Prayer of Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima

Hail, Mother of the Lord,
Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary of Fatima!
Blessed among all women,
you are the image of the Church dressed in the Paschal light,
you are the honor of our people,
you are the triumph over the mark of evil.
Prophecy of the merciful Love of the Father,
Teacher of the Annunciation of the Good News of the Son,
Sign of the burning Fire of the Holy Spirit,
teach us, in this valley of joys and sorrows,
the eternal truths that the Father reveals to the little ones.
Show us the strength of your mantle of protection.
In your Immaculate Heart,
be the refuge of sinners
and the way that leads to God.
In unity with our brothers and sisters,
In Faith, Hope, and Love,
We surrender ourselves to you.
In unity with all our brothers and sisters, through you,
we consecrate ourselves to God,
O Virgin of the Rosary of Fatima.
And thus surrounded by the Light that comes from your hands,
We will give Glory to the Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.

With Marian Devotion,
Love for Church, Father Sempko brought People to Christ

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In his 67 years as a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Fa-
ther Walter Sempko cultivated
the faith lives of countless
people as a parochial vicar,
priest and chaplain, and did
so through his work ethic, his
Marian devotion and his love
for the Church.
It’s a witness that rang loud
and clear as clergy, religious

More FATHER SEMPKO, page 2
Father Sempko

Continued from 1

and laity gathered for the Mass of Trans- fertal and the Funeral Mass that were cele- brated for Father Sempko at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg earlier this month.

Father Sempko, 94, died Oct. 2 at the Priests’ Retirement Residence in Harris- burg.

“He was all about bringing people to Christ. That was always his motive for what he did, and the love was there, with gusto,” said Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid of Pittsburgh. “He was a per- son who never forgot who he was, who he was, and people and telling them how much God loved them, always giving them reason to have hope and reason to have joy in their lives.”

Whether serving as parochial vicar or pastor in the various diocesan parishes to which he was assigned, as moderator for the Legion of Mary, as chaplain for the Serra Club, or in bringing people together for each to St. Casimir Parish in Polish language, a monthly Rosary group, or the annual Pilgrimage for World Peace, “he gave himself wholeheartedly to the call of the people,” Bishop Waltersheid said.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was the prin- cipal celebrant and Father Robert Yohe, pastor in the Franklin Deanery, concelebrant for the Funeral Mass. Burial was in St. Casimir Cemetery in Kulpmont.

Father Sempko was an “authentic wit- ness,” said Bishop Gainer, who remarked at the Mass of Transference that for World Peace through the annual Pilgrimage for World Peace through a black suit and a cassock before entering seminary.

Father Sempko was ordained on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1950, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harris- burg. He was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg for his first assignment, as parochial vicar at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hanover, one week before Holy Week.

After four months of service there, he was transferred to St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle for ten months to replace a priest there who was ill. He then served parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover for five months in 1951, and at Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg into early 1952. In May, he was reassigned to St. Anthony’s in Ranshaw for two years, and then to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Har- risburg from 1954-1960.

In 1960, Father Sempko was given his first assignment as a pastor, at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Roaring Creek. He would go on to serve as pastor of St. Joseph Par- holic in Milton (1962-1967), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enहाउट (1967-1973), and St. Joseph Parish in Danville (1975- 1985). He then began a 15-year ministry as chaplain of the Villa Teresa Nursing Home in Harrisburg. He retired in 1998 to St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, and lived there for eight and a half years, until regular- ization from open heart surgery promp- ted him to move to the Priests’ Retirement Residence in Harrisburg.

In every parish assignment, Father Sempko endeavored to strengthen the people’s relationship with Jesus, noted Father Yohe, whose parents were married by Father Sempko at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Harrisburg in 1959.

“I really appreciated Father Sempko be- cause, in my mind, he was a blue-collar priest,” Father Yohe told The Catholic Witness. “No hard work ever stopped him from getting something accomplished in the parishes he served. He always wanted his parish to be a better place when he left,” he said. “That work ethic translated into his spiritual life as well, because the most important thing to him was the spiritual welfare of his people. He wanted his par- ish to be a better place physically, yes, but spiritually when he left, Father Yohe also pointed out to Father Sempko’s unique way of evangelizing when he would join the Youes – or any Youes for that matter – on a night out for dinner.

