975 Apostolic Exhortation, Evangélization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI wrote: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” It is therefore primarily by her conduct and by her life that the Church will evangelize the world, in other words, by her living witness of the fidelity of Jesus Christ. Pope Paul VI was not saying that the Church’s words are relatively unimportant in this witness. The very word “catechesis,” from the Greek, means “to pass on by word of mouth.” To emphasize this point, in the next paragraph of the same document, Paul VI wrote: “And faith comes through what is heard.” So how the catechist lives his or her life is the first and primary witness, but what he/she says and teaches orally is also an indispensable part of that witness. Or, as St. Paul maintains, “Faith comes from what is heard.”

In his Sept. 29, 2013, homily to catechists, Pope Francis spoke the following: “A catechist is a Christian who puts this remembrance at the service of the proclamation, not to talk about himself or herself, but to talk about God, about his love and fidelity. To talk about God and to pass all down that God has revealed, teaching his teaching in its totality, neither trimming it down nor adding to it.”

Here, the Holy Father is providing a recipe for certain characteristics fundamental to catechists bearing good fruit for the Lord: humility, authenticity, and handing on the faith in its fullness.

The Catechetical Conference is designed to support the work of catechesis in the Diocese of Harrisburg. It offers the on-going instruction, formation, and encouragement of our dedicated parish catechists, catechetical leaders, Catholic school teachers, youth ministry leaders, and adult faith formation and RCIA instructors. It is the principal concern of serving God as His instruments in sowing the seeds of faith in those whom they teach, by handing on the Catholic Faith in all its vigor and beauty.

It is open to all those involved in the ministry of catechesis, and indeed, to all adults wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith. To register, see the Director of Religious Education at your parish, or register online at www.hbgdiocese.org.
**Catholic Charities’ Annual “Come and See” Dinner**

November 4 at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

5:00 p.m. – Reception and Silent Auction
6:00 p.m. – Dinner
7:00 p.m. – Remarks by Bishop Ronald Gainer

All proceeds benefit the residential homes of the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg:

Lourdeshouse Maternity Home provides comprehensive maternity care in a loving and secure environment for women who have nowhere to turn while pregnant.

Evergreen House offers a safe rehabilitation program to women who are on the road to recovery.

Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families keep families together in times of crisis and assists them in finding permanent housing.

Various sponsorship levels are available, beginning at $100 per person. Dinner donated by 2 Gals Catering.

For reservations and special arrangements, contact Christopher Meehan at 717-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cchbg.org. Learn more about Catholic Charities and the Homes for Healing at www.cchbg.org.

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**Beginning Experience “Weekend for Those Who Have Lost a Spouse”**

October 31-November 2
Camp Hebron, Halifax

Beginning Experience is an approved Roman Catholic program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation.

Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual renewal.

The retreat weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

Visit the Diocesan Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org and go to the “Marriage and Family” link, or go to www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team at 717-512-2718 or harrisburyce@gmail.com.

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**Sunday Series: Sacrament**

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

I grew up in a very rural area of northern New Jersey. When I was a young child, the borough decided to upgrade the community by installing sidewalks and streetlights. My playmate, a mischievous seven year old, decided it would be very cool to dig a great big hole for the wet cement. He waited with baited breath for the construction crew to leave. Unbeknownst to his parents, he skipped up the entire block of semi-hardened cement, leaving its footprints.

Everybody in the small community came to realize with the weight of the footprints in their new sidewalk belonged to Tom Smith. (His name has been changed for this article.) Many years later, as I was visiting either brother, who still lives in the home in which we both grew up, I met Tom and his daughter. They were visiting Tom’s mom. I greeted Tom and his daughter, and caught up with him about his career and family. After our conversation, Tom and his daughter continued to walk up the very sidewalk which he left his footprints. I heard the following conversation and laughed out loud:

“Daddy, who is the idiot who walked up the wet cement?”

“Ah, that would have been me when I was your age!”

“Really, that’s really stupid! Why did you do that?”

“At the time, I thought it would be a good idea! Learn from your dad’s mistake!”

I thought of this story as I continue my discussion on the Eucharist as figure, event and sacrament. Previously, I discussed how the Eucharist is prefigured in the Old Testament and how it became an event “in the fullness of time.” According to Raniero Cantalamessa in The Eucharist: Our Sacramental Presence, “The liturgy is the `fullness of time’. It is the liturgy that in the `fullness of time’.”

As we are living at the point of salvation history which he called “sacrament.” This is the moment in time in which the events of the Last Supper, the blessing, the breaking and the sharing of bread and wine are done, “in memory of me.”

There is a distinct difference between this “event” in salvation history and “the fullness of time” of our history. Recall that an event is a remembering and celebration of an historic happening.

So what about sacrament? What does that truly mean? According to American Catholic: “The Latin word sacramentum means ‘a sign of the sacred.’ The seven sacraments are ceremonies that point to what is sacred, significant and important for Christians. They are special occasions for experiencing God’s saving presence. That’s what theologians mean when they say that sacraments are at the same time signs and instruments of God’s grace.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines sacrament this way: “The sacraments are efficacious, effective, efficient, effective means of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to the faithful.”

As I sit during the Eucharistic Liturgy, I am often reminded of the human fact that we are bound and limited by time and space. God is not. Because of the amazing, wonderful mystery of what the Eucharist truly is, we are present at the historic events of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Actually, yes, all because of what the sacrament of the Eucharist truly is!

What is more remarkable is that our Eucharistic Liturgy makes the event present to the Father as well. Within this scope, it is Christ that offers himself anew in time and space to the Father for our salvation. When Christ “gave up his spirit” (John 19:30) and then returned to the Father during the resurrection, he gave up his spirit. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that Christ can offer himself to the Father for us. It is also through the same Holy Spirit that this offering is renewed and celebrated at every liturgy. In addition, it is through the power of the same Holy Spirit that we are baptized, confirmed and brought into the mystical body of Christ. By this, our life indeed can be an echo of Jesus’ life: a living sacrifice pleasing to God!

I wonder if Tom’s young daughter understood what walking in the footsteps of an inquirer is truly all about. I wonder if the “average” Catholic understands the essence that “the fruit of sacramental life is both personal and ecclesial. For every one of the faithful on the one hand, this fruit is life for God in Christ Jesus; for the Church, on the other, it is an increase in charity and in her mission of witness.” (CCC 1134) So, who really is the foolish one...?
Details on 2015 World Meeting of Families Emerge as Countdown Begins

By Matthew Gambino

Catholic News Service

Sept. 22 marked exactly one year before the start of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, so organizers for the event took the occasion to brief staff of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the latest details.

Registration for the Sept. 22-25 event will begin within several weeks as agreements with speakers for the program are finalized. That part of the planning is ahead of schedule, as registration for the meetings held every three years in a different city typically begins only eight to nine months before the event.

Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, acknowledged the excitement for the event in the city and said the most frequently asked question her staff hears is, “How can I help?”

That willingness to help will be tested because Farrell estimates 7,000 to 10,000 volunteers will be needed. Probably around a thousand of those will be needed for the four days of discussions and programs that will comprise the World Meeting of Families at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Organizers are hoping for about 10,000 attendees for the four-day meeting, perhaps up to 15,000. It will be the largest convention in Philadelphia next year.

Most volunteers will be needed to help with the large public events expected to be attended by Pope Francis after the meeting, though confirmation of his visit has not yet been made official. After a volunteer coordinator is hired, volunteers will be accepted by the end of this year and mostly next year, with background clearances and training to follow in the summer.

