A PILGRIMAGE TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Solemn Gathering at National Shrine Prepares Diocese for Year of Faith

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the Blessed Mother seems to hold her children in her mantle. Encircled by some 70 chapels and oratories that grace the nation’s preeminent Marian shrine, one can almost feel Mary’s loving embrace as they sit in the pews of the Great Upper Church or kneel in adoration in the Crypt Church.

All the while, Mary leads the pilgrims in this holy sanctuary directly to her Son, Jesus.

And so it was fitting that, as the Church prepared to enter into the Year of Faith on Oct. 11, diocesan faithful came on pilgrimage to the shrine, led by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden.

“As we gather in this beautiful basilica, we come to honor Mary as our Mother. It was from the cross that Jesus gave Mary to us to be our Mother,” the bishop remarked in his homily, celebrating Mass for the busloads and carloads of faithful who assembled there as a community of faith.

Just as Mary “accompanies the Lord throughout his human life on this earth as he accomplished the saving work that his Father had sent him to do,” Bishop McFadden said, “she accompanies us as we make our pilgrimage through this life, moving toward our eternal destiny with God our Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the source and giver of all life.”

The pilgrimage offered Catholics an opportunity to renew their relationship with Jesus and to commit themselves to live their faith more fully.

The day offered the Solemn Gathering at National Shrine Prepares Diocese for Year of Faith, page 9

Pilgrimage Renews Young People’s Faith Too

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Teenagers Rebecca Cole, Andrea DeJesus and Emeli Sosa stood at the base of the steps leading up to the magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., bright-eyed and smiling from ear to ear.

“I absolutely love this basilica!” Rebecca exclaimed, as she looked up at America’s Catholic Church, home to numerous chapels that give honor to Mary and her role in the faith of various ethnic communities.

“I’ve been here before, but have never attended a Mass here, so I’m really looking forward to the day,” she said as morning sun splashed over the grand basilica.

Rebecca, Andrea and Emeli, Girl Scouts from Troop 10968 in Harrisburg, were among a number of Scouts who offered service to the diocesan faithful on pilgrimage to the basilica Sept. 29.

They were the first people to greet the pilgrims arriving by car or stepping off of buses chartered from across the diocese, handing out program books and offering assistance and hospitality.

For pilgrims, the sight of so many youth willingly giving of their time and talents was an encouraging sign.

“Young people are embracing the faith. They’re taking time out of their schedules to connect to the Church,” said Rich Groff, Youth Minister at Holy Trinity and St. Peter Parishes in Columbia and Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg. “It’s so important that we affirm these young people in all the good they’re doing, and in their faith.”

Affirmations certainly came in the form of expressions of gratitude to the Scouts, said Boy Scout Matthew McKenna, who remarked that the Scouts were there as part of their call to service.

“The Boy Scouts are all...
Faith and Life

Bishop McFadden Leads Faithful in Prayer at York Abortion Clinic

A stop sign by Planned Parenthood in York sends the message of the pro-life community as they’re led in prayer by the bishop.

More than 300 faithful gathered for early morning Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in York on Saturday, October 6. This month marks Respect Life observances, and Bishop McFadden led a solemn procession on a mile-long journey to the Planned Parenthood clinic where everyone gathered around him in earnest prayer and recitation of the rosary.

In his homily, Bishop McFadden thanked all present for their daily devotion to promoting a culture of life. “There is a sadness to us coming together today that we must pray for a society to respect life…. God has placed a conscience in all of us and it never leaves us. Abortion is the worst sin – it is the complete rejection of life…. Let us also ask God to make us good witnesses – that is so important today.”

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

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Pro-life faithful gather to pray for a culture of life during Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden at Immaculate Conception Church in York.

Clergy, Knights of Columbus and lay faithful make their peaceful message clear. Parishes nationwide participate in the annual 40 Days for Life Campaign, which calls the pro-life community to prayer, vigil and community outreach. Visit www.40daysforlife.com.

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Parishes and our community.
The Second Sunday of October a special blessing be given to all infants and children at the Sunday officials on that basis. The Catholic Church that every human life has its origin in God and consequently has value and worth inside Vatican II from one who was there and the effects of the document Dei Verbum on ministry then and now.
Unfortunately, religious liberty advocates will have to continue their fight into the New Year. Advocates can show their support by sending messages to their legislators with the Catholic Advocacy Network at www.catadv.org.

Bishop of Harrisburg

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Once again we have come to the month of October which is designated as “Respect Life Month” in the United States by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This month has been celebrated every year since that dark day of January 22, 1973 when the Supreme Court upheld the lawful killing of children in their mothers’ wombs. This decision that has allowed the infanticide of millions of children since its proclamation has also ushered in a era of a deeper and deeper lack of respect for all human life in many corners of our world. We see this in the increasing instances of violence and abusive behavior which has risen dramatically in our neighborhoods to the point where many people no longer feel safe even in their own homes. We see an escalation in the introduction and passage of legislation in various States that will permit individuals to terminate their own lives or the life of another because of illness, sickness or frailty brought on by the aging process. We see medical science encouraging the destruction of babies in the womb because of a genetic defect that they believe make these children burden on society. The experimentation in genetic engineering, which carried out ethically has the capacity for great good in dealing with some of the chronic illnesses and diseases of the human person, is often being conducted in unethical ways by creating and destroying the embryos of children all in the name of scientific advancement. During this month, I want to remind every Catholic of the clear and certain teaching of the Catholic Church that every human life has its origin in God and consequently has value and worth and is to be respected from the moment of conception until natural death. This teaching requires us to protect human life at every moment and to be actively engaged in promoting a culture of life in our society and our world.
I am heartened by the number of individuals, both Catholic and Non-Catholic, who are actively engaged in the Pro-life movement. Their presence outside abortion clinics protesting the killing inside, their participation in prayer vigils for life, their active involvement in supporting unwed mothers in carrying their children to term and their support of pro-life legislation aimed at ending the experimentation in genetic engineering, which carried out ethically has the capacity for great good in dealing with some of the chronic illnesses and diseases of the human person, is often being conducted in unethical ways by creating and destroying the embryos of children all in the name of scientific advancement. During this month, I want to remind every Catholic of the clear and certain teaching of the Catholic Church that every human life has its origin in God and consequently has value and worth and is to be respected from the moment of conception until natural death. This teaching requires us to protect human life at every moment and to be actively engaged in promoting a culture of life in our society and our world.
I am heartened by the number of individuals, both Catholic and Non-Catholic, who are actively engaged in the Pro-life movement. Their presence outside abortion clinics protesting the killing inside, their participation in prayer vigils for life, their active involvement in supporting unwed mothers in carrying their children to term and their support of pro-life legislation aimed at ending the infanticide in our society is an encouraging witness that should stir the conscience of every Catholic man and woman. Every Catholic should be an active advocate in promoting respect for human life and fostering it in our society.
It is important that we insist that our public officials should clearly state their positions on the various human life issues confronting our society. The protection and respect for human life is a foundational issue for every human society. Every Catholic is entitled to know what their public officials believe about that issue and all conscientious Catholics are further entitled to judge their officials on that basis.
I ask every parish to set aside time during this month for group recitation of the rosary to pray for the end of the sin of abortion in our country and in countries around the world. I also ask that on the Second Sunday of October a special blessing be given to all infants and children at the Sunday Mass to highlight the great gift that God gives us in our children.
May the Blessed Mother, who welcomed Jesus into her womb and opened the way to salvation for all of us, assist us with her prayers and help us to proclaim the Gospel of life in our homes, our parishes and our community.
Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

Fight Continues for Religious Liberty

Conflicts with religious liberty have dominated the news this year. The coercive Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring health plans including religious institutions to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs received the most attention, but a church-state conflict over religious childcare ministries here in Pennsylvania is the only emerging.

Under the current law, the state Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has blank-check authority to regulate all aspects of a church’s pre-school teaching mission, in very, national media, Senate Bill 1134 and House Bill 2504 would correct this overreach.

“Church-affiliated childcare facilities do not object to regulations relating to the health and safety of the children enrolled,” said Dr. Robert J. O’Hara, Jr., executive director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC), “but we do object to indirect or indirect regulation of our program content, lesson plans, and staff qualifications. Simply put, we want to pursue our religious mission without unwanted government intrusion.”

Unfortunately, religious liberty advocates will have to continue their fight into the New Year. Advocates can show their support by sending messages to their legislators with the Catholic Advocacy Network at www.catadv.org.

LARC Day of Dialogue

"Engaging the Word of God Ecumenically"
October 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
This year’s speaker is Rev. Dr. Martin Marty, an internationally known speaker and author who was an ecumenical observer at the Second Vatican Council. The theme for the Day of Dialogue during this Year of Faith is “Engaging the Word of God Ecumenically,” inside Vatican II from one who was there and the effects of the document Dei Verbum on ministry then and now.
Cost is $25 for a single registration. Contact Father Paul Fisher at 717-657-4804, ext. 265 or FFPFisher@hbgdiocese.org, or visit www.hbgdiocese.org for more information.