When a waiter or waitress would ap- proach the table, he’d smile his charismat- ic smile and greet them. If a waitress was working at his table, he’d refer to her as “Angel.” Then he would engage the wait staff in conversation. “Who has happened that’s good in your life lately?”

“The waiter or waitress might look at him and say, ‘Well, I just got engaged,’ or ‘I’m getting ready to graduate,’ and Father Sempko would say, ‘See, God has given you that blessing, and you can be thankful for that.’

“That interaction was such a simple way of evangelizing and touching people’s hearts,” Father Yohe reflected.

Father Sempko was an “authentic wit- ness” and enjoyed its foods, culture and lan- guage. He was a man of prayer, who learned about the efforts of anyone who knew him.

Father Sempko is survived by a niece, nieces, a nephew, and two sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, a niece-in-law, several great nieces and nephews, and two sisters-in-law.

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, has made the following appointments:

Effectively immediate:

• Very Reverend Monsignor James M. Lyons to Dean of the Adams Deanery. Monsignor Lyons remains Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Hanover.

• Very Reverend William C. Forrey to Dean of the Cumberland/Perry Deanery. Father Forrey remains Pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle.


• Very Reverend Luis R. Rodriguez to Dean of the Franklin Deanery. Father Rodriguez remains Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg.

• Very Reverend Monsignor William M. Richardson to Dean of the Lebanon Deanery. Monsignor Richardson remains Pastor, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown, but ceases to be Chaplain at Lebanon Catholic School, Lebanon.

• Very Reverent Steven W. Fauser to Dean of the North Lancaster Dean- ery. Father Fauser remains Pastor, St. Peter Parish, Elizabethtown.

• Very Reverend Francis J. Tamburro to Dean of the Northern Deanery. Father Tamburro remains Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg.

• Very Reverend Michael A. Laicha to Chaplain, Lebanon Catholic School. Father Laicha remains Pastor, St. Cecilia Parish, Lebanon.

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State’s Bishops Celebrate Mass to Consecrate Dioceses to Our Lady of Fatima

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Joining their voices in prayer and lending their honor of the Blessed Mother to strains of Marian hymns with hundreds of clergy, religious and lay faithful, the bishops of the dioceses of Pennsylvania concelebrated a solemn Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Sept. 27 to consecrate the state’s Catholic dioceses to Our Lady of Fatima in this 100th anniversary year of her apparitions.

With a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima adorned with flowers flanking the front of the church, the bishops of Pennsylvania’s eight Latin Rite and two Byzantine Rite dioceses gathered at the altar for the Mass, for which Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., of Philadelphia served as principal celebrant.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who appeared six times to three shepherd children near the town of Fatima, Portugal, between May 13 and October 13, 1917. Appearing to the children, the Blessed Virgin told them that she had been sent by God with a message for every man, woman and child living in our century. Coming at a time when civilization was torn asunder by war and bloody violence, she promised that Heaven would grant peace to all the world if her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed.

Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh was the homilist for the Mass, and his message delivered to the capacity crowd called upon the faithful to emulate the three qualities that the Blessed Mother is shown to embody: to be a witness to Christ, to be a person of prayer, and to be a person of sacrifice.

“Sometimes people think she said: ‘I’m a woman of prayer,’ ” Bishop Zubik said. “But she is a witness, pointing to her Son Jesus as she always would do. She shows herself to be a woman of the message and message delivery. With the capacity crowd and the official presence of the state’s bishops, some of the bishops of the dioceses of Pennsylvania will attend each of the parishes of each of the dioceses of Pennsylvania this anniversary year of her apparitions.”

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“Their voices are joined in this celebration as we honor the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima,” Bishop Zubik said.

“Each of the parishes of each diocese of Pennsylvania will have a Mass on Oct. 13, 14 and 15,” Bishop Zubik said. “And that, like our dear Blessed Lady, we may know the meaning of sacrifice and make holy all that we do,” Bishop Zubik concluded.