Planning for the papal visit is continuing, and Farrell described some details of that portion of the week.

Pope Francis would arrive Friday evening, Sept. 25, 2015, at the close of the World Meeting of Families with a public welcome ceremony at Independence Hall in Philadelphia with perhaps 40,000 in attendance.

“Capping the week of festivities will be the public Mass celebrated by Pope Francis also on the Parkway Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. No time has been set for the Mass yet, but Farrell did say that “well in excess of 1 million people are expected.”

She and her team of organizers are working to “create the most meaningful set of events so that people are still talking about this decades afterward, just as we are Pope John Paul II’s visit” to Philadelphia in 1979, Farrell said, an event she also attended as a teenager.

“I thought that was a once in a lifetime event, and here we are planning it again,” she said.

Another dire need for the event is how to accommodate the thousands of people coming to Philadelphia. Only about 11,000 hotel rooms exist in the immediate Philadelphia area, Farrell said, so it will be important for people to generously open their homes for guests.

Home Stay, a Dublin, Ireland-based firm, will facilitate the process of matching a host family with people traveling to the area.

Other events will include a Family Fest by Philadelphia’s leading cultural institutions including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Franklin Institute, among others. Each is planning family-themed exhibits and extended hours during the week. As an example, the Kimmel Center for the Arts will host a film festival.

A Family 5K run is also planned, as are bus tours of the five national Catholic shrines in the Philadelphia region.

All the activities and events of the World Meeting of Families underscore its two main goals: “to strengthen families and to witness to the value of the family as the building block of society,” Farrell said during an information meeting she led.

The meeting was just the first of about a dozen such meetings to be held in October in parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Organized mostly by deaneries, World Meeting of Families staff will inform parish pastors and other leaders such as school principals, directors of religious education and pastoral council members on how to volunteer, how to host families and how to prepare parishioners for next year’s event.

Materials for the parishes to help prepare parishioners are available on the website of the World Meeting of Families 2015: www.worldmeeting2015.org.

Organizers also will distribute 500 prayer cards to parishes. The cards display the official icon for the event and the official prayer, available in 18 languages.

Farrell said prayer was an important part of the preparation for next year’s event.

Who will benefit from my gift to the Hope for All Community Service Campaign?

A campaign that benefits families and women housed in the Saint Samuel Center... read below to learn who will benefit from your generosity.

EVERGREEN HOUSE

provides a safe, secure, nurturing environment for women recovering from addiction.

For “Janet,” ’90 was unmanageable. She was an addict, and spent two years in jail, during which time her mother passed away. She had also been separated from her children for 14 years. One night, something in Janet’s heart told her to get out of her situation.

She abandoned her drugs, packed up her belongings and started walking. She encountered a detective who had arrested her numerous times, and asked him to take her to jail so that she would be safe from herself. Janet knew that she was very sick. She realized she was slowly killing herself.

Janet learned how to get in touch with her feelings, recognize her distorted thinking, and ask for help.

Since completing the Evergreen program, Janet has reconnected with her family.

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Farrell said prayer was an important part of the preparation for next year’s event. She suggested parishioners light a candle at their church and say a prayer, for people to pray the official prayer together before meetings and, especially, together at home with their family.

(Gambino is director and general manager of CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Philadelphia Archdiocese.)
Interestingly, the English statute that made abortion illegal in the 1920s dated back to 1861, and was known as “The Ol.

By 1940, the middle class in the UK was wealthy enough to be able to provide for their children. The UK had seen a decline in the birth rate, partly ba

In the past 41 years, the scientific evidence regarding the un-birth has led to some very positive pro-life legislation. At last count, 36 states have what are called “fetal homicide laws.”

Pro-life advocates are calling for legislation that would recognize a fetus, even if it is stillborn, as a person. This would prevent the use of non-voluntary medical necropsies that are commonly used in cases of abortion.

These developments in medical science have caused a re-examination of the issue of abortion. The pro-life movement has argued that the taking of an unborn life is a justified decision of the individual, based on their particular circumstances and preferences. The other side of the argument claims that the taking of an unborn life is not justified.

I would like to offer a short quote from the universal pastoral of our Catholic Church, the much beloved Pope Francis. His word is strong and its meaning is clear: “All human life comes from God and is therefore sacred and holy.”
Advance Medical Directives: Planning for Your Future

Rosa knew from experience the difficulties and expenses of watching a loved one die. She was totally devoted to her husband as he suffered and died from cancer eight years earlier. The idea of high medical bills, "tubes" and pain upset her, and even though she had not viewed her husband as a burden, she feared the medical providers who might not understand the gravity of the situation. It is incredibly difficult to see someone we love suffering, and it is natural for us to want to alleviate their hardship. Additionally, we live in a culture that places value on productivity and prefers to get rid of what is deemed useless. Some people therefore support measures that, at first, might seem like a compassionate response, but in fact are not. Advocates for legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia promote the illusion that we can "help" those in need by killing them or assisting them in killing themselves. However, this response ignores the person's true needs and does not respect their dignity. Each person deserves real solutions and support when facing physical, emotional and spiritual challenges. Cutting someone's life short before their time deprives them of unknown opportunities for God's grace to work in their life.

God’s infinite love for each one of us helps us to grasp our identity and our worth. The recognition of this dignity leads us to respect and protect each person's life, including our own, and ought to be at the core of whatever medical decisions we make. Let us place our trust in the Lord and ask for his continuous guidance, for these decisions and for all those we face in our lives.

(*The story of Rosa and Teresa (their names are changed for their privacy) is just one example of how important it is to reflect in advance on how we would want decisions made on our behalf if we cannot speak for ourselves. To find out what pastoral and educational resources may be available locally, contact your diocesan pro-life office.*

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To Obtain a Living Will/Power of Attorney Form

You can learn more about advance health care directives, and download a living will/power of attorney form of your choice through the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference at http://www.pacatholic.org/bishops-statements/living-will-and-health-care-power-of-attorney-2007/
By Bernadette Snook
Special to The Witness

It has been 35 years since the Capuchin Franciscan Order of priests and brothers began their ministry in York’s St. Joseph Parish. The parish honored this special anniversary on Oct. 4 – the feast of St. Francis of Assisi – with Bishop Ronald Gainer concelebrating the Mass.

To honor the Capuchin friars who have served the parish and continue to do so, parishioners presented to their pastor, Father Louis Petruha, their pledges of service to the poor and marginalized in the community. Monetary contributions were presented to benefit Capuchin vocations in the Province of St. Augustine in Pittsburgh, which serves the parishes of St. Joseph in York, St. Joseph in Dallastown, and St. Francis of Assisi in Harrisburg.

The Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, or Capuchin Franciscans, was established as a religious order of priests and brothers, all called “friars,” in Italy in 1528. Three-hundred years after the death of St. Francis of Assisi, a number of friars, who traced their community’s origin to St. Francis, desired to live in strict observance to his ideals and asked Pope Clement VII for permission to form a new community of Franciscan friars. They became known as the Capuchins, named for the long hoods of their clothing.

In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, the friars serve the Church in diverse ways that are in harmony with their way of life. They embrace the ministries that are especially difficult, showing special care to the poor and marginalized, but willingly serve where there is an urgent need for any form of apostolic activity. Today, there are 11,000 Capuchin Franciscan friars worldwide.