Save The Date:
Catholic Charities Come and See Dinner
Mark your calendars now for the annual Catholic Charities Come and See Dinner. The event will take place on Monday, November 19 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. A reception and auction begins at 5 p.m. followed by a demonstration at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The guest presenter will be Father Leo Patalinghug, an accomplished writer and popular conference speaker, who will provide an entertaining demonstration that evening. Father Leo is the author of Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life. He has been featured in various national media, has written a book and also competed on the Food Network’s hit show “Throw Down with Bobby Flay,” where he demonstrated his cooking skill in Harrisburg.

The shelter is located at St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg.
October 13
On the grounds of the Former State Hospital
Registration at 8 a.m., Race at 9 a.m.
• Cash prizes for top runners
• Awards for runners by age group
• Refreshments and door prizes
• Strollers and pets are welcome
• Honoraty race starter Valerie Pritchett of ABC 27

For more information, visit www.cchbg.org or contact Chris Meehan at cmeehan@hbgdiocese.org.
Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Several years ago, I found myself a new teacher on a faculty of a middle-sized Catholic school in the northern section of the state of Pennsylvania. After a successful school year beginning, I carefully planned my presentation to parents at back to school night. After my talk, one of the parents came up to me, extended his hand, and said with a grin from ear to ear, “Hi, I am Seamus O’Hare and my 7th grader responded, “Hi, Brother, I had NO idea as to what reference he asked. He repeated with as much energy as he had said before, “What is an American?" "Hmmm, I am not sure." I Am Italian!"

Ever since I was asked that question and experienced a loss for words as to how to answer it, I have re- fl e c t e d over the years on the American past, present, and importance of personal identity. I am an American Catholic!

So what does being “Catholic” mean? For me, it speaks of the universe of the church, her relationship to all. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 838) The Church invites all people, no matter their social or cultural background, their gender or orientation, their employment status, mental ability, or the place which one calls “home.”

Roland Rolheiser, in The Holy Longing, puts it this way, “We are called to stand shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, precisely with people who are very different from ourselves and, with them, hear a common word, say a common creed, hold a common bread and offer mutual forgiveness to bring our differences to become a common heart.” (Daybreak, 1999) This reality is echoed by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) in the document entitled Go and Make Disciples. In fact, it is one of the three goals cited by the USCCB as part of the New Evangelization and the Year of Faith.

Being a Catholic also correlates with the idea and the deep meaning of “Church.” In a nutshell, the Church of Jesus Christ is the Sacrament of salvation and the beginning of salvation (United States Catechism for Adults, p. 138), then, living as a Catholic means being a member of this Church. The Church, then, is a verb; something that is done. It is something that does the work. In Go and Make Disciples, it describes this way, “…to bring about such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.” As members of the Church, the faithful are gathered around Jesus Christ and live in one Holy Body.

Such a life is rooted in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long suffering, kindness, humility, meekness. Such a life embodies the fiery love of the Heart of Jesus that is rooted in the Mass and the Eucharist. Blessed John Paul II describes this way, “the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle must be a kind of magnetic pole attracting an ever greater number of souls enamored of him, ready to hear his voice and, as it were, to sense the beating of His heart.” (Mane Nobiscum Domine; Stay with Us, Lord; Apostolic Letter, 2005) In short, Jesus gives himself entirely to those who are ready to receive, to those who are ready to receive the grace of his Heart.

This conversion is not solely for us, but rather unites us with the Body of Christ and in turn with one another, as Pope Benedict says it this way: The Eucharist celebrates oblige us, and at the same time enables us, to become in our turn, bread broken for our brothers and sisters, meeting their needs and giving ourselves. For this reason, a Eucharistic celebration that does not lead to meeting people where they live, work and suffer in order to bring them God’s love, does not express the truth it contains. In order to be faithful to his mystery, it is celebrated on the altar we must, as the Apostle Paul exhorts us, offer our bodies, ourselves as a spiritual sacrifice pleasing to God. (cf. Rom. 12:1) in these circumstances that whole of life as a sacrifice and that constitutes our daily “altar.” The gestures of sharing create communion, renew the fabric of interpersonal relations, impressing them with free giving and with the gift, and permit the construction of a civilization of love. (Address, Sunday Eucharist and the Witness of Charity, June 6, 2010)

The flame of love, the fire of conversion reaches out to the world and changes society. This is the third aspect of the New Evangelization and Year of Faith. “To foster generous values in our society, the Church must also encourage the growth of the culture of charity. It is the way of the Church. The Church is the way that love becomes a way.”

So, if someone like Seamus O’Hare walked up to you, smiled and said, “What are you?” How would you answer? A Catholic, a Church goer, a Jesus follower, a believer, an American? Whatever your answer, you are Catholic because you share the common faith.

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By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

The two-party system in American politics tends to divide the country in halves, creating a polarized electorate and an “us against them” way of thinking. Heavily biased news reporting seems to exacerbate the situation. Sadly, this sharp controversy sometimes enters the Church, igniting suspicions and pitting Catholics against each other. Partisan politics has tried to pit “social justice Catholics” against “right to life” Catholics, a strained and continued division which actually doesn’t exist in Catholicism.

Catholic Social Doctrine embraces both issues of the sanctity of human life and of social justice. In Church teaching, these two concepts, the sanctity of every human life and the just treatment of all are inseparable. Each is necessary for the other. The two are a part of whole.

This being the case, there is an essential progression beginning with the sanctity of human life and eventuating in matters of social justice such as fair wages, housing, education, health care, immigration, etc. In their instructive document, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the Bishops write: “The right to life impels and is linked to other human rights—such as the basic goods that every human being needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors—basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work—is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best ways to respond to these needs, as Blessed John Paul II taught in John XXIII’s encyclical, “Let us be of good courage, let us trust in the Lord, let us face the world, bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life; these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and, finally, the necessary social services.”

Plainly stated, without the right to human life, there are no other human rights. What right to education does an aborted child have? What right to health care does a eutheranized elder have? What right to mental health does a suicide have? The Bishops quote Blessed John Paul II, perhaps the foremost Christian philosopher of modern times: “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—For example, the right to a healthy environment, to home, to work, to family, to culture—Is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

All moral claims are not in equal magnitude—some are more important and imperative than others. For illustrative purposes, let’s make a comparison between the right to life and the rights to the rights of immigrants. In their twin decisions, Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, the US Supreme Court has ruled that abortion is legal for nearly any reason throughout all nine months of pregnancy. More than one million preborn children, and even some babies during delivery, are aborted every year. Imagine firing squads mounted on bluffs in the Southwest desert shooting Mexicans illegally crossing into the US and killing over a million a year. Who could legitimately champion the cause of undocumented aliens, arguing for education, health care and employment rights, while approving of such a lethal policy? Their legitimate human rights necessarily rest upon their fundamental right to their lives.

The Church does not presume to instruct individual Catholics which candidate to vote for, but it does propose that Catholics and all conscientious citizens take into consideration this from their own morality as they judge their public officials. In the words of the Bishops: “Two temptations in public life can distort the Church’s defense of human life and dignity.

The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional de- struction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed. The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, or an unjust immigration policy are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

The political divisions perpetrated by opposing parties may be incompatible with the unity within Catholicism, but no such equivalence. Catholics must respect the logical progression from the right to life to the other human and civil rights, while doing all they can to advance both.”

By Father Paul CB Schenck

Special to The Witness

Read Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship online at http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/
More than 400 people – clergy, religious and lay faithful – fill the Cardinal Keeler Center’s dining room for the annual Fishers of Men Dinner, which raises funds for seminarians and the people of the diocese, especially at this event,” Mr. Bender remarked.

“God is calling these young men to be priests,” he bishop remarked.

“I had been looking to do what God wanted me to do,” he remarked. “As far as I can tell, he wants me to be a priest, and there are so many ways I hope to serve the people.”

At the conclusion of the evening, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden offered his heartfelt gratitude to the people for their generous and continuous financial support of the seminarians, who lined the walls of the dining room as the bishop spoke.

“We come together to celebrate that the Lord is calling many young men in this diocese to open their lives to the possibility that he is calling them to be priests,” he bishop remarked.

“We know that for the young men before us, it’s a difficult time,” he said. “The young men who are being called are asked to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in all of its fullness in a world that, in many ways, has rejected the Gospel,” Bishop McFadden said.

“But the great hope for all of us is that God always prospers in difficult times. God loves a great challenge,” he said. “God is calling these young men to be his instruments of peace to the world. That is the great gift we have here in the Diocese of Harrisburg.”