Following the homily, the congregation joined the bishops in praying aloud the Prayer of Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima. During the weekend Masses of Oct. 14 and 15, each of the parishes of each of the dioceses of Pennsylvania will pray the Prayer of Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima, during a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The tone of the weekend will be one of consecrating the local Church to the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima in this anniversary year.

Wall of Mary: what it truly means to be a disciple

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Look to Jesus!
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

The Catholic Witness

Recently, I had an awesome conversation with a woman that was truly “young at heart.” She had just celebrated her 100th birthday! She was absolutely amazing! Through her vision had somewhat dimmed, her 100-year-old wisdom and life experience taught me a lesson.

I asked her, “Betty, what is the important lesson you have learned throughout your years of life?” She looked away, pondering, and then smiled in a very real and valid way and stated, “Look to Jesus!”

Sensing Jesus wisdom and mystery beyond my understanding, I asked, hungrily, “Betty, what do you mean?” She responded, “Look at Jesus, how beautiful, like wool and nylon coming out of a dryer. They are inseparable. You have to rip them apart. Sparks fly when you do that! Even if they can be separated, we can never be torn from Jesus’ love. When we turn from him away from him, even in the slightest way, we sin. Even so, he still loves us! When a child owns that love, our entire being changes. Loving him should be our goal in life. I know that’s what mine has been!”

Nodding in affirmation and with tears coming down from my eyes, I whispered, “Yes, Betty! You are so right!”

I could not help being reminded of this story as I stared at the blinking cursor on my computer. How can I express in a mere article what I have learned writing more than 100 articles for The Witness? How can I relay what I have learned from the countless comments that my readers have spoken to me over the course of the last six years? How can you pinpoint moments of grace? How can you put words to them? I think Betty’s advice about looking to Jesus is perfect! Let me explain.

How does one continue to look to Jesus? Answer: prayer. Most of the human beings I know see the world through their own perspectives. They cry out (me included), “What about me?” We pray not to change our mind, but to open ourselves to his will. Prayer turns us into a relationship with another. When we pray, we get ripped from our self interest and learn to cling to our Creator and Savior. Thomas a Kempist, a Christian mystic, and writer, says it this way: “The will of God is not ‘to’ (as in which we wish it), but ‘for’ (in order to make me).”

At times, this is not easy. In order to look at Jesus and be receptive to God, we need healing from past hurts. All of us are wounded in one way or another. We need to take a moral inventory of self, thus owning our wounds and the personality flaws that we all have. It is amazing to remember that the resurrected Jesus had wounds! In the resurrected body, he was not wounds of violence and hatred, but rather wounds that proved his love. Christ’s death on the cross showed us how to be open to God. What do they mean for us?

We need to be accountable to another human being. Accountability means to be transparent to another about our faults, our struggles and our work to remove our character flaws. Accountability means to be humble to ask not only God for help, but also others. If we are willing to ask pardon when we offend and also to try to make amends to them in some small way. Finally, accountability means to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis.

In addition, we can open our hearts to God in a special way. To have faith, music, dance, poetry and art can be reflections of God’s beauty. But most important is the beauty or glory of God in our lives. The only way that we can continue to look to Jesus is through prayer.

The Catholic Witness

Mary, Mother at Fatima

By Jim Gontis

The Catholic Church has just celebrated the 100th anniversary year of Our Lady of Fatima. What is it that the Mother of God came to do at Fatima? Why did she appear six times from May 13-October 13, 1917, to three young shepherd children: Lucia dos Santos, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, now St. Francisco and St. Jacinta, in the pastures of the Cova da Iria at Fatima, Portugal?

Let’s set a little historical context. Mary appeared at Fatima as brutal trench warfare (World War I) raged in Europe, claiming tens of millions of lives. The Holy Father had just made the decision that the Russian Revolution was unfolding in Russia, from which sprang the errors of atheistic communism. Just weeks before she first appeared at Fatima, Pope Benedict XV made a direct appeal to Our Lady for peace. The Blessed Virgin Mary responded. She came to Fatima as Mother, Evangelizer, and Catechist.

Mary, Mother at Fatima

What mother does not want good for her children and to see them happy? There is no love like a mother’s love. All the baptized are children of Mary. What our Blessed Mother wants for us is, eventually, nothing less than the eternal, unending bliss of Heaven!