Since their arrival at St. Joseph Parish in 1979, a total of 37 Capuchin Franciscan priests and brothers have served the parish, including four pastors: Father Roman Kozacheson, Father DeSales Young, Father John Daya, who led the parish in the construction of the current church, and current pastor Father Louis Petruha. Father Jim Menkhus and Father Richard Owens also currently serve the parish.

“The Capuchins who have served here have certainly been blessed by the parish and its people,” Father Petruha told The Catholic Witness.

“We are friars are greatly honored that members of the pastoral council wanted to celebrate the 35 years of Capuchin ministry to the people of St. Joseph Parish,” he said.

“Having St. Francis of Assisi as our spiritual father and inspiration for our personal life, the ministry certainly brings to the parish the essence of the Franciscan spirit. That essence is the brotherhood we have and desire to share with you,” Father Petruha said in a message to parishioners. “We journey with you as brothers and we minister to you sacramentally and pastorally. The simplicity of Capuchin life hopefully enables you and us to work together and to be one with each other in our common pursuit of holiness and evangelization. That is preaching and living the Gospel life, the very heart of the Franciscan spirit.”
Sacred Heart Parish Breaks Ground for New Church in Cornwall

By Jon Reed
The Catholic Witness

In the early 1900s, parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cornwall envisioned the future expansion of their church when they dismantled and moved it, piece by piece, from its original plot on Cornwall Road to its present location along a larger tract of land in the southern Lebanon County borough.

One hundred years later, parishioners are again planning for the future, with construction of a new church on the horizon.

The join of Bishop Ronald Gainer and Father Rodrigo Arrazola, pastor, in a groundbreaking ceremony as the sun set over Cornwall on Sept. 29.

The new church will be built approximately 100 yards from the current one, which will be razed to make way for the new house of worship.

During construction, Masses and services will be held in the parish center.

The $2.75 million church is expected to be completed next October, according to Father Arrazola.

Construction of a new church has been a vision at Sacred Heart Parish for more than a decade, said Father Arrazola, who credits the initial plans to former pastor and retired priest Father Andrew Marinak.

“Our community here continues to grow in numbers, and our people have been waiting for this new church for years,” Father Arrazola said.

The new church will triple the number of people that the current church can accommodate, and will also be accessible to those with physical disabilities.

“It is sad that we have to tear down the current church, which holds so many memories for people,” Father Arrazola said.

The new church will continue to resemble the traditions we have and who we are.” He said the new church will incorporate some articles from the current church and resemble its design.

“My hope is that, at the new church, the people can gather around the Sacred Heart of Jesus and continue to grow spiritually,” Father Arrazola said.

“The parishioners are working together on this project and it is giving them a sense of belonging.”

Sacred Heart parishioners, including children Olivia and Josephine Winters, Jordan Cerminara and Grady and Jackson Bost wait for the ground breaking to begin.

CHRIS HESSEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

A sign on the parish grounds shows a sketch of the new Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cornwall, which is expected to be completed next October.

The new church will triple the number of people that the current church can accommodate, and will also be accessible to those with physical disabilities.

The Catholic Witness
CHRIS HESSEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Year of Consecrated Life to Help Laity Learn More about Religious Life

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

In an effort to help lay Catholics gain a deeper understanding of religious life, priests, brothers and women religious intend to open their convents, monasteries, abbeys and religious houses to the public one day next February.

The Year of Consecrated Life begins the weekend of Nov. 29-30 — the first Sunday of Advent is Nov. 30. It will end Feb. 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life.

The special year dedicated to consecrated life was announced by Pope Francis and is similar to previous themed years announced by popes such as Year of the Priest (2009-2010) or Year of the Consecrated (2010). The year also marks the 50th anniversary of “Perfectae Caritatis,” a decree on religious life, and “Lumen Gentium,” a Vatican statement, is to “make a grateful remembrance of the past while embracing the future with hope.”

The purpose of the yearlong celebration, according to a Vatican statement, is to “make a grateful remembrance of the past while embracing the future with hope.”

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, announced the Year of Consecrated Life events at an Oct. 1 news conference at the USCCB headquarters in Washington.

He said the scheduled events will provide an opportunity, especially for young people, to see how men and women religious live. He also urged heads of religious orders to let their communities know about the events they are planning so they can be publicized.

Sister Marcia Allen, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas, and president-elect of Leadership Conference of Women Religious, said another initiative for the year is a day of prayer scheduled Sept. 13, 2015.

“The priest, who is a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales of the Wilmington, Delaware-Philadelphia province, said he hoped the year would not only encourage new vocations but also would allow people to “see our commitment with fresh eyes and open their hearts to support us with a renewed energy that stirs us all to embrace our pope’s ongoing call for the new evangelization.”

Although the year’s events are intended to give laypeople a deeper understanding of consecrated life, the men and women religious also said they will most likely benefit.

Sister Thompson said she hopes religious experience a renewed joy in their vocation and Sister Allen stressed that by simply explaining their order’s charisms to others should give the sisters a deeper understanding and appreciation of their ministries.

“Whenever you think you are giving something you always end up receiving more,” she said.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ." Pope Francis begins his message for this year’s celebration of World Mission Sunday with these words. But he quickly offers us the way to make a joy-filled, life-giving difference in this regard.

"World Mission Sunday is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of the young Churches in mission lands."

On October 19, as our diocesan family celebrates this “privileged moment” on World Mission Sunday, let us join our brothers and sisters around the world who will gather at the altar of the Lord to celebrate, with great joy, our common vocation as missionaries. Our prayers and generous sacrifices will help build local churches, like the church in Mongolia, the world’s youngest Catholic Church, and churches across the globe. Through the work of these churches, and their witness to Christ, the poor receive the Gospel, and they experience God’s love and mercy, His hope and peace.

Your financial assistance on World Mission Sunday, offered through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, will support the 1,150 young mission dioceses and communities who await the “Good News” of Jesus as their saving hope. You will support missionary priests, sisters, brothers, and lay catechists as they connect people to Christ through their preaching and loving example.

Pope Francis encourages us to take joyful part in the Church’s mission to all the nations, as we live our lives grounded in love for Jesus and concern for the needs of the most disadvantaged. May World Mission Sunday offer each one of us an opportunity to accomplish both, as we share the joy of the Gospel and help the disadvantaged experience the love of Christ by our fervent prayer and through generous hearts!

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg

Meet Bishop Wenceslao (Wens) Padilla

Just over 20 years ago, Bishop Wenceslao (Wens) Padilla, a missionary priest from the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (known in the United States as Missionhurst), and now the first Bishop of Mongolia, arrived in Mongolia with two fellow priests. He recalls finding a country struggling with issues like alcoholism and domestic abuse, with minimal government social services, and with extreme poverty. He found a people searching – “for God and for holiness.”

Local catechists were formed in the faith, and now assist Bishop Wens in sharing the Good News of the Gospel – helping the Mongolian people connect with the Catholic faith in a way that is relevant and meaningful to their own culture.

Bishop Wens was literally starting from zero – there were no Catholics in Mongolia when he and his fellow missionaries arrived. The first Baptisms, as a group, took place after three years of their presence. In that initial group of 13 was Bishop Wens’ secretary.

“But before that, there was a family, a Christian family from the United States, who adopted a Mongolian child and they wanted the child to be baptized,” Bishop Wens recalls. “They named their child Cholon, which is ‘stone’ in the Mongolian language. And so I gave the name Peter to that child, our first Baptism.”

From that first group, the number of Catholics has continued to grow across Mongolia, with the total today numbering around 850. Each Easter, on average, 20 to 50 join the Church. Bishop Wens remains as committed today as on that first day, to reach out and offer practical and spiritual support to those in need – and to continue to build the Church.