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

For Donald Bender, the efforts that he and his fellow diocesan seminarians put forth at the annual Fishers of Men Dinner are a precursor for how – God willing – they will one day minister as priests.

“It’s all about being a servant and being there for the people,” Mr. Bender reflected as he compared the seminarians’ service and hospitality at the dinner to their eventual priestly ministry.

“Our call is to take care of the people in whatever it is that they need,” he said as he awaited the arrival of the dinner’s attendees at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Oct. 5. The annual event raises funds for the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund to provide financial assistance for seminarians in formation.

The evening’s atmosphere was one of celebration and affirmation for the diocese’s 41 seminarians – a number not seen in this diocese since 1971. It was also an occasion at which the seminarians and the people of the diocese shared appreciation for one another.

Seminarians served as greeters, waiters and bartenders, serving more than 400 dinner guests as a way to thank them for their financial and prayerful support during their time of formation.

“I love being in the seminary, but I love coming back to the diocese to see the people, especially at this event,” said Mr. Bender, a native of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lancaster who is in Theology II at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

“We spend so much of the year in class and away from the diocese, so it’s great to come back and be with the people,” he said.

Mr. Allen first started giving serious thought to the priesthood three years ago.

“I had been looking to do what God wanted me to do,” he remarked. “As far as I can tell, he wants me to be a priest, and there are so many ways I hope to serve the people.”

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After serving dinner and offering hospitality to dinner guests, diocesan seminarians stood at the conclusion of the evening to sing the Salve Regina with attendees.

More than 400 people – clergy, religious and lay faithful – fill the Cardinal Keeler Center’s dining room for the annual Fishers of Men Dinner, which raises funds for seminarian formation.

You Can Support Our Seminarians

The Diocese of Harrisburg’s 41 seminarians are grateful for the generous financial and spiritual support given from the people of the diocese, prayers, cards, letters and financial donations sustain the seminarians throughout their years of priestly formation.

You can become a member of the St. John Vianney Association, which works to promote vocations to the priesthood in our diocese and offers an avenue for contributions to the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund. Members of the association receive regular newsletters about vocations in our diocese.

Individual financial contributions may also be made to the seminary scholarship fund. For information about how you can contribute, or to learn more about the St. John Vianney Association or the annual Fishers of Men Dinner, contact the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, vocations@hbgdiocese.org or www.hbgdiocese.org/vocations.

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Faith and Life
Mother Church Rejoices

By Rev. Joshua R. Brommer, STL
Special to The Witness

He says he never thought of the idea before, but sometimes he found himself “like a flash of heavenly light.” For Pope John XXIII, the abbate and avunculare successor of Saint Peter, convening what would be known as the Second Vatican Council “was not the result of careful calculation and prolonged planning. Instead, this deeply spiritual man was moved by the gifts that come with being the Bishop of Rome, speaking of “an unexpected illumination” which seems to have its origin only in God.

Pope John XXIII won the hearts of the world when he assumed the role of the Vicar of Christ on earth, having been elected pope on October 28, 1958. Almost eighty years old, few expected this pope to make waves, let alone call the Catholic bishops of the world to Rome for an ecumenical council. Therefore, despite some allusions to the public speeches and direct references, three months later, on January 25, 1959, the Holy Father surprised many when he announced that he wished to gather at Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Among them was the fifth Bishop of Harrisburg, the Most Reverend George L. Leech. A young Reverend George L. Leech. A young Rev- reverend William H. Keeler (now Cardinal Keeler of the Archdiocese of Baltimore) was among those who gathered to reflect on the immense amount of work compiled by the pre-conciliar committees. In an article for one of the local papers, Father Keeler writes that “Pope John announced ‘the Church’ would be the dominant theme of the Council.” This “theme” truly pervades the sixteen documents which would be the Council’s bequest to the Church. The Church decreed to restore anew the doctrine of the Church: from Her nature and essence to the Church’s task of preaching the Gospel. In an article written for one of the local papers, Father Keeler writes that “Pope John announced ‘the Church’ would be the dominant theme of the Council.” This “theme” truly pervades the sixteen documents which would be the Council’s bequest to the Church. The Church decreed to restore anew the doctrine of the Church: from Her nature and essence to the Church’s task of preaching the Gospel. This theme would permeate the entire work of the Council. Pope John XXIII wished to stress to the contemporary world that the Church, founded by Christ and rooted deeply in the teaching of Christ and His Apostles, is still relevant and still has a voice to speak to all of humanity. This challenge continues for the Church to speak with this voice to respond effectively to the “joys and sorrows of people of today.” This would begin to unfold a kind of creative tension between remaining unwavering in faithfulness while preaching effectively and relevantly to an increasingly secularized world that is not only hostile at times to the Gospel, but, when accurately, is down right hostile to the Gospel.

This would be the work of the Council. And, from the first of its firsts document, the Second Vatican Council wanted to be faithful to the vision of this “dominant theme.” The first document, Sacrosanctum Concilium, is the constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. Before speaking of any reform in how the Church worships, the Council document announces the four “aims” of the Council: (1) to impart an ever increasing vigor to the Christian life of the faithful; (2) to adapt more suitably the needs of our own time to the institutions that are subject to change; (3) to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ; (4) to strengthen whatever can help to call the whole of humanity into the household of the Church. To put it simply, the Council was Lasalle bringing about genuine conversion, careful reform, deep communion, and effective evangelization. This is not new to the Church, but it is something new to the Church in the sixteenth century to respond to the Protestant reformation; and, the First Vatican Council sought to respond to the errors of modernism and those opposing the authority of the pope. Vatican II is unique because there was not a pressing problem assailing the Church when it was called. No doubt, the climate of the times contributed to the clearly optimistic tone of Pope John XXIII and also a measure of uncertainty among those who desired that what they had on the immense amount of work compiled by the pre-conciliar committees.

One of the most important papers that would be presented to the bishops for discussion and debate. These references are sure guides as the Church rereads the documents of the Council to see that they “have lost nothing of their value or brilliance.” Yet, as Blessed John Paul II explained, “They need to be read correctly, to be widely known and taken to heart as important and normative texts of the Magisterium, within the Church’s Tradition...” I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the Council as the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century: there we find a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the centuries now beginning.

Pope Benedict XVI has taken up this mission begun by his predecessor. Not long after his election to the Chair of Saint Peter, he articulated his vision for our understanding of the Council, “If we interpret and implement it guided by a right hermeneutic, it can be felt that it can become increasingly powerful for the ever necessary renewal of the Church.” Admitting that confusion and misunderstanding has crept into the popular understanding of the Council, Pope Benedict invites the Church to read anew the documents of the Council in light of the unbroken continuity of Christ’s Gospel. In many ways, the Holy Father challenges every member of the Church to purify their understanding of what the Second Vatican Council teaches, and in doing so, to discover anew the joy and enthusiasm of believing.

It is this joy and enthusiasm of believing that inspired Pope Benedict to call the Church to enter this Year of Faith. Like the Council, the “dominant theme” of this Year is the Church. It is in the Church that humanity continues to encounter the Risen Christ and through the Church that the call to conversion, reform, communion, and the work of evangelization takes flesh. In his letter announcing the Year of Faith, one can hear the echoes of those first lines of Sacrosanctum Concilium as the Holy Father issues “a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Savior of the world.” Pope Benedict writes, “Reflection on the faith will have to be intensified, so as to help all believers in Christ to acquire a more conscious and vigorous adherence to the Gospel, especially at a time of profound change such as humanity is currently experiencing.” Such a renewed adherence to the Gospel will have wonderful effects not only in individual hearts and in the communal life of the Church, but also to the world since it spurs on believers to “to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope” by giving public witness to what they believe. The first Pen- tecost “demonstrates with utter clarity this public dimension of believing and proclaiming one’s faith fearlessly to every person. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us for mission and strengthens our witness, making it frank and courageous.”

Fifty years after Pope John XXIII con- vened the Second Vatican Council because of a flash of inspiration, Pope Benedict XVI encourages believers to rediscover the richness of the Church’s teaching and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Far from a pleasant history lesson or academic exercise, return- ing to the documents of the Second Vatican Council and carefully studying them with new eyes during this Year of Faith presents an opportunity to recapture the fervor and pride of being Catholic, reclaiming the treasure that is already at hand, and renew- ing the commitment to sharing that treasure effectively with all men and women. In this light, once again the words of Blessed John XXIII from October 11, 1962 sound forth in the Church with hope and optimism, “Gaudet Mater Ecclesiae”

(Father Brommer is the Administrative As- sistant to the Bishop and Liturgy Coordina- tor for the Diocese of Harrisburg. His series on the Second Vatican Council will appear in The Catholic Witness throughout the Year of Faith.)
Holy Family Radio Expands Local Programming, Seeks Continued Financial Support

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

More than a year after it first came on the air from its studio in Shermanstown, Holy Family Radio continues to broadcast a variety of faith-based programming to its listeners every day.