On May 13, 1917, just after they had prayed a Rosary, the Blessed Mother first appeared to the shepherd children. Dressed in white and suspended in the air over an oak tree in the pasture, she proceeded to act in a most nurturing, maternal way. She was smiling warmly at the children, welcoming them, re-assuring them that they need not be afraid. She asked the children to pray the Rosary for peace and for an end to the war. She asked them if they would do penance and offer up their sufferings for the conversion of sinners—because sinners are her children, too. She desires the happiness and well-being of all her spiritual children, adults and sinners alike. And she delivers on her promises. In both the July and September 13 apparitions, she promised that there would be a great miracle. Sure enough, on October 13, the well-known “Miracle of the Sun” occurred. The Holy Mother of God is a mother who comes through. Our Lady of Fatima is the perfect mother!

Mary, Evangelizer at Fatima

Anywhere Mary appears, whether it is at Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, etc., she comes to more firmly plant the Catholic faith, and in many of these apparitions, asks that a physical chapel be built. In the case of the six apparitions, on October 13, Mary appeared and asked that a chapel be built in her honor.

Besides being the Mother of God, Mary is Mother of the Church and an icon for the Church. Ultimately, evangelization is about bringing the saving message of Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church, in its totality, to the ends of the earth (cf. Matthew 28: 16-20). It is about the growth of the Church and the forming of true Catholic disciples. Her apparitions at Fatima have born tremendous spiritual fruit. Mary is the Great Evangelizer!

Mary, Catechist at Fatima

There is an old axiom that “Repetition is the mother of all learning.” And the word catechism, from the Latin, means “re-echo.” What does Mary, our loving Mother and Catechist, keep repeating at the sixth Fatima apparitions?

• Conversion of life
• Penance
• Daily Rosary
• Devotion to her Immaculate Heart

These are great weapons that our Blessed Mother emphasizes, and are at our disposal in the fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

What good catechists do not want the truths of the faith broken open in an understandable way for their students? Mary was not afraid to teach the hard truths. In her July 13 apparition, she showed the children a vivid vision of hell. She asked them if they were willing to endure suffering for the conversion of sinners (by which she meant, specifically, those ensconced in mortal sin). These young saints-in-the-making readily agreed. In her August 19 apparition, Mary said to the children, “Pray, pray very much for sinners, many go to hell because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them.”

A good catechist wants her students to learn important prayers to help them get to Heaven. When Lucia asked in the June 13 apparition if they, the three children, would go to Heaven soon, Mary told them that Francisco and Jacinta would go soon. They both died within the next two years of spiritual apparitions. In a classic understatement, Mary told Lucia that she, Lucia, would “stay here for some time to come” to spread devotion to her Immaculate Heart. Lucia died about one month short of her 97th birthday.

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Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide

The deadly and dangerous practice of assisted suicide is now legal in five states (Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California, and Colorado) and the District of Columbia, our nation’s capital. With new momentum and lots of money, assisted suicide proponents are pursuing an aggressive nationwide campaign to advance their agenda through legislation, ballot measures, litigation, and public advertising, targeting states they see as most susceptible to their message.

Some polls indicate that the public is receptive to the general concept of assisted suicide. But the same polls show that when the public learns about the dangers of assisted suicide, especially for those who are poor, elderly, disabled, or without access to good medical care, their views shift against the practice. The following dangers are among the top reasons to oppose assisted suicide.

A Deadly Mix with Our Profit-Driven Health Care System

Some patients in Oregon and California have received word that their health insurance will pay for assisted suicide but will not pay for treatment that may sustain their lives.

Puts Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse and Coercion

Once lethal drugs have been prescribed, assisted suicide laws have no requirements for assessing the patient’s consent, competency, or voluntariness. Who would know if the drugs are freely taken since there is no supervision or tracking of the drugs once they leave the pharmacy and no witnesses are required at the time of death? Despite a reporting system designed to conceal rather than detect abuses, reports of an abuse of these patients are freely taken since there is no supervision or tracking of the drugs once they leave the pharmacy and no witnesses are required at the time of death. Despite a reporting system designed to conceal rather than detect abuses, reports of an abuse of these patients.