He says, “Reach out… It summarizes everything that I want to do as a priest, as a bishop, and as a Christian – to reach out to others. And Pope Francis is very strong on this. ‘Go out, go there and do something for the people, especially the poor.’ … Because that’s what I wanted to do, reaching out to people, to the poor.”

(Article from the Pontifical Mission Societies in the U.S.)
The theme for World Mission Sunday 2014 is “I Will Build My Church” (Matthew 16:18). The story of the Church in Mongolia, the world’s youngest Catholic Church, began with decades of struggle in a Communist-rulled country, with no religious freedom. It was just a little more than 20 years ago that the people of Mongolia had the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

By proclaiming and sharing their faith through spiritual and practical outreach, including education, medical care and vocational skill training programs, the first missionaries slowly built the Mongolian Catholic Church in a country where, for generations, there was no proclamation of the Gospel.

Gantulga’s family is just one Mongolian family whose lives have been dramatically transformed after hearing the Good News of Jesus and accepting Him into their hearts. Gantulga and his family, including his wife Uurtsaikh and their children, live in the rural town of Arvaiheer, about 300 miles from Mongolia’s capital city of Ulaanbaatar. The family first learned about the Catholic Church when they moved to the town after tragically losing all their livestock almost ten years ago.

They were one of a few lucky families to be given a ger, a traditional Mongolian round tent dwelling. While Uurtsaikh and the children started attending activities run by the local Catholic Church, Gantulga was haunted by his alcoholism and his destructive behavior. “Before in my life, I made a lot of mistakes and I was addicted to alcohol and I had problems with violence, not understanding, misunderstandings with other people,” he explains. “When I started going to church and feeling how God’s mercy reaches me, I felt that I had to receive Baptism.”

“The first time I went there [to church]... I started realizing that God would give us His love and His mercy, which I did not know before. I can tell you that I can see a difference between my life before receiving Baptism and after... And now I can say I’m a better father and a better husband... Because I received God’s mercy and can be merciful to others...”

Gantulga, a recently-baptized Catholic in Mongolia

Gantulga received Baptism at Easter 2013, but even before that — when he started coming to church with Uurtsaikh and their children — he saw drastic changes in his life. Today, Gantulga is not only a better father and husband, he has also emerged as a leader in the community, reaching out to others in need.

Gantulga’s whole family is involved with the Church’s work here. Three times a week, he participates in a men’s group where they make religious objects and souvenirs out of wood and leather, while his wife, Uurtsaikh, is involved in a similar group for women. The couple’s children are also active in the Church, attending Mass with their parents, and taking part in the before- and after-school care programs.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith invites us to reach out to help our mission family in Mongolia build their local church, as well as to help their brothers and sisters throughout the Missions build local churches in the remotest corners of the world. Through the work of these churches, and their witness to Christ, the poor receive practical help and experience God’s love and mercy, His hope and peace.

(Article from the Pontifical Mission Societies in the U.S.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSIONS:

Information about the work of the Missions Office can be found on the Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org/missions

Or contact:
Father Robert F. Sharman,
Diocesan Director
Office of Pontifical Missions
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg PA 17111
(717) 657-4804 ext. 240
missions@hbgdiocese.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSIONS:
Red Mass Underscores Faith in Action

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In relaying the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells us that it is not enough to say that we believe in God; we must put that belief into practice, Auxiliary Bishop Michael Fitzgerald of Philadelphia told lawyers, judges and public officials at the annual Red Mass for the Diocese of Harrisburg. The Mass was celebrated Oct. 6 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg by Bishop Ronald Gainer. Organized by the St. Thomas More Society of Pennsylvania, the annual Mass invokes blessings on those who work in the administration of Justice.

In giving the command to “Go and do likewise” as the Good Samaritan, “Jesus undresses that true religion involves not merely a set of personal or private beliefs, but also includes a public component of living out those beliefs and acting upon them in society,” said Bishop Fitzgerald, who was consecrated as an Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia in August 2010.

He said that legal systems are called to recognize and protect religious freedom, “an intrinsic right inherent to human nature, to the dignity of being free, and as a sign of a healthy democracy, and one of the principal sources of legitimacy of the state.”

“Jesus, in our Gospel passage today, invites us to emulate the conviction of a man who took his faith seriously and put it into practice by reaching out with compassion to a stranger in need…. Let us pray today that we too might be individuals who take our faith seriously, and put it into practice by reaching out with compassion our many brothers and sisters in need in our midst. And let us be vigilant to defend and protect our human right for freedom of religion, to continue to believe and act upon our religiously-based convictions in both our private and public lives,” he said.

Mass Marks 50 Years of Catholic Chaplaincy at Geisinger Medical Center

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In March of 1964, Father Gerard Heintzelman entered what was then known as The George F. Geisinger Memorial Hospital in Danville, newly assigned as the medical center’s first chaplain to the Catholic patients there.

He started from scratch, going room-to-room to inquire about the patients’ religious affiliations, and setting into motion the development of spiritual care that is now part of the standard at Geisinger Medical Center.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Catholic chaplaincy there, Father Heintzelman gathered with his fellow chaplains, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and others who have served the Geisinger community for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer at the Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville on Sept. 28.

The basilica, located on the grounds of the motherhouse of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, stands in view of Geisinger Medical Center, established in memory of George Francis Geisinger by his wife, Abigail, in 1915.

In his homily, Father Heintzelman on the philanthropy of the Geisingers, and of Bishop Lawrence Schott, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese from 1956-1963, who advocated for the chaplaincy at the medical center in his native town.

“He said that legal systems are called to recognize and protect religious freedom, ‘an intrinsic right inherent to human nature, to the dignity of being free, and as a sign of a healthy democracy, and one of the principal sources of legitimacy of the state.’

“Jesus, in our Gospel passage today, invites us to emulate the conviction of a man who took his faith seriously and put it into practice by reaching out with compassion to a stranger in need…. Let us pray today that we too might be individuals who take our faith seriously, and put it into practice by reaching out with compassion our many brothers and sisters in need in our midst. And let us be vigilant to defend and protect our human right for freedom of religion, to continue to believe and act upon our religiously-based convictions in both our private and public lives,” he said.

Father Gerard Heintzelman, left, the first chaplain for Catholic patients at Geisinger Medical Center, looks on as Bishop Ronald Gainer begins the celebration of Mass at the Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville to mark the 50th anniversary of the chaplaincy.
By Carol Glatz

Pope, in Albania, Says Killing in God’s Name is Sacrilege

Killing in the name of God is sacrilege, and religious leaders must denounce the use of faith to justify violence and oppression, Pope Francis said during a one-day visit to Albania.

In a world “where an authentic religious spirit is being perverted and where religious differences are being distorted and exploited,” Albania is an “inspiring example” to everyone that peaceful coexistence is possible. Pope Francis told Albania President Bijar Nishani and other dignitaries upon his arrival in the country Sept. 21.

“Let us consider ourselves to be the ‘armour of God’ while planning and carrying out acts of violence and oppression,” the pope said.

The pope told reporters on the papal plane he chose to visit the Balkan nation because the peaceful collaboration between its Muslim-majority population and minority Catholic and Orthodox communities “is a beautiful sign for the world.”

“It is a signal I want to send,” he said, that religion, far from causing division, is the very foundation of freedom and brotherhood.