At 720 AM on the radio dial, listeners can hear both local and EWTN-based programming aimed at spreading the Good News.

The daytime station extends into several diocesan counties, and has added new programs of interest to its listeners.

Just recently, it connected with Knights of Columbus Council 11008 from the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg to produce “Knight Talk,” a bi-monthly program that will provide updates on the activities of local Knights, the joys of Knightshood and the impact that the fraternal organization has on the local community.

“Never before has the area Knights of Columbus been able to spread our news and the joys of Knightshood in such a comprehensive way to the local Catholic community,” said Eric Failing, Grand Knight of Council 11008. “The opportunity presented to us by Holy Family Catholic Radio allows us to express our charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism in new and exciting ways.”

“Knight Talk” airs weekly on Tuesdays at noon.

Holy Family also airs “Pro-Life Spotlight” on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. It’s hosted by Lori Peters from the Carlisle Area Family Life Center. The show focuses on people, issues and organizations in the pro-life movement.

“This station has been a blessing,” said Ms. Peters, “and it helps keep people fully informed about important issues in the Church.”

There’s also “Talking Rocks” from Trinity High School in Camp Hill that airs Mondays from 12:30-1 p.m. with encore at noon on Saturday, and a weekly stewardship-based program, “Reflections from the Heart” at noon on Fridays with an encore Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

Currently, the station is developing a program with Father John Trigilio, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville and St. Bernadette Parish in Duncannon. The show will examine current events through the Catholic lens, and will air every other Thursday from noon-1 p.m.

All these programs and more help to transmit the Catholic message to those who are tuned in at 720 AM or who listen online at www.yourholyfamilyradio.com. The station also offers podcasts and a phone app.

“This is the kind of station that educates both Catholics and non-Catholics alike in what we believe and what we stand for,” said Doug Neatrour, the station’s general manager. “We plan to continue in these efforts to spread the Gospel.”

And this is where listener support is so critical. Local stations require on-air talent, volunteers and a budget to stay on the air. Holy Family Radio is blessed to have a number of volunteers who offer their skills in production, radio technology and on-air news.

And, the station is extremely appreciative of the financial contributions offered by benefactors. Finances are a constant concern, and the station requires continued support to spread the Good News.

“We have been blessed with so many people who have contributed their time in volunteering to help and in offering their financial blessings,” said Betty Girven, Holy Family Radio’s Board President.

“We continue to ask for people who are interested in spreading the Good News of Christ through radio to offer their gifts, and we pray that God will bless them in their generosity,” she said.

The station continues to promote itself in various ways, including through parish bulletins and ads on the Truth and Life Channel, but relies heavily on word of mouth.

“It has been a fast year since we went on the air last August, and we’re continuing to get our name out there,” said Mr. Neatrour.

“This has been a tremendous year of growth for me spiritually,” he said. “I continue to call this my dream job. Coming here allows me to grow in the business I’ve loved for so long, but it also allows me to grow in the faith. I’m constantly learning something about my faith every day.”

Can You Provide the Station with a Tower Site?

Holy Family Radio is seeking land for its 342-foot tower. Utilizing the tower would allow the station to remain on the air longer during the day, and extend their coverage area. The station is seeking someone to gift or lease 10 acres of flat and preferably marshy land within a five-mile radius of the Camp Hill area. If you can help, call the station at 717-525-4110.
Religious Liberty and the American Soul

By Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Special to The Witness

The philosopher Hans Jonas once said that three things have distinguished human life from other animal experience since early prehistory: the tool, the image and the grave. The tool imposes man’s knowledge and will onto nature. The image — man’s paintings and other art — projects his imagination. It implants man’s ideals and memory and makes a desire to express them. But the greatest difference between humans and other animals is the grave. Only man buries his dead. When we serve it, we do good. And therein lies one of the most unique things about human life from other animal experience since early prehistory: the tool, the image and the grave. The tool imposes man’s knowledge and will onto nature. The image — man’s paintings and other art — projects his imagination. It implants man’s ideals and memory and makes a desire to express them.

Beginning Experience’ Weekends for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse

The Beginning Experience Team for the Harrisburg Diocese has announced two upcoming weekends, Nov. 9-11, 2012, and April 26-28, 2013. The weekends will take place at Camp Hebron, located at 857 Camp Road in Halifax.

Beginning Experience weekends are an opportunity for couples or unmarried cohabiting opposite-sex couples to come together on a much longer period has elapsed and found the weekend most helpful. Grief has no schedule. Please contact the Team to explore when a weekend might be most helpful to you.

Annual Pro-Life Contests for Students

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is once again calling for entries for its Pro-Life Essay Contest and the Pro-Life Video Tapes Contest. Both contests are open to students in grades 7-12. Students must write and deliver an original 1-minute Pro-Life essay or video. Essays must be restructured according to a congregational model. The contest is open to students in grades 7-12. Students must write and deliver an original 1-minute Pro-Life essay or video. Essays must be restructured according to a congregational model.

In October, the Catholic Church observes Respect Life Month, a period particularly highlighted by special liturgies and events that promote human life in all its stages, and that call our attention to numerous life issues. Each year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops publishes its Respect Life Program, which includes a series of pro-life articles. For additional information on the USCCB’s Respect Life Program, visit www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/

The American Founders therefore also presumed the existence of natural law and natural rights. These rights are inalienable because they are guaranteed by the Creator, by “nature’s God,” to the words of the Declaration of Independence. Such ideas seem to be out of fashion in much of legal theory today. But these same ideas are very much alive in the way we actually reason and behave in our daily lives.

Most of us assume that we have basic rights that come with the special dignity of being human. These rights are inherent to human nature. They’re part of who we are. Nobody can take them away. But if there is no Creator, and nothing fundamental and unchangeable about human nature, and if “nature’s God” is kicked out of the picture, and if “nature’s God” is kicked out of the picture, and “the sanctity of human life,” they’re putting into words what we all instinctively know — and have known for a very long time. Unique in nature, and unlike any other creature, men and women possess something elevated and sacred that demands our special respect.

When we violate that human dignity, we do evil. When we serve it, we do good. And therein lies one of today’s many American ironies. We now live in a society that speaks persuasively about protecting the environment, and yet the specter of a big break of extinction. But then it tolerates the mass killing of unborn children, and contemplates the killing of the sick and elderly in the name of their “dignity.”

Modern critics of religion like to point out that God is absent from the U.S. Constitution. And of course that’s true — but not because God was unwelcome. In effect, God suffused the whole constitution. Nearly all the Founders were religious believers, and some were quite devout. Their writings are heavily influenced by biblical language, mentality and thought. America’s founding could thus afford to be secular in the best sense, precisely because Americans were so religious. The Founders saw religious faith as something more than government but vital to the nation’s well-being. In effect, God suffused the whole constitution. Nearly all the Founders were religious believers, and some were quite devout. Their writings are heavily influenced by biblical language, mentality and thought. America’s founding could thus afford to be secular in the best sense, precisely because Americans were so religious.

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Pilgrimage

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about community service, so we’re here today to help people in any way we can,” said Matthew, a member of Troop 78 from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg.

Among the busloads of faithful who gathered for the pilgrimage were several groups of college students. In a unique afternoon session, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden met with these students and young adults in the basilica’s Byzantine Ruthenian Chapel. During the intimate gathering, he spoke to the young men and women about human dignity, Christian love, and a life of prayer. He also answered their questions about vocation discernment, the Year of Faith and the gift of our faith.

“The challenge for each one of us is first to love ourselves,” the bishop told the students, several of whom wore sweatshirts bearing their school’s name: Bucknell, Millersville, Franklin and Marshall, and the Catholic University of America.

“A lot of times, we look for love in other places, but we have to understand that our worth and our value don’t come from outside. Our worth and our value come from the fact that God has given each of us life,” he said.

He spoke about Christian love, as reflected in Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (13:4-7), and cautioned against casual use of the word “love.” “It’s a very deep word, because the love that the Lord teaches us is a love that looks to add value to things.” He also counseled the young adults to enter into a relationship with the Lord.

“If you love somebody, you want to spend time with them. The Lord loves us, and he wants us to love him. In order to do that, we have to spend some time with him in prayer,” he said.

Encouraging them in living their faith, Bishop McFadden acknowledged the challenge of living as a disciple of Jesus in a world that rejects him. “As the world rejects him, it will reject us. That’s why it’s so important to support each other,” he said. “The Lord didn’t send his disciples out one by one; he sent them out in pairs and as a group.”