Assisted suicide laws often allow one of the two witnesses to the request for lethal drugs to be an heir to the patient’s estate. Therefore, an heir or friends of the heir can encourage or pressure the patient to request lethal drugs in order to prevent abuse and coercion.

Threatens Improvement of Palliative Care

There is compelling evidence that legalizing assisted suicide undermines efforts to maintain and improve good care for patients nearing the end of life, including patients who never wanted assisted suicide.

Dangerously Broad Definition of Terminal Illness

Assisted suicide laws typically appear to limit eligibility to terminally ill patients who are expected to die within six months but don’t distinguish between persons who will die within six months with treatment and those who will die within six months without treatment. This means that patients with treatable diseases (like diabetes or chronic respiratory or cardiac disease) and patients with disabilities requiring ventilator support are all eligible for lethal drugs because they would die within six months without the treatment they would normally receive.

No Psychiatric Evaluation or Treatment Required

Despite medical literature showing that nearly 95% of those who commit suicide had a diagnosable psychiatric illness (usually treatable depression) in the months preceding suicide, the prescribing doctor and the doctor he or she selects to give a second opinion are both free to decide whether to refer suicidal patients for any psychological counseling. Per Oregon’s official annual report, from 2013-2016 less than 4% of patients who died under its assisted suicide law had been referred for counseling to check for “impaired judgment.”

If counseling is provided to patients seeking assisted suicide, its goal isn’t to treat the underlying disorder or depression; it’s to determine whether the disorder or depression is “causing impaired judgment” [emphasis added]. The doctors or counselor can decide that, since depression “is a completely normal response to terminal illness, the depressed patient’s judgment is not impaired.”

Fosters Discrimination

Assisted suicide creates two classes of people—those whose suicides we spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year to prevent and those whose suicides we assist and treat as a positive good. We remove weapons and drugs that can cause harm to one group, while handing deadly drugs to the other, setting up yet another kind of life-threatening discrimination.

There are many more reasons why legalizing assisted suicide is a bad and dangerous idea. For further information, visit www.usccb.org/toliveachday and www.patientsrightsaction.org.

(Endnotes)

1 Montana’s highest court, while not officially legalizing the practice, suggested in 2009 that it could be allowed under certain circumstances.

2 Susan Harding, “Health Plan Covers Assisted Suicide But Not New Cancer Treatment,” KV AL News (published July 31, 2008, updated Oct. 30, 2013) (noting that the Oregon Health Plan will pay for coverage for chemotherapy that cures cancer, but not for chemotherapy drugs that can extend life).


4 In one case, a woman with cancer committed suicide with a doctor’s assistance even though she had dementia, was found mentally incompetent by medical doctors, and had a grown daughter described as “somewhat coercive” in pushing her toward suicide. Hendin & Foley, Physician-Assisted Suicide in Oregon, supra at 1626-27.


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Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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March for Life Notice for Campus and Youth Ministers

Campus and youth ministers, it’s time to plan for the 2018 March for Life. You can request tickets to attend the Youth Rally and Mass sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington by contacting Kate Neri at 717-657-4804, ext. 317, or kneri@hbgdiocese.org. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, so don’t wait! Keep in mind that no tickets are needed to participate in the March itself. All ticket requests must be submitted by Oct. 20, 2017. Any requests received after this date will be added to a wait list. Let’s continue to inspire our youth to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person!
The bond of friendship between Chiara Corbella Petrillo and Jennifer Pellegrine Sloss is an enduring one, despite Chiara’s death from cancer in 2012. The two women are pictured at left in Italy a few evenings before Chiara’s September 2008 wedding to Enrico Petrillo. After learning of her friend’s death in 2012, Jennifer, then the mother of two sons, prayed, “Chiara, send me a little brown-eyed girl.” Jennifer is pictured with her daughter, Chiara.

Jennifer believed that anyone learning about Chiara and her life-giving sacrifice will find their life changed, too. “Everyone would be a better person if they learned about her and tried to be more like her. She teaches us to remember ‘It’s not all about me! The happiness of others must always come first.’ Jennifer continues to be in touch with Enrico Petrillo, who travels extensively telling his wife’s story. And Jennifer has shared that story with her children. ‘They never met her, but they know who she is. They appreciate her, and they will always know her.’