In a meeting with Muslim, Christian and Catholic leaders and representatives, Pope Francis said “authentic religion is a source of peace, not violence” and any “distorted use of religion must be firmly reafﬁrmed as false.”

“Let us consider ourselves to be the ‘armour of God’ while planning and carrying out acts of violence and oppression,” the pope said.

The pope encouraged Albania’s religious communities to continue working toward the common good.

“We need each other,” he said, and the “more men and women are at the service of others, the greater their freedom.”

The pope said Albania was a “land of heroes” and a “land of martyrs,” whose people stood firm in the face of oppression and persecution.

It withstood centuries of Ottoman rule, followed by an independence that degenerated into decades of oppressive communist control. The totalitarian regime forced by Enver Hoxha claimed to liberate the people from the constraints of all religions, turning the country into the only atheist nation in the world.

“It promised a paradise without God, but it left instead hatred and revenge.”

Pope Francis celebrates Mass in Mother Teresa Square in Tirana, Albania, Sept. 21.

Tirana told the pope during a morning Mass in Mother Teresa Square.

Despite the risks of torture, imprisonment and execution, people held on to their faith, praying and passing on their traditions underground.

Hearing of such atrocities brought the pope to tears in one of the most moving moments of the one-day trip.

Tirana’s cathedral was otherwise silent as 84-year-old Father Ernest Troshani recounted his story during a vespers service.

Father Troshani spent nearly 30 years in prison work camps, where he suffered continual physical and psychological torture because he refused to denounce the Church.

When the atheist regime fell in 1991, the priest immediately went back to his ministry, urging feeding Christians in mountain villages to embrace God’s love and let go of hatred and revenge.

When the priest ﬁnished, he approached the pope, who extended his arms to embrace him. But the priest dropped to his knees to kiss the pope’s ring. Moved to tears as they embraced, the pope removed his glasses and paused a moment more as the two men rested their foreheads against each other.

The pope later put aside his prepared text, saying the intense courage and humility shown by the priest and other victims of the dictatorship showed that the only way to ﬁnd the strength to survive such brutality was in God.

During a meeting with volunteers and children at the Bethany Center, a residence for disabled and poor children, the pope said faith through charity “dislodges the mountains of indifference, of disbelief, of apathy.”

Helping others is what “opens hands and hearts,” he said.

“The secret to a good life is found in loving and giving oneself for love’s sake,” he said.

“Goodness offers inﬁnitely more than money, which only disappoints, because we have been created to receive the love of God and to offer it, not measuring everything in terms of power or money.”

Before praying the Angelus in Mother Teresa Square, the pope told young people to build their future on Christ, saying “No” to the idolatry of money, “No” to the false freedom of individualism, “No” to addiction and to violence.

He urged them instead to say, “Yes” to a culture of encounter and of solidarity, “Yes” to beauty, the good and the true, and to a life lived with enthusiasm and “faithful in little things.”

Jorgen Lijeshaj, a young man from the diocese of Dreshen, in northern Albania, told Catholic News Service that his faith gives him the courage to face an uncertain life because, “without God, there is nothing.”

“Our parents had to pray in secret, and we learned from them there is no life without Jesus,” said Lemida Zoga, a young woman with the Religious women in Albania.

Young people made up a large part of the jubilant crowds of some 300,000 who turned out to welcome the pope.

Many Muslims, who make up more than half the country’s population, were in attendance as well as large groups of Catholics, who make up about 15 percent of all inhabitants.

Many took buses from other parts of Albania or walked from their homes in Tirana.

Before the start of the morning Mass, a large, powered paraglider circled and swooped over the main square, the fabric decorated with the national symbol of a black eagle.

The pope used the symbol in his homily, saying God raises his people “up on eagle’s wings.”

“The eagle soars up high, but it doesn’t forget its nest,” that is, its past, traditions and values, he said.

“Get up high, yes, but, while remembering the great courage and constancy of the Church’s martyrs — bishops, priests, religious and laity who ‘paid for their fidelity with their lives’ — do not forget the nest,” he said.

“Don’t forget the nest, your history, the wounds, but do not seek revenge,” he said. “Go forward in hope.”

Vatican Summit Says Extremists Must Be Stopped with Sanctioned Force

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

Extremist groups in the Middle East, including the “Islamic State,” must be stopped with sanctioned force through dialogue, said a Vatican statement.

“One cannot be silent, nor [can] the international community remain inactive, in the face of the massacre of persons,” said the statement issued Oct. 4 at the end of a Vatican summit that brought together leaders of the United Nations in New York and Geneva, as well as from Vatican offices dealing with issues concerning refugees, charitable aid and Eastern churches.

A Vatican communiqué marking the end of the summit said, “The activity of some extremist groups is a cause of grave concern, particularly the so-called ‘Islamic State,’ whose violence cannot be met with indifference.”

In the face of “the massacre of persons merely because of their religion or ethnicity, in the face of decapitations and crucifixions of human beings in public squares, in the face of the exodus of thousands of persons and the destruction of places of worship,” the world cannot remain indifferent and something must be done, it said.

While the summit participants supported an internationally sanctioned armed response to stop an unjust aggressor, they said that “the resolution of the problem cannot be entrusted solely to a military response.”

“The problem must be dealt with more radically by addressing the root causes which are exploited by fundamentalist ideology,” it said.

Muslim, Christian and other religious leaders need to do more, cooperating to promote dialogue and mutual understanding as well as clearly denouncing the exploitation of religion to justify violence, it said.

Christians who have been forced “in a brutal manner” to flee from their homes must be guaranteed “the right to return in conditions of adequate security” as well as be free to work and build a future in the land where they and their ancestors have lived for more than 2,000 years.

One cannot resign oneself to conceiving of the Middle East without Christians,” it said. Christians have been a critical part of society and “they play a fundamental role of peacemaking, reconciliation and development.”

At a Mass with participants Oct. 4, the ﬁrst of St. Francis of Assisi, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said it is “painful to see how persistent and active the forces of evil are” in the region, especially the “conviction that violence and terrorism are methods that can be used to impose one’s desire for power” or even one’s religion on another. This “is clearly the perversion of the authentic meaning of religion.”

One task of the nuncios and the Vatican representatives to the United Nations, he said, is to remind governments and international organizations of “their obligation to guarantee peace and security under the terms established in international law with the aim of putting the aggressors in a situation where they can no longer cause harm.”
Paul VI Beatification Highlights
Dialogue, Vatican II, Love for Church

Meeting Catholics from Pope Paul VI's home diocese, Brescia, Pope Francis said his predecessor's witness "nourishes within us the flame of love for Christ, love for the Church and the drive to proclaim the Gospel to the people of today with mercy, patience, courage and joy."

Pope Francis will hold Pope Paul's witness up to a wider audience Oct. 19 when he beatifies him during the closing Mass of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family. With Pope Paul's beatification approaching, the 50th anniversary of the publication of his first encyclical letter, "Ecclesiam Suam," and the 36th anniversary of his death Aug. 6, 1978, became the occasion for multiple reflections on his life and legacy in the Vatican media.

"Although he was not always understood, Pope Paul VI will remain the pope who loved the modern world, admired its cultural and scientific wealth and worked so that it would open its heart to Christ, the redeemer of mankind," Pope Francis said.

"Ecclesiam Suam" was the second of the encyclicals for which he was most known by many Catholics.

The pope alluded to that need for mercy when he said that "evil pastors write beautiful and clever ideas, or need for mercy in the Church today.

The pope also noted the "lack of some of his servants," the pope said.