“To find happiness in life is to live the values that the Lord calls us to live,” the bishop said. “It’s not an easy path, but the Lord says, ‘If you hang onto the cross and follow me, I will get you through, and you will find happiness.’”

The session with college students was the first meeting that Bucknell University student Jack McLinden, a native of Cleveland, had with the Bishop of Harrisburg.

“I was amazed by his generous spirit, to spend time with us to address our questions, to share his thoughts with us,” Jack said. “I was blown away by the level of care he showed to the youth in this diocese.”

A junior majoring in Religion and Classics, Jack said he was particularly struck by the bishop’s response when asked about discernment of a religious vocation: “Knowing your vocation is like finding the right fit. It’s like finding the right girl or guy,” the bishop remarked. “And the Lord is a great matchmaker. If you feel you are being called, pray about it and listen to your heart.”

Jack said that attending the diocesan pilgrimage with his peers was an appropriate way to prepare for the Year of Faith.

More PILGRIMAGE, page 12
Pilgrimage to the National Shrine

A prelude concert and an introduction from shrine staff served as a welcome to the magnificent space known as America’s Catholic Church. Following the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, pilgrims took advantage of free time to tour the basilica’s chapel and shops and pray for an increase in faith during Eucharistic Adoration. The celebration of the Luminous Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary concluded the grace-filled day.

The pilgrimage took place on the Feast of the Archangels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, an appropriate day, the bishop pointed out, because of Gabriel’s prominent role in announcing to Mary God’s plan for her.

In his homily, Bishop McFadden focused on two of the many titles given to the Blessed Mother: Mary, the Woman of Faith, and Mary, the Model Disciple – titles that merit close examination during the Year of Faith.

“Her whole disposition in her life was to be pleasing to the God who had given her life, and she sought to be faithful to him. It was at the Annunciation that Mary demonstrated her faith when she was asked by God to bear his Son and bring him into the world,” he said.

Her “fiat” allowed God to bring about salvation to the world, the bishop pointed out.

“As the Woman of Faith, Mary calls out to us to be men and women of faith. She assures us that God’s plan of salvation continues to this day, and that it will be brought to completion,” Bishop McFadden remarked.

During the course of her life, Mary underwent many challenges: she suffered as so many people turned against her Son, and she stood at the foot of his Cross, the bishop pointed out.

“It is her faith that should encourage us in our faith,” he said.

“One of the hopes of our Holy Father during this Year of Faith is that all of us will take the time to look once again at the basic tenets of our Catholic faith. It is his hope that like Mary, we will study the Sacred Scriptures to get to know what our God has done for us, and that we will grow in our relationship with him as he has revealed himself in and through Jesus Christ,” Bishop McFadden said.

As the Model Disciple, Mary shows us what it means to be a disciple of the Lord. She listened to the word of God, offered loving service to those around her, was a faithful spouse and mother, and more.
Incense rises toward the domes of the basilica as Mass concludes during the diocesan pilgrimage.

**Gathering**

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accompanied the disciples as they began to build Jesus’ Church.

“Mary invites us to follow her Son and to share in the work of building his Kingdom here on earth by living the values that he teaches us,” the bishop remarked. “In her many apparitions during the years, she continues to proclaim the message of her Son calling us to repent from our sins and to turn to the Lord and place our faith and trust in him. She encourages us to know and understand the great love that God has for us and his desire that we be his people. She warns us of the dangers that will befall the world unless we turn away from evil and open our lives to the love that Jesus gives us.”

Bishop McFadden prayed “that Mary will help all of us to approach the upcoming Year of Faith as an opportunity to grow in our knowledge and understanding of our faith and the great gift that God has given to us in his Son Jesus.”

“I ask Mary to help us to commit ourselves to living the Gospel values that Jesus teaches us and to work each and every day to help building the Kingdom of God in our homes, our parishes and our communities,” he said. “Finally I pray that all of us will experience a new Pentecost, whereby the Holy Spirit that overshadowed the Blessed Mother at the Annunciation by Gabriel will stir into flame the gift of faith that he has given us, so that we may be true witnesses of the Gospel and draw others to Mary’s Son, Jesus the Savior of the world.”
Pilgrimage to the National Shrine

Pilgrimage

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“The pilgrimage has definitely renewed me with a sense of peace, a sense of direction,” he reflected. “Being able to spend time with my community of faith here has renewed us all in the faith.”

The pilgrimage concluded with an inspirational re-enactment of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, brought to life by a group of nearly 20 teens from several diocesan parishes.

From the basilica’s main altar, the “Pilgrimage Players” prayerfully acted out the Baptism of the Lord, the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Holy Eucharist.

They presented the mysteries in full costume, accompanied by narration and hymns to help bring the rosary to life as Bishop McFadden led the congregation in prayer.

Casey Bird of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg portrayed Jesus.

“It’s like walking in his footsteps,” he said. “Now, when praying these mysteries, I can visualize how they happened. It’s a different way of telling about the life of Christ.”

Casey is no stranger to portraying Christ; he has taken on that role in his parish’s re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

“It’s been great to focus now on Christ’s public ministry and the miracles he worked,” Casey said of his latest experience.

For the “Pilgrimage Players,” the opportunity to present the prayerful re-enactment of the Luminous Mysteries has brought them to a deeper understanding of them.

As the youth rehearsed in the weeks leading up to the pilgrimage, director Rich Groff, Youth Minister at Holy Trinity and St. Peter Parishes in Columbia and a Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, encouraged them to pray and meditate on the mysteries.

“I stressed that in presenting the living rosary, they would be leading prayer, not putting on a play,” he said. “The youth took that solemn task to heart.”

“It’s one thing to hear about the stories surrounding the mysteries, but it’s a lot different to act them out and feel like you were there,” said “Pilgrimage Player” Ruby Baker of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia. She and fellow parishioner Victoria Kraft say they’ve been introduced to the Luminous Mysteries – promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2002 – in a whole new light.

“We’ve brought a great deal of respect and prayerfulness to this presentation,” Victoria remarked, “and as a result, I’ve grown to respect and understand the mysteries a whole lot more.”

Molly Grab, also a member of Holy Trinity, who portrayed Mary, commented on the ability of the living rosary to combine the prayers of the Church with various dramatic elements.

“I think there is a greater understanding of the mysteries when you can see them happening while you’re praying the rosary. You can think about the miracles while watching and praying,” she said.

Mr. Groff remarked that the “Pilgrimage Players” – many of whom had never been to the basilica – were humbled by the privilege of leading prayer there.

“Your young people have such enthusiasm and an openness to channel their creativity and their talents,” he said. “They’re very much a vital part of our Church today, so to allow them to play such a role is a wonderful way to engage them in their spirituality.”

He said the presence of so many young people at the pilgrimage was “a wonderful sign of life in the Church.”

“It’s a great sign of hope,” he said, “and certainly God’s graces are flowing in the Church today with these young people.”

In an afternoon session in the Byzantine Ruthenian Chapel, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden speaks to college students about vocation discernment, prayer life and the Year of Faith.

Boy Scouts Paul Buchheit and Matthew McKenna of Troop 78 from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg await the arrival of pilgrims to provide them with program books and hospitality.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

ABBOTTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: A.M. Moncure
ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Patricia Reich, Shirley Marie Wickham.
BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Dorothy Valunas, Sr. Joyce; Marshal Crag.
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT – St. Rita: Eva Chase, Monty Lyon.
COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Martha M. Kalinoski, Dorothy A. Morris.
COLUMBIA – St. Peter – George A. CONEWAGO – Seibert, Sr.
GERTRUDE ALTLAND.
MADALINE W. WILDE.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Sister M. Aquina died at Emmanuel Center in Danville Sept. 19. She was 93.

St. Rita: Eva BVM: Dorothy Valunas; St. Joseph: BERNWICK – Patricia Reich, Shirley Marie Wickham.

QUEEN OF PEACE: MILLERSBURG – Angelo Antonicelli.

St. Joseph: BERWICK – Patricia Reich, Shirley Marie Wickham.

St. Elizabeth Ann McFadden.

St. Katharine Drexel: Angelo Antonicelli.

Seton: Nevada Flynn, Bernadette Lucas

MECHANICSBURG – BVM: Anthony Brady.

Annunciation: MCSHERRYSTOWN – Margaret Mary: Lois Forney, Kathleen McFadden.


LYKENS – Our Lady Help of Christians: John Zilinski.

MCBRYDESSLASSON – Annunciation: BVM: Anthony Brady.


MILLERSBURG – Queen of Peace: Catherine D. Griech.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Therese: Madeline Wild, Lorraine Yakoboski.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Richard Noll.


SCHUYLKILLHARBOUR – St. Anthony: Richard Noll.

SCHUYLKILLHARBOUR – St. Anthony: Richard Noll.


SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: David Barvitskie, Catherine Buzzie, Michael ( Mick) Cunningham,

Norman Hertzog, William Rovino, Margaret Russell, Shirley Suroviak, Margaret Yadlosky, Robert Zulich, Sr.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Mary Kotish, James Murnin, Jr., Donna Sannasi.

WARRICK – St. Andrew: Ellen Mcleary.


Sister M. Aquina

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Sister M. Aquina died at Emmanuel Center in Danville Sept. 19. She was 93.


Sister Aquina was preceded in death by her parents and six siblings, including Father Alfred Kolodziej, O.F.M., Cap. The funeral mass was celebrated in Maria Hall Sept. 22.

Year of Faith Concert at St. Patrick Church, York

As part of the Year of Faith, St. Patrick Church in York is hosting a concert with Michael Russell O’Brien who will perform two shows Saturday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 13 at 3 p.m.

This will be Michael’s first appearance in the York-Harrisburg area and he is excited about coming here! Michael is a renowned Catholic speaker who educates, entertains and shares his music and faith story. Michael has performed at more than 80 Catholic Conferences and 800+ cities from major city arenas to small town churches across North America. Visit Michael’s website at www.michaelbruno.org (Michael O’Brien). Concert tickets are specially priced at $8 and can be ordered by downloading the form on the website or by calling 717-343-7530 or 717-343-7530 or 717-343-7530. Tickets will also be sold at the door for $10.50. Tickets will only be sold before each show, unless sold out.

In addition, the parish is hosting the Catholicism Series: “A Journey to the Heart of the Faith” each Sunday and Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. in the church in a wide-screen format through Dec. 4. See website for details.


St. Francis Xavier Parish Seeking Historic Missal Stands

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg has a mystery on its hands that possibly can be solved by another church in the diocese. The parish recently learned that the Chapel of St. Brigid in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C. contains two wooden missal stands honoring the Sisters who served as nurses during the Civil War. The two stands represent the only two Catholic churches that served as hospitals during the Civil War. St. Mary’s in Fredericksburg and St. Francis Xavier Church in Gettysburg. Of significance to St. Francis Xavier is the plaque on one stand stating that the stands were carved from wooden pews that were in St. Francis Xavier during the time the sisters served. The stands were contributed to the Shrine in 1924 by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. St. Francis Xavier Parish has reason to believe that a third stand was carved and given to St. Francis Xavier Church at the same time period. Some of the more senior parishioners have faint recollections of seeing such a stand among the collection of furniture in the basement of the church. However, after a complete search, it cannot be found. It is hoped that the stand was given to another church and can be returned to St. Francis Xavier Church where it will be cherished.

July of 2013 will be the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with a potential Mass to be held on the Battlefield. It would be a very special event if a very special missal stand carved from a pew from St. Francis Xavier of 1863 would be on the altar for that special Mass.

Anyone with possible information should contact the parish at 717-334-3919.


As parents of faith, we want our children to reach their full potential as the people God created them to be. We want them to be prepared to meet life’s challenges, which requires that they possess character traits such as confidence, independence, productivity, and security. How does that happen? Come find out!

On two different dates this fall, Dr. Patricia McCormack will share the expertise she has gained from years of study and classroom experience, as well as the “best practices” of hundreds of parents. Dr. McCormack is an educator, author, and nationally-renowned speaker with a wealth of insight, wit, and warmth that make each presentation engaging and informative.

Sessions will be held at St. Joseph Church Oct. 17 from 7-9 p.m. (emphasis on pre-K through grade 5) and Nov. 11 from 7-9 p.m. (emphasis on middle and high school). You are welcome to attend either or both sessions. Childcare will be offered in Brindle Hall. No charge, but free will donations are welcome.

We greatly appreciate your RSVP so that we may plan handouts and childcare accordingly. Please contact Mary Vukelich at 717-766-9433 if you wish to attend.
The Catholic Witness
OCTOBER 12, 2012
By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Thomasville’s Briarwood golf course in the lowlands west of York is a course that features rolling landscape to challenge the golfer’s ability to judge depth and control ball trajectory. The District 3 championships were held on Oct. 5 and 6 as the best 72 golfers teed it up in perfect warm and relatively calm wind in the 36-hole competition.

Bishop McDevitt’s Mike Esworthy was the only diocesan player to advance to the Eastern Regional State championship as he posted a fine two-day total of 154 – ten over par to capture sixth place in Class AA tournament. Briarwood’s old style green complexes require a solid short game to negotiate the slopes and Esworthy is an able scrambler. Teammate Stu Ingraham just missed qualifying by a single stroke as he followed a poor first day of play (81) with a solid rebound (76) on the second day. Only the top-eight advance to state regional play.

The Crusaders had a terrific regular season behind the play of Ingraham and Esworthy as they helped propel the team to an undefeated (25-0) record and Mid-Penn Capital division title. Fourteen diocesan players qualified for district play.

For the fifth time in the last six seasons, the York Catholic Fighting Irish girls’ tennis team has won the York-Adams Division II team championship. Not only did the team win another league crown, it finished the year with an unblemished record.

Leading the Fighting Irish is senior Anna Spoden who won the York-Adams Class AA singles championship this past week. The seasoned southpaw has only lost one out of 39 sets this season as District 3 play opens this week.

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The Saint Columba Parish Council of Catholic Women in Bloomburg holds its meetings on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 6. Any interested women may contact President Betty Fflyt at 717-629-2135 or email bettyflyt@gmail.com. The council is run by the committee and is open to all women. A second meeting was held Oct. 1 to further discuss the area of the council and how it can help the local community.

“Sanctity of Life: A Catholic Perspective on End of Life issues” will be presented by Caroline Haux Nov. 14 at 7:30 a.m. at St. Peter’s Chapel in New Columbia (in the back of the church). An address advance directives, nutrition and hydration during the end of life process, and the process for Hospice care will be presented. No RSVP required. For information, call the parish at 717-684-7707.

Fall Festivals & Christmas Bazaars
Sacred Heart Parish in Mechanicsburg will be holding its Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Resurrection Catholic School. The bazaar is unique in that all items for sale were either made or donated by parishioners or local businesses. Items include food, crafts, holiday decor, knitted items, Christmas decorations, jewelry, sewing, knitted items and many more. The bazaar is free to the public. For more information, call Diane Dallazia at 570-373-3415, Phyllis Pete at 717-990-3706,或the parish office at 717-737-2225. Advance reservations will be taken for $20 a person. Kids 4-10 $5. Ages 3 and under eat free. If you have any questions, call the parish office at 717-737-2225.

The Council of Catholic Women of Holy Name Parish in Harrisburg will be holding its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Admission is $2. Door prizes will be given away all day. Menus include soup, meatball subs, ham and turkey, and many more items. The proceeds will go towards the Holy Name Parish School. For more information, call the parish office at 717-273-3319 or visit www.holynameharrisburg.org.

The Saint Paul the Apostle Parish Council of Catholic Women in Bloomsburg will be holding its 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Oct. 27 from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The proceeds will go towards the St. Paul the Apostle Parish School. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and includes a traditional pork and sauerkraut dinner, meatball sub, ham and turkey, and many more items. The kitchen will be serving clams and sauerkraut and many more items. The proceeds will go towards the St. Paul the Apostle Parish School. For more information, call Diane Dallazia at 570-373-3415, Phyllis Pete at 717-990-3706, or the parish office at 717-737-2225.

The Council of Catholic Women of Holy Name Parish in Harrisburg will be holding its 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Oct. 27 from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The proceeds will go towards the Holy Name Parish School. For more information, call the parish office at 717-273-3319 or visit www.holynameharrisburg.org.

The Saint Paul the Apostle Parish Council of Catholic Women in Bloomsburg will be holding its 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Oct. 27 from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The proceeds will go towards the St. Paul the Apostle Parish School. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and includes a traditional pork and sauerkraut dinner, meatball sub, ham and turkey, and many more items. The kitchen will be serving clams and sauerkraut and many more items. The proceeds will go towards the St. Paul the Apostle Parish School. For more information, call Diane Dallazia at 570-373-3415, Phyllis Pete at 717-990-3706, or the parish office at 717-737-2225.
Pope, Opening Synod, Says Christ is the Answer to Humanity’s Questions

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

To evangelize means to help people understand that God himself has responded to their questions, and that his response—the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ—is available to them as well, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Our role in the new evangelization is to cooperate with God,” the pope told the more than 260 cardinals, bishops and priests who are members of the world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization. “We can only let people know what God has done.”

In a 21-minute, off-the-cuff reflection during morning prayer at the synod’s opening session Oct. 8, Pope Benedict spoke of the importance of prayer in the Church’s push for a new evangelization, the meaning of evangelization, and sharing the Gospel through both proclamation and charity.