Jennifer says, ‘I want my daughter to know how she got her name, and to be proud of it. She has some very big shoes to fill!’ At a time when the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is promoting the cause of Demetrios Augustine Gallitzen, a servant of God, who was a Russian prince who became a pioneer priest as the ‘apostle of the Alleghenies’, it now has close ties to the cause of a young woman who prayed at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Altoona, who attended an Altoona Curve baseball game and who continues to inspire the life of one local family.

‘A person who met Chiara when she visited here, loved her,’ Jennifer said. (Editor’s Note: To learn more about Chiara, visit the website, www.chiaraorbepetillio.it. The book ‘Chiara Corbella Petrillo: A Woman to Joy’ is available from Amazon.com.) (Msgr. Stein is editor of The Catholic Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.)
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each October, the celebration of World Mission Sunday leads us to the heart of our Christian faith – leads us to mission, as Pope Francis explains in his message for this year’s celebration on October 22.

The collection on the next-to-last Sunday in October is unique. It is truly a global effort for the entire Church. It is a central moment each year to provide for the building up of over one thousand local churches in Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, an area that covers more than half the territory of the globe. 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.

The materials for World Mission Sunday from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith encourage an ongoing formative relationship for mission, offering portraits of today’s missionaries inspired by the words of our chief missionary, Pope Francis.

I invite all of us in our local Church to see World Mission Sunday as a special moment of encounter with the Pope’s missions throughout the world. Meeting the priests, religious and lay leaders who, day in and day out, witness to the Gospel and serve the poor, will, as Pope Francis says, “enable the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization.”

As I remain grateful for your generosity, I ask your full support, through prayer and sacrifice, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, as you are able.

Faithfully yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg

A Sign of Fraternity and Solidarity

The universal collection for World Mission Sunday is unique: its fruits are distributed worldwide, according to the needs of the poorest dioceses.

Everyone contributes to the cause, and this allows the survival of the poorest dioceses, especially those who do not benefit from twinning or privileged contacts with the West.

This universal collection provides each bishop the means and freedom of action for the formation of catechists, solidarity, priestly vocations and consecrated life, education, health care, etc.

Therefore, it is a tool of justice and fraternity between all the dioceses. Furthermore, it allows supporting the permanent effort of the universal Church to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations.

For More Information:
Office of Pontifical Mission Societies
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg PA 17111
(717) 657-4804 ext. 240 www.hbgdiocese.org/missions
Reverend Robert F. Sharman, Diocesan Director

World Mission Sunday ~ October 22

By the Numbers

Including this year, the number of annual World Mission Sundays.

Although Pope Pius XI approved World Mission Day in 1926, Reverend Joseph Schmidt, first Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, organized the “First Annual Mission Sunday for Diocese of Harrisburg” on December 6, 1925. Held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, it was presided by Bishop Philip R. McDevitt and included Benediction, the Cathedral Choir, and a report on the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

A Sign of Fraternity and Solidarity

“The world vitally needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Church, Christ continues his mission as the Good Samaritan, caring for the bleeding wounds of humanity, and as Good Shepherd, constantly seeking out those who wander along winding paths that lead nowhere.”

~ Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Sunday 2017

$15
A week’s help for a young man preparing for the priesthood in a mission seminary.

$81
World Mission Sunday offering given by a small Rwandan parish at the height of the genocide, showing that World Mission Sunday is truly universal.

$100
A month’s help for a village mission.

$150
Provides a home, food and education for children in orphanages in the Gunthur & Nalgonda Dioceses and throughout India.

$187,000
Contributed by the good people of the Diocese of Harrisburg last World Mission Sunday.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg PA 17111
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Fishers of Men Attendees Called to ‘Continue to Foster, Invite and Support’ Men Discerning Priesthood

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

An outburst of cheers and enthusiastic applause sprang forth from the crowd at the annual Fishers of Men Dinner on Oct. 6 when Bishop Ronald Gainer announced that, God willing, the diocese will ordain a class of seven men to the priesthood in June 2018.