The mass was celebrated by Pope Francis in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome on the day of the synod. St. Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Blessed Zelie and Louis Martin, who will be in the Basilica of St. Mary Major for the duration of the synod. The prayers of the synod will be heard by all the faithful, who were beatified in 2008, practiced various forms of prayer for the first time of their own accord, but later had nine children, five of whom lived to adulthood and became nuns.

CNS//CARLO GULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Paul VI greets the crowd as it visits the Veronica cementery in Rome in 1973. Pope Francis will beatify Pope Paul Oct. 19 during the closing Mass of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family.
Schedule of Daily Masses at Parishes during Priests’ Workshop

The annual Priests’ Continuing Education Workshop will be held Oct. 20-24 in Hunt Valley, Md. During this time, daily Masses will be celebrated by visiting, retired and religious order priests in the following churches:

**Adams Deanery**
St. Joseph the Worker, Bonneauville
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg
Wednesday 7:30 a.m.
Annunciation BVM, McSherrystown
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:15 a.m.

**Dauphin Deanery**
Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Harrisburg
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, noon
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewistown
Tuesday, Friday 7 a.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Monday, Thursday 6:45 a.m.
St. Jude, Millfflintown
Monday, 9 a.m.
St. Francis of Assisi, Harrisburg
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m. (English only)
St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

**Cumberland/Perry Deanery**
St. Patrick, Carlisle, Shrine Church
Monday 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:45 a.m.
St. Patrick Carlisle, Marsh Drive Church
Friday 8:30 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg
Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday 7 a.m.
St. Bernard, New Bloomfield
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.

**Franklin Deanery**
St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m.
Immaculate Conception BVM, Fairfield
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.

**Lebanon Deanery**
Assumption BVM, Lebanon
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.

**Northern Deanery**
St. Joseph, Berwick
Monday, Wednesday 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday 7:30 a.m.
Friday 6:30 a.m.
St. Columba, Bloomsburg
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7:30 a.m.
St. Joseph, Danville
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 6:30 a.m.
Monday, Thursday 6:15 p.m., Confessions at 5:45 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisburg
Monday, Tuesday 9 a.m.
St. Monica, Sunbury
Monday 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday 7:30 a.m.
Friday 9 a.m.
St. Pius X, Selinsgrove
Tuesday, Thursday noon
Wednesday, Friday 7 a.m.

**Cumberland/Perry Deanery**
St. Patrick, Carlisle, Shrine Church
Monday 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:45 a.m.
St. Patrick Carlisle, Marsh Drive Church
Friday 8:30 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg
Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday 7 a.m.
St. Bernard, New Bloomfield
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.

**North Lancaster Deanery**
Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

**South Lancaster Deanery**
St. Anthony of Padua, Lancaster
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.

**Pope: Tiny Voice in Your Head? It’s a Guardian Angel**

By Carol Glatz

Guardian angels are not the stuff of fantasy; they are really present as wise travel companions helping people navigate life’s journey, Pope Francis said.

Don’t ignore the inner voice that says, “Well, you should do this.” “That’s not right.” “Watch out!” the pope said in a morning homily Oct. 2, the feast of the Guardian Angels:

“It’s the voice of our travel companion. Be confident that they will take us through to the end of our lives with their advice, and that’s why [people should] listen to their voice, don’t rebel,” he said in remarks reported by Vatican Radio.

“All of us, according to Church tradition, have an angel with us, who watches over us, and lets us ‘hear’ deep inside, wise words meant to help people make the right choices, the pope said during an early morn-

ing Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

People shouldn’t ignore that voice “because rebellion, the desire to be independent, is something we all have and it is pride, the same thing our father, Adam, had in the Garden of Eden,” he said.

“Nobody walks alone and none of us can believe we are alone” because there is always this companion right by each person’s side, he said.

“Don’t rebel. Follow their advice,” he said. To turn one’s back on a guardian angel “is disastrous because no man, no woman can advise themselves. I can give advice to someone else, but I can’t give advice to myself” if it’s going to be objective advice.

“The Holy Spirit advises me, there’s the angel who advises me,” he said. A guardian angel isn’t a figure of imagination; no, it’s reality.

A Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Principal Celebrant

Saturday, November 1, 2014
5:00 p.m.

Saint Pius X Church
112 Fairview Drive
Selinsgrove PA 17870-9406

A light reception will follow.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

**BLOOMSBURG** – St. Columbia: Sylvia M. Perrotti.

**CHAMBERSBURG** – Corpus Christi: Jeanettte M. Buhrman, Daniel Gottfried, Marion Martin.

**GETTYSBURG** – St. Francis Xavier: Timothy Chrismer.

**HANOVER** – St. Joseph: Mary Knight, Dorothy Rodenhauer.

**HARRISBURG** – St. Catherine Labouré: Dorothy Goftos, Adeline Smith, St. Margaret Mary: Mary McLaughlin, Eugene Murphy, Carol Prouser, Elizabeth Rusbatch.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Nick Resanovich.


**LEWISTOWN** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Richard Calkins, Mary Frances Goodman.

**MCSHERRYSTOWN** – Annunciation BVM: Thylly L. Kuhn.

**MECHANICSBURG** – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Victoria Donofrio, Jules G. Gottfried, Marion Martin.

**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows BVM: Mary Brady, Mary Dinga, Anne Mecca.

**MILLERSVILLE** – St. Philip the Apostle: June Heesen, Judith Walsh.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Carrie M. Barella, Virginia Milewski, Richard Shierant; Our Lady: Regina Tyson.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. Therese: Helen Balkovic.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. John the Baptist: John Boyle, Theresa Voelker.

**PHILADELPHIA** – St. Leo the Great: Michael Keating, Rhoda Lynn, Joan Ruggerge.

**SHAMOKIN** – Mother Cabrini: Catherine Labosky.

**SUNBURY** – St. Monica: Mary A. Courts.

**YORK** – St. Rose of Lima: J. Martin Miklus, Linda C. Schneider.

**HARRISBURG**

Please pray for the following clergy who died in October during the past 25 years:

- Deacon Leo O. Beasont, 1989
- Msgr. Francis McCullough, 1990
- Father Walter Haburada, 2000
- Father Edward J. Barrett, 2001
- Father John Suknaic, 2004
- Father Bernard Quinn, 2006
- Deacon Edwin Fitzpatrick, 2008
- Father Stephen Scheetz, 2009
- Father Kevin Kayda, 2013

**REMEMBER OUR DECEASED CLERGY**

Holy Spirit Health System to Host Lectures for Women

Holy Spirit’s Spirit of Women Program is hosting a lecture series for women called “Passport to Good Health.” This series of educational workshops is focused on common health concerns.

On Oct. 18, we will “explore Italy” and the neurological conditions of Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, and seizure disorders in our lecture titled “Passport to the Nervous System,” which runs from 9-11:30 a.m. Attendees will also be able to participate in a restorative Tai Chi session, which has been shown to boost brain function.

“Your Destination for Preventing and Recognizing Gynecological Cancers” will be held Nov. 15 from 9-11:30 a.m. Miss the final stop at 11:45 a.m. where MSK: Holy Spirit happens in “France.” Here, attendees will learn to recognize the early symptoms of deadly gynecological cancers. Our final overseas activity is a gentle Vinyasa yoga class. Though not French in origin, yoga’s physical, psychological and emotional health benefits have been shown to successfully help treat women already diagnosed with cancer.