The pope examined the use of the word “evangelion,” the Greek term that is the root of the English word “evangelization,” and which is itself translated as “Gospel.”

“In the Book of Isaiah, he noted, the Hebrew equivalent of the word describes “the voice that announces a victory, that announces goodness, joy and happiness,” transmitting the message that “God has not forgotten his people,” and that he intervenes with power in history to save them.

In the New Testament, the pope said, “evangelion” is the good news of the incarnation of Christ, the coming of God’s son into the world to save humanity.

“For the people of Israel suffering under Roman rule, it was truly good news that God spoke to his people and came to live among them, the pope said. News of Jesus’ birth was the answer to those who questioned whether there really was a God; whether he knew his people and the circumstances of their lives; and whether he had any power to change their situation.

People today have the same questions, the pope said: “Is God a reality or not? Why is he silent?”

When Christians evangelize, they must remember that their “faith has content,” and that what they believe and seek to share with others is outlined in the creed, he said. They must use their intelligence to reflect on the tenets of their faith and use their mouths to proclaim it.

Because faith isn’t an abstract notion, Christians also must live their faith and share it with the world through acts of charity and love, the pope said.

“Being tepid is the greatest danger for Christians,” he said. “We pray that faith becomes like a fire in us and that it will set alight others.”

The synod formally opened Oct. 7 with a Mass in St. Peter’s Square.

During his homily, Pope Benedict said that the “Church exists to evangelize.”

The cardinal told the synod that Christians are not called to scold others, but to share the good news of salvation in Christ, lived out in his body, the Church.

“The new evangelization must speak about God’s universal salvific will and, at the same time, recognize that Jesus has provided a clear and unique path to redemption and salvation,” the cardinal said. “The Church is not one among many ways to reach God, of all of them equally valid.”

The teaching of the Church, he said, is what verifies the truth of what people preach as they try to share the Gospel with others, and the Church is the means through which God distributes his grace, particularly through the sacraments.

Cardinal Wuerl told synod members that as they spend the next three weeks looking at almost every area of Church life and at a variety of opportunities and barriers to new evangelization, their task would be to respond with “boldness or courage, connectedness to the Church, a sense of urgency and joy.”

At a news conference following his speech, Cardinal Wuerl was asked if the synod would examine and acknowledge ways, such as the clerical sex abuse crisis, in which the Church has alienated Catholics.

“The Church is always called to reflect on herself,” the cardinal said. “Every member of the Church is called to ask, ‘Am I living out the faith to the fullest?’”

The synod members must ask themselves: “How well are we proclaiming Christ?” he said. “It’s not a matter of words; it’s also a matter of actions, it’s a matter of how we respond to others, it’s also a matter of our prayer life.”
Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico ordained as Tenth Bishop of Erie

By Anne-Marie Welsh

Special to The Witness

Live television coverage of the ordination of Bishop Lawrence Thomas Persico revealed a humanity that is already endearing him to the northwest Pennsylvania flock he will now shepherd. The microphone he was wearing picked up private comments he made during the nearly three-hour long ceremony which required a considerable amount of choreography as he knelt, stood, sat and prostrated himself on the floor of St. Peter Cathedral in Erie while those present prayed for him.

When Most Rev. Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the principal consecrator at the ordination, gently turned the crosier in Bishop Persico’s hand so that it faced in the correct direction, Bishop Persico flashed a big grin, leaned toward the archbishop and admitted, “I’m new at this!”

It was all part of a joyous day on which the tenth man in the 159-year history of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie became its new bishop. The planned welcome remarks by Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, now bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Erie, had to be given by Vicar General Msgr. Robert Smith, as the bishop emeritus was suffering from a severe case of laryngitis.

Reading from the hand-written message, Msgr. Smith said, “Our new bishop comes in Christ’s name and faithful to him, as bishop of the Diocese of Erie, the laity who have loved and served God in the diocese and the religious women who have sacrificed their lives in service of the church of Erie as well as the priests and deacons.

“The Church universal celebrates the presence of God in this ordination celebration,” he said.

The ordination rite was then continued with the laying on of hands, first by Archbishop Chaput as principal consecrator and Bishop Trautman and Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg as co-consecrators. (Bishop Brandt was a priest of the Diocese of Erie until he was named bishop of Greensburg in 2004.) The other 25 bishops present then followed suit, including Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, a seminarian classmate of Bishop Persico.

After Archbishop Chaput prayed the prayer of ordination and presented Bishop Persico with the book of Gospels, the ring, the miter and the pastoral staff, he was seated in the cathedral and greeted with enthusiastic applause in his first moments as the new bishop of the Diocese of Erie.

In another personal touch during the Mass, Bishop Persico offered Communion to his family members, then discreetly left the cathedral to bring Communion to the invited guests who had had to watch the ordination by video in an auditorium next door to the cathedral due to space constraints. When he appeared at the door there was an audible gasp of surprise and gratitude from the assembly of mostly employees of the Diocese of Erie, school principals and deacon wives.

The former vicar general of the Diocese of Greensburg and until a week ago, the pastor of St. James Parish in New Alexandria, Pa., Bishop Persico opened his remarks at the end of the liturgy by recalling his “first visit to this magnificent cathedral.” He attended the installation Mass of Bishop Trautman in 1990 because he had been enlisted to drive Bishop Anthony Bosco and Bishop William Connare from his diocese for the event.

“What stands out the most in my mind was that from where I was seated I was unable to view the ceremony,” he said. “I am delighted I had a better view of this ceremony!”

After thanking the many people who had supported him in his life as well as those who were present at the ceremony, Bishop Persico paused and concluded, “Finally, I ask you—the people of this beloved Diocese of Erie—to pray for me that I may be a good shepherd and servant after the heart of Jesus so that together we may be effective in helping to build the kingdom of God here in the Diocese of Erie.”

(Anne-Marie Welsh is the Director of the Office of Communications for the Diocese of Erie.)

Pope Adds Two Saints to List of Church ‘Doctors’

By Francis X. Rocca

Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict added a 16th-century Spanish priest and a 12th-century German abbess to the roster of doctors of the universal Church.

The pope proclaimed the new doctors, St. John of Avila and St. Hildegard of Bingen, at Mass Oct. 7 in St. Peter’s Square, where the thousands in attendance included pilgrims waving Spanish flags, and German nuns in traditional habits.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said that St. John, “a profound expert on the sacred Scriptures,” knew how to “penetrate in a uniquely profound way the mysteries of the redemption worked by Christ for humanity.”

Noting St. Hildegard’s knowledge of medicine, poetry and music, the pope called her a “woman of brilliant intelligence, deep sensitivity and recognized spiritual authority. The Lord granted her a prophetic spirit and fervent capacity to discern the signs of the times.”

The doctors of the Church, saints honored for particularly important contributions to theology and spirituality, come from both the Eastern and Western church traditions.

The 35 doctors include early Church fathers such as Sts. Jerome, John Chrysostom and Augustine, and theologians such as Sts. Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure and John of the Cross, but also St. Therese of Lisieux, who was honored by Blessed John Paul II in 1997, despite her lack of scholarly accomplishment.

St. Hildegard is the fourth female doctor of the Church, joining Sts. Therese, Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila.
Close to a thousand diocesan educators gathered at Trinity High School, Camp Hill, for the annual education conference on Sept. 27. This year’s keynote speaker was Msgr. Daniel Kutys, the Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Speaking on the topic, “The Catholic School and Building the Foundation of Faith,” Msgr. Kutys, above, reminded the educators that “Catholic schools have a very serious role to play in our society – every teacher is a teacher of religion in a Catholic school…. As teachers we must be unselfish, which is a common theme in the Gospel and as teachers that is what we are called to be – unselfish.” Bishop Joseph P. McFadden celebrated Holy Mass after the keynote address, and following Mass he presented the Frederick Noel Distinguished Educator Award to Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Sister Mary Ann Lawrence, left, – first grade teacher at Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill – for her long tenure and tireless devotion to her students and school.

**Foundations of Faith**

Adams Deanery
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbottstown
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 9 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Bonneauville
  - M-T-TH-F, 8 a.m.
  - W, 7 a.m.
- Annunciation BVM, McSherrystown
  - M-F, 8:15 a.m.
  - T-TH, 6:30 a.m.

Dauphin Deanery
- Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 6:30 a.m.
- Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Harrisburg
  - M-F, Noon
- St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
  - T-W-TH-F, 8:30 a.m.
- St. Francis of Assisi, Harrisburg
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 8 a.m. English only
- St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg
  - M-T-W-TH-F, Noon
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 12:30 p.m. Confessions

Lebanon Deanery
- St. Joan of Arc, Hershey
  - M-W-F, 9 a.m.
  - T-TH, 6:45 a.m.