The ovation sounded again when the bishop announced that 29 seminarians are currently studying for priestly formation for the diocese – 7 of them in college seminary, and 22 in either pre-theology or theology.

“Thank you for the prayers and support you give to those in the seminary,” he told the crowd of approximately 400 benefactors at the dinner, which supports the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminarian Scholarship Endowment Fund to offer financial assistance for diocesan seminarians in formation.

As the seminarians socialized with attendees and served dinner, drinks and dessert in the dining room at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, Bishop Gainer remarked that with the number of so many seminarians comes the challenge and responsibility of financially supporting their formation.

“In June 2018, one-fifth of our active priests will be ordained less than three years. One-third of our active priests will be ordained less than ten years,” the bishop pointed out. “Considering national statistics, we are very counter to the norm. We can thank God for that, and I thank all of you for your prayers and good works in fostering these vocations.”

“There are also great challenges, of course, because we have to invest in the education of these men,” he continued. “And that’s why we’re here together this evening.”

The cost for the seminarians’ formation this year – which includes seminary study, summer assignments and summer formation programs – is approximately $900,000.

“But you know what – it is worth every penny,” Bishop Gainer said. “There are very many bishops of dioceses who would be happy to have that bill. Thank God that we’re doing so well. We need to continue to foster, invite and support those who are considering discerning a vocation to the priesthood,” he said.

For that financial support, the Diocese of Harrisburg has both the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminarian Scholarship Endowment and the Patrons of Our Seminarians program. Information on both of them can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/clergy/vocations.

Diocesan Vocations Director, Father Brian Wayne, also took the podium to express his gratitude to those who have supported the seminarians, and he encouraged those in attendance to continue to invite young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

Offering national statistics about priests ordained in the United States this year, he pointed out that, on average, they first considered a vocation at the age of 16, 75 percent were altar servers, and they were encouraged by at least four people to think about the priesthood.

“If guys aren’t encouraged, they won’t respond to the call,” Father Wayne remarked. “So pray for vocations, but be willing to reach out to a young man to invite him to consider the priesthood. He will remember you reaching out to him, and the thought of the priesthood will stay with him.”

Bishop Gainer resounded that message. “The diocese has to be very intentional and, in fact, aggressive in helping them with that discernment and inviting them to consider the priesthood,” he said.

(Learn more about our seminarians and how you can support them prayerfully and financially by visiting www.hbgdiocese.org/clergy/vocations.)

Deacon Timothy Sahd speaks with a dinner attendee as guests gather at the Cardinal Keeler Center Oct. 6.

One of the diocese’s newest seminarians, Richard Groff, socializes with Fishers of Men Dinner attendees during a reception prior to dinner.

Seminarian Bradley Fischer prepares to distribute dinner rolls as attendees arrive for the Fishers of Men Dinner.

Seminarian Andrew Heidelbaugh serves dinner as seminarians express gratitude to benefactors.

GOLD PRIESTS DO NOT JUST HAPPEN.
The diocese needs help raising our sons to become our Fathers. As Catholics, we each can think of certain “patron saints”, those saints we have chosen to be especially solicitous towards us: to pray for us, to fight for us amidst temptations, to love us. Our seminarians now need patrons of their own, to help raise them up to become good, holy priests of Jesus Christ in our diocese.

BECOME A PATRON.
Never cease to offer up even the tiniest sufferings for vocations. Additionally, include the seminarians in your tithe. You can give monthly, quarterly, annually or a one-time gift. To enroll, please contact the Office of Vocations: vocations@hbgdiocese.org or 717.657.4804.
October 13, 2017

Stephen Logue Ordained to Diaconate during Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Harrisburg seminarian Stephen Logue, of St. Patrick Parish in York, was one of 31 seminarians from the Pontifical North American College in Rome ordained to the diaconate on Sept. 28. Bishop James Checchio, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, was the ordaining prelate at the ordination Mass, celebrated at the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter, in the Papal Basilica of St. Peter at the Vatican. Bishop Checchio was the rector of the North American College from 2006-2016.

During the ordination, the new deacons promised to live a life of prayer, celibacy and obedience to their diocesan bishop. The new deacons will have an additional year of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

Deacon Logue will now begin studies for a Licentiate of Sacred Theology in the field of Moral Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome and continue his priestly formation at the North American College.