To register for either of the workshops, visit www.hsh.org/spirit-of-women. These workshops are open only to Spirit of Women members. Spirit of Women membership is free, and anyone interested in becoming a member can sign up at www.hsh.org/spirit-of-women. The workshops will be held in Holy Spirit Hospital’s auditorium in Camp Hill. For more information, call 717-972-4149.

**Adorers of the Blood of Christ Mark Milestone Anniversaries**

A celebration was held in September at the Columbia Center in Columbia, Pa., to honor Sister Mary Evelyn Di Pietro, ASC, who celebrated 70 years, and Franciscans Mary Clare Reinberg, ASC and Martha (Mary Raymond) Wachsel, ASC, who celebrated 60 years as Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Sister Mary Evelyn was born on July 4, 1921, in Belmont, Mass. She made her first profession on Aug. 12, 1944, and her final vows on Aug. 12, 1949. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Youngstown University in Youngstown, Ohio.

Sister Mary Evelyn taught in seven states. In North Carolina, she served at Christ the King in Kinston and St. Francis in Lumberton; in Pennsylvania, at St. Rochus in Johnstown, St. John’s in Enhart, St. Mary in Steelton and Sacred Heart in Lewiston; in Ohio, at Mt. Carmel in Niles; in Indiana at Immaculate Conception and Holy Trinity in East Chicago; in Georgia at St. Teresa in Albany; and in Illinois at St. Jerome in Chicago. In addition to teaching, she sometimes served as the community’s local coordinator. She spent some years in domestic service, including a year at the bishop’s residence in Harrisburg, Pa. She also served briefly on the staff of the Precious Blood Spirituality Center in Columbia, Pa.

When Sister Mary Evelyn retired from full-time teaching, she worked for several years as a teacher of learning disabled children in Columbia before she began living mission in later life at the Columbia Center.

Sister Mary Clare was born Feb. 21, 1927 in York. She made her first profession on Aug. 12, 1954, and her final vows on Aug. 12, 1959. She earned her bachelor’s degree in speech and English from Mount Mercy College, Pittsburgh, in 1964 and received her chaplaincy certification at Mercy Catholic Medical Center in Darby, Pa. in 1984.

Sister Mary Clare’s service as a teacher began at St. Joseph in St. Louis, and concluded at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Niles, Ohio. Other schools where she served as teacher and often also as organist include Immaculate Conception in East Chicago, Ind.; Christ the King in Kinston, N.C.; Assumption in Chicago; and at St. Mary in Steelton, St. John in Enhart, Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Middleton, and Bishop Neumann Consolidated in Enhart. Service to her ASC community included being vocation director and recruiter for six years. At St. Joseph Academy in Columbia, Pa., she also served as dorm moderator, retreat coordinator and instructor of students for whom English is a second language.

After Sister Mary Clare earned her certification as a chaplain, she ministered at St. Joseph Hospital in Lancaster for seven years before moving to the Columbia Center, to begin Living Mission in Later Life. She currently resides at St. Augustine Retirement Community in Columbus.

Sister Martha was born on Sept. 3, 1935, in Freeburg, Ill. She made her first profession on July 1, 1954, and her final vows on July 1, 1959. She earned her bachelor’s degree in geography from Saint Louis University in 1964, her master’s degree in education from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., in 1978, and her certification in hospital ministry at St. John’s Health System in Springfield, Mo., in 1991.

Sister Martha served as a teacher, principal, missionary, nutrition coordinator, cook, minister of hospitality, pastoral minister, and director and assistant director of the Sally’s Life House; she taught at St. Jerome in St. Louis; at St. Joseph in Olney, Ill.; at Holy Rosary in Fort Dodge, Iowa; at St. Michael in Garnerville, Liberia, and St. Patrick in Grand Cess, Liberia, West Africa; she served as vice-principal at St. Jerome and as principal at St. Patrick. Her expertise as nutrition coordinator served the residents of Hope House, a residence for women and children in Springfield, Mo. For the past 11 years, Sister Martha has had various ministries at the Columbia Center of the ASC community in Columbia, Pa., including serving as Director of Community Life and Mission for the sisters living at the Center. She continues to reside at the Center where she is an assistant to the current director.

**Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Pre-Arrangement: An Act of Love**

At Harrisburg Diocesan Cemeteries, we encourage families to consider pre-arrangement of their cemetery needs. Just as preparing a will is a kind and responsible act, arranging for your final resting place is equally wise and compassionate. Many of our families are surprised to learn how many advantages pre-arrangement actually provides.

**Why Prearrange?**

Relieve Your Family of Difficult Decisions, Purchasing Now Locks in Price, Wider Choice of Grave Locations, Enjoy Peace of Mind, and Only You Can Decide What is Best For Your Family

Our Diocesan Cemetery Managers are available to assist you to make an intelligent, unhurried decision, with information that will help you make a decision that’s right for you and your family, at the right time for you.

**For More Information Visit Our Website**

- **JOSEPH BRALSKY**
  - Telephone: 717-697-0231
  - jbralsky@hbdgdiocese.org
- **THOMAS BRALSKY**
  - Telephone: 717-545-4205
  - tbralsky@hbdgdiocese.org

**All Saints Cemetery, Elysburg**

**16 - Catholic Witness • October 10, 2014**
**Diocesan Notebook**

Compiled by Jen Reed

**Spiritual Offerings**

Recitation of the Rosary for America takes place on the square in New Oxford every second Saturday of the month at 7 a.m.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elizabethtown will hold a parish mission and Eucharistic Devotions Oct. 12-14 at 7 p.m. The mission will be conducted by Deacon Dean Ensley and Robert Herrmann of Columbus, Ga. For more information, contact the parish office at 570-672-2302.

Recitation of the Rosary for America is prayed every third Saturday of the month in Carlisle at 8 a.m. until noon. The next gathering will be held Oct. 18.

Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. at St. Hedwig's Ukrainian Catholic Church. For more information, confessions are heard in English and Polish after every Mass.

The Cumberland-Peru District Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a fashion show on Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. at Saint Theresa Church in New Cumberland. All couples in the Cumberland-Peru District parishes who were married in 1989 are invited to attend this celebration Mass and reception. For more information, contact Terri at 717-761-6667 or Mary Ann at 717-761-6657. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 27.

**Education, Enrichment & Support**

Theology on Tap in Lancaster will hold its next session Oct. 15 at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub, with a Happy half hour at 5 p.m. and the games will start at 7 p.m. Prizes will be awarded.

The Celtic band “Rizzetta’s Tones” will perform at Lancaster Catholic High School’s old main auditorium Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Free admission, and the school will accept the fine’s line and performing arts department.

Our Lady of Hope Parish in Coal Township will hold its annual raffle Oct. 15 at 6:45 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the raffle will begin at 7 p.m. The kitchen will be serving many delicious foods such as potato cakes, pierogies, haluski and many more. There will also be many prize baskets that will include theme baskets and certificates from local businesses.

St. Ann Byzantine Council of the Knights of Columbus at 5231 Fawn Lane Harrisburg on Oct. 12 from 4-7 p.m. The event will feature a takeout-only chicken dinner, baked rolls, a baked potato, vegetable and a dessert for $8.50 a person. For more information contact Don Lucia at 717-833-0384 or Janet McIntyre at 717-663-2085.

**Events & Fund-Raisers**

Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra will hold its Holiday Bazaar on Oct. 9 from 4-7 p.m., Oct. 10 from 8 a.m.-noon, and Oct. 11 from 8 a.m.-noon.

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Donation is $5.