Northern Deanery
- St. Joseph, Berwick
  - M, 8:30 a.m.
  - T-TH, 7:30 a.m.
  - F, 6:30 a.m.
- St. Columba, Bloomsburg
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 7:30 a.m.
- Christ the King, Benton
  - M-T-F, 9 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Danville
  - TH, 6:15 p.m.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisburg
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 9 a.m.
- St. Monica, Sunbury
  - (Communion Service)
  - M, 6 p.m.
  - T-TH, 7:30 a.m.
  - W-F, 9 a.m.
- Immaculate Conception, Berwick
  - T-TH, Noon
  - W-F, 7 a.m.

Cumberland/Perry Deanery
- Good Shepherd, Camp Hill
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Patrick, Carlisle
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 8:30 a.m.

Franklin Deanery
- St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit
  - M-F, 9 a.m.
- Immaculate Conception, Fairfield
  - M-F, 8 a.m.

North Lancaster Deanery
- Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata
  - M-F, 7 and 9 a.m.

Northumberland Deanery
- Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Elysburg
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 7 a.m.
- St. Monica, Sunbury
  - (Communion Service)
  - M, 6 p.m.
  - T-TH, 7:30 a.m.
  - W-F, 9 a.m.
- Immaculate Conception, Berwick
  - T-TH, Noon
  - W-F, 7 a.m.

South Lancaster Deanery
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster
  - M-F, 8:30 a.m.
- St. John Neumann, Lancaster
  - M-F, 4:15 p.m. at parish
  - T-W-TH, 12:05 p.m. at Lancaster Regional Hospital

York Deanery
- St. John the Baptist, New Freedom
  - M-F, 9 a.m.
- St. Patrick, York
  - M, 6:30 a.m.
  - W-TH, 5:15 p.m.
  - F, 8:30 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Dallastown
  - T-TH, 12:30 a.m.
- St. Joseph, York
  - M-F, 6:45
  - M-T-W-TH-F, 8 a.m.
  - F, 8:30 a.m.

Daily Masses during Priests’ Workshop

The annual Priests’ Continuing Education Workshop will be held Oct. 21-26 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**
  - Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbottstown
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 9 a.m.
  - St. Joseph, Bonneauville
    - M-T-TH-F, 8 a.m.
    - W, 7 a.m.
  - Annunciation BVM, McSherrystown
    - M-F, 8:15 a.m.
    - T-TH, 6:30 a.m.

- **Dauphin Deanery**
  - Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 6:30 a.m.
  - Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Harrisburg
    - M-F, Noon
  - St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
    - T-W-TH-F, 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Francis of Assisi, Harrisburg
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 8 a.m. English only
  - St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg
    - M-T-W-TH-F, Noon
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 12:30 p.m. Confessions

- **Lebanon Deanery**
  - St. Joan of Arc, Hershey
    - M-W-F, 9 a.m.
    - T-TH, 6:45 a.m.

- **Northern Deanery**
  - St. Joseph, Berwick
    - M, 8:30 a.m.
    - T-TH, 7:30 a.m.
    - F, 6:30 a.m.
  - St. Columba, Bloomsburg
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 7:30 a.m.
  - Christ the King, Benton
    - M-T-F, 9 a.m.
  - St. Joseph, Danville
    - TH, 6:15 p.m.
  - Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisburg
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 9 a.m.
  - St. Monica, Sunbury
    - (Communion Service)
    - M, 6 p.m.
    - T-TH, 7:30 a.m.
    - W-F, 9 a.m.
  - Immaculate Conception, Berwick
    - T-TH, Noon
    - W-F, 7 a.m.

- **Cumberland/Perry Deanery**
  - Good Shepherd, Camp Hill
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Patrick, Carlisle
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 8:30 a.m.

- **Franklin Deanery**
  - St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit
    - M-F, 9 a.m.
  - Immaculate Conception, Fairfield
    - M-F, 8 a.m.

- **North Lancaster Deanery**
  - Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata
    - M-F, 7 and 9 a.m.

- **Northumberland Deanery**
  - Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Elysburg
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 7 a.m.
  - St. Monica, Sunbury
    - (Communion Service)
    - M, 6 p.m.
    - T-TH, 7:30 a.m.
    - W-F, 9 a.m.
  - Immaculate Conception, Berwick
    - T-TH, Noon
    - W-F, 7 a.m.

- **South Lancaster Deanery**
  - Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster
    - M-F, 8:30 a.m.
  - St. John Neumann, Lancaster
    - M-F, 4:15 p.m. at parish
    - T-W-TH, 12:05 p.m. at Lancaster Regional Hospital

- **York Deanery**
  - St. John the Baptist, New Freedom
    - M-F, 9 a.m.
  - St. Patrick, York
    - M, 6:30 a.m.
    - W-TH, 5:15 p.m.
    - F, 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Joseph, Dallastown
    - T-TH, 12:30 a.m.
  - St. Joseph, York
    - M-F, 6:45
    - M-T-W-TH-F, 8 a.m.
    - F, 8:30 a.m.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, the Church’s annual celebration of World Mission Sunday takes on special significance because it occurs during the opening weeks of the Year of Faith, while the Synod on the New Evangelization is taking place in Rome. These three moments are intrinsically connected because all of them are about faith: knowing our faith and sharing it so that we can bring it to bear on every society where the Church has taken root, as well as in places where Christ has yet to be proclaimed, or where faith in Him has grown cold.

It is most fitting that the Sunday Mass is the setting for our Diocesan celebration of World Mission Sunday, because it is participation in Holy Mass that nourishes us, strengthens us and sends us out on mission to witness to Christ. Through the Church’s proclamation of God’s Word and our reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord, we are fortified to live as missionary disciples and take up the work to which Christ calls us.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has reminded us that only Christ can truly fulfill the hopes of all humanity because He alone can “heal, purify and fill all people with His presence.”

Our profound communion with Christ through our life in the Church should result in a deepening of faith that is transformed into love. The Pontifical Mission Societies support the missionary evangelization efforts that take place in 1,150 dioceses throughout the world. Through their efforts the love of Christ touches the hearts and conveys life in every region of the world. I commend the Pontifical Mission Societies to your prayers and ask you to be generous in your support for their missionary outreach.

By participating in the missionary work of the Church, my prayer is that each of us will grow in our ability to proclaim Christ by our lives. Thank you for your concern for the Missions. May the Lord abundantly bless you for your willingness to spread the gospel.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

4800 Union Deposit Road • Harrisburg • Pennsylvania 17111-3710
(717) 657-4804 • FAX (717) 652-7547
bjmcfadden@hbgdiocese.org • www.hbgdiocese.org

How Our Gifts Make a World of Difference

• $15 is a week’s support of a young man in a mission seminary – like John Simwingsa, a student at St. Dominic’s Major Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia. In between studies, he volunteers at the Cheshire Home where children with disabilities receive an education, three nutritious meals a day – and an endless supply of the love of our Lord.

• $25 is a month’s help for the formation of a religious Sister in the Pacific Islands. Sister Merien Rikis says her vocation was inspired by the dedication and commitment of missionary Sisters on her Pacific Island home, “I wanted to be like them, to touch the lives of others with God’s great love,” she explains.

• $100 covers the cost of a desk and textbook for five of the 300 children in a catechism class at a parish on the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador.

• $75 assists Father Dominic Sarker at St. Joseph’s Parish in Srimangal, Bangladesh. He visits 10,000 Catholics spread over 10,000 square miles – celebrating the Sacraments, while providing concrete help for the poor there, the workers and their families from the country’s tea estates.

For More Information about the 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

Bishop of Harrisburg

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Beautiful Renovations Blessed by Bishop McFadden at Saint Joseph’s Parish in Danville

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Summer was a busy time at Saint Joseph’s Church in Danville, as an extensive remodeling project was completed. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden made a pastoral visit to the church on Sept. 30 to bless the new doors, organ and sound system as well as the presidential chair in the sanctuary. In addition to these new items, the church was completely repainted and new pendant lighting was installed, giving this beautiful old church a bright and spacious feel. The striking mural behind the altar depicting Christ’s crucifixion was cleaned by a professional conservator, making the depiction more visually bold in presentation. All the exquisite marble was cleaned, and the wooden floors and pews were also refinished.

The planning and fund-raising for the project began several years ago when Father Steve Fauser was pastor there, and he returned for the joyous celebration with more than 500 faithful parishioners. After Bishop McFadden celebrated Holy Mass, Father Tri Luong, current pastor, thanked all those who generously gave of their time, talents and financial support to finish the extensive renovations.

Bishop McFadden expressed his gratitude to the parishioners in his homily and told them that this church is “sacred space” and that they help make it sacred by gathering to celebrate the Eucharist. “We are not to make a luxurious life for ourselves. We are to give like Jesus does – Jesus became poor so that we could be rich…. True love tries to build up.”