“Studying in Rome has been an incredible opportunity. The most obvious blessing is being able to study at historic universities such as the Gregorian and the Angelicum,” Deacon Logue told The Catholic Witness via e-mail.

“Another fantastic element is the diversity present both in classmates at the North American College from across our country and classmates at our universities from around the world,” he said. “I have never encountered a better place to develop a sense of the universal Church than here. A final blessing is along those same lines: there are a number of opportunities to travel to other parts of Europe where we are encouraged to learn about the culture and people, particularly the strengths and struggles of the Church in that area. In addition to the classroom knowledge, I hope to be able to bring this broad vision of the Church around the world back to our corner of it.”

“I am very excited to serve the people of our diocese as a priest,” said Deacon Logue, looking forward, God willing, to his priestly ordination in June. “One of the big struggles here at the North American College is being so far away from the diocese. While the international experiences here have been wonderful and very formative, I have always known God is calling me to serve the people of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Diaconate ordination is an indescribable blessing both on its own and as the last major step before priesthood ordination”.

“The people of the diocese, in particular the people of my home parish and summer assignment parishes, have been extremely supportive of my vocation,” he remarked. “I am particularly thankful for all those who joined my pastor, Father Keith Carroll, in a Mass and Holy Hour for my intentions on the eve of my ordination. Without the prayers and support of so many, I would not be where I am today.”

The day after the ordination, Deacon Logue joined Father John Kuchinski, parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg, in a Mass of Thanksgiving at the altar that houses the heart of St. Charles Borromeo at the Church of Charles on the Corso.
USCCB President, Pope Call for Prayers after 'Unspeakable Terror' in Las Vegas

Catholic News Service

The nation has experienced “yet another night filled with unspeakable terror,” and “we need to pray and to take care of those who are suffering,” said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

In Las Vegas, a gunman identified by law enforcement officials as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, was perched in a room on the 32nd floor of a hotel and unleashed a shower of bullets late Oct. 1 on an outdoor country music festival taking place below. The crowd at the event numbered more than 22,000.

He killed at least 59 people and wounded more than 500, making it by all accounts “the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history,” Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, said in an Oct. 2 statement.

“My heart and my prayers, and those of my brother bishops and all the members of the Church, go out to the victims of this tragedy and to the city of Las Vegas,” he said. “Our hearts go out to everyone,” Bishop Joseph A. Pepe of Las Vegas said in a statement.

“We are praying for those who have been injured, those who have lost their lives, for the medical personnel and first responders who, with bravery and self-sacrifice, have helped so many,” he added. “We continue to pray for all in Las Vegas and around the world whose lives are shattered by the events of daily violence.”

In a telegram to Bishop Pepe, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said Pope Francis was “deeply saddened to learn of the shooting in Las Vegas” and “sends his prayers and joins in the heartfelt grief and mourning of all.”

He added, “I ask that we meet this moment by cultivating peace with our words and deeds in our own community.”

Las Vegas Catholic Shrine an Initial Place of Refuge for Shooting Victims

By Carol Zimmermann

The Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer — a white stucco church just off the Las Vegas Strip and dwarfed by giant hotels, casinos and flashing neon lights — has long been a spiritual oasis for tourists.

The church, with a statue of Jesus, his arms outstretched, near its entrance, became a different source of refuge after the deadly mass shooting took place Oct. 1 just across the street.

Its parking lot became an immediate place of shelter for concertgoers fleeing the barrage of bullets that showered down onto the country music festival.

And hours later, a member of the Metropolitan Police Department asked a diocesan official about using the church space — allowing some of the concertgoers to go inside and take shelter.

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The shrine, which opened in 1993, can seat 2,200, making it the biggest church in Las Vegas.

The shrine draws thousands of worshipers a week, 80 percent of them tourists, and is a place of shelter for concertgoers fleeing the deadly mass shooting.

The shrine has a grotto with a statue of the Sacred Heart on the campus were to ring in the afternoon for all those affected by the Las Vegas tragedy.

The Catholic University of America in Washington offered prayers and support for the shooting victims. It also announced campus counselors and campus ministry staff were