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Donation is $5.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Council of Catholic Women in Williamsport will sponsor a roast beef dinner fundraiser Oct 18 from 4-7 p.m. in the parish social hall. Pay for: Adults-$6.00; youth 6-12-3.00; children under 5 free. Tickets sold at church door, apple-sauce/collard, rolls, homemade desserts, and beverages.

Lancaster Catholic School will host a Fall Festival event Oct. 18 from 6-10 p.m. to relieve the glory days with Galbraith, Bridy & Friends playing classic rock from the 70s and 80s. Advance tickets are $15 per person, and include admission, beer, soda and a cooked meal. A cooked meal cannot be guaranteed at the door. BYOB and additional snacks are welcome. Reserved seating is available for $120 per table and the cost is $27. Contact: Lori Kostrow, Director of Advancement, at 717-273-3741, ext. 327.

Lancaster Catholic School will host its annual Christmas bazaar Nov. 8. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and the dance takes place from 9-11 p.m. Tickets are $15 and include food, drinks, and live music. Must be 18 years or older to purchase tickets and attend the dance. Contact Joyce Smith at 717-637-0366 or Pat Hubbard at 717-637-0712.

The Little Flower Club of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at a local pizza store Sunday Oct. 18 from 6-10 p.m. to relive the glory days with Galbraith, Bridy & Friends playing classic rock from the 70s and 80s. Advance tickets are $15, and include food, drinks, and live music. Must be 18 years or older to purchase tickets and attend the dance. Contact Joyce Smith at 717-637-0366 or Pat Hubbard at 717-637-0712.

St. Vincent’s “Autumn Breeze” dance featuring “Babyface” will be held at the Keystone Ballroom in Hanover Nov 8. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the dance takes place from 7-11 p.m. Tickets are $20, and include food, drinks, and live music. Must be 21 years of age to purchase tickets and attend the dance. Contact Joyce Smith at 717-637-0366 or Pat Hubbard at 717-637-0712.

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By Chris Heisey  
*The Catholic Witness*

As reigning PIAA Class AA state volleyball champs, the Squirettes of Delone Catholic are not surprisingly undefeated in York/Adams Area league play as the regular season comes to an end on Oct. 16. Though the Squirettes have two regular season tournament losses to Parkland and Berks Catholic, their core nucleus of seasoned players who know what it takes to win a championship return gives them an excellent chance to make another deep run into the playoffs come November.

On Sept. 20, Delone Catholic hosted a day tournament that pitted York Catholic, Trinity, Berks Catholic and the Squirettes in a semi round-robin competition. The Saints of Berks Catholic beat Trinity 3-0 before besting Delone, 3-2, in a closely fought match to win the tournament. York Catholic lost both of its matches, 3-0, to Delone Catholic and Trinity.

Clockwise from top left: York Catholic’s Meredith Beecher prepares to serve. Trinity’s Katie Goyette, captain, makes a pass against York Catholic. Delone Catholic’s setter Kelly O’Boyle sets the ball for a kill. Trinity’s outside hitter and co-captain Alisah Cash gets ready to receive a serve. Delone Catholic’s Kayla Baadte serves an ace.

Clockwise from top left: York Catholic’s Meredith Beecher prepares to serve. Trinity’s Katie Goyette, captain, makes a pass against York Catholic. Delone Catholic’s setter Kelly O’Boyle sets the ball for a kill. Trinity’s outside hitter and co-captain Alisah Cash gets ready to receive a serve. Delone Catholic’s Kayla Baadte serves an ace.
The Catholic Witness
October 10, 2014

Both the PIAA District 3 and State Golf Championships are played in York County – the former at Briarwood Golf Course and the latter at Heritage Hills Resort.

In the District 3 team championships, the Fighting Irish boys’ won the Class AA championship with a terrific score of 296 – that’s four players out of five averaging under 75 – at Briarwood’s East Course on Sept. 28, which was a perfect, warm, calm day for golf. The win was York Catholic’s first district team championship in golf, and the Irish were led by senior Nick Geiman, a solid ball striker with an even better short game. His under-par round led the Irish to their impressive win over Lancaster Catholic, which had a terrific regular season, finishing 42-0 in the Lancaster Lebanon League.

Three days after the team championships, more than 150 players gathered at Briarwood again for the individual championships – a 36-hole competition over two days – with the boys playing the East Course and the girls teeing off on the West. Oct. 3 featured stiff, balmy south-east winds that made for tricky conditions, and the next morning the wind shifted out of the northwest and gusted to 25 mph, making scoring difficult. But York Catholic freshman Joe Parrini had little trouble with the blustery weather, carding two consecutive 70s for a four-under par 140-total to win the Class AA championship with some great players right on his heels.

While Joe was taming the venerable East’s undulating greens to win his gold medal, his sister Lauren was blowing away the girls’ field, winning by 13 strokes a mile to the west. By the end of a cold, blowy Oct. 4, the siblings became the first duo to ever win district championships on the same day.

States will be played on Oct. 21-23 across town at Heritage Hills.

York Catholic Golfers Dominate Home Turf to Win Districts

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Richard Riva lines up a putt at the District 3 Class AA team championships. He helped lead his fellow Crusaders to a 42-0 regular season. He came in sixth at individual championships.

Above: York Catholic’s Nick Geiman shows his deft touch around the green, leading the Irish to team gold. (Chris Heisey and Emily M. Albert, The Catholic Witness)

Right: York Catholic’s Lauren Parrini hits an approach shot. (Robert J. Chadderdon, Elbe Photography)

District 3 Class AA champ Joe Parrini hits a lob wedge to the Par 5 second hole to make birdie.

Robert J. Chadderdon, Elbe Photography

Siblings Lauren and Joe Parrini have a golden Irish moment after winning District 3 individual titles.

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Convent Quarters at Misericordia Expand Assisted Living for Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Since its founding 71 years ago under the care and management of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Misericordia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in York has emulated the healing ministry of Jesus by providing compassionate care to its residents.

“Misericordia” itself means “heart of mercy.”

The 50-bed facility offers 24-hour skilled nursing care to its residents, who live on the first floor of the building in east York. And now, on the heels of a recent renovation, members of the congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy can also find assisted living on Misericordia’s second floor.

Members of the religious order had been living at nearby Mercy Residence in York, which once served as the congregation’s motherhouse. With a handful of sisters living there in recent years, the congregation – through the advisement of the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington – elected to sell the building and make use of the space available on Misericordia’s second floor.

The remodeled space now features seven bedroom suites and several bathrooms accessible for people with physical disabilities, as well as a kitchen, living room and office space. Renovations also allow the sisters to have balcony access to Misericordia’s beautiful chapel.

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer celebrated Mass in the chapel there on Oct. 4, and blessed the renovations, which will serve the sisters who live in the convent quarters.

“We are very grateful to have our bishop here for the Mass and to bless the convent,” said Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy Sister Claudia Mauri, who works in pastoral care at Misericordia. “His presence is an affirmation of the work that we do in serving God’s people.”

Renovations to Misericordia’s first floor are planned for next year. Though the facility will be undergoing renovations, there are no plans for expansion.

“The size of our 50-bed facility is part of what makes Misericordia unique, and enables us to provide personable care,” Sister Claudia said. “We offer quality care. We receive a lot of feedback from residents’ families, and from that, we understand that we are serving people in ways that are needed, appreciated and valued.”

“Our residents are special people who need and deserve to be cared for in a very special way,” she said. “Now, we can offer two modes of care for them: assisted living for sisters on the second floor, and skilled nursing for the residents – including religious sisters – on the first floor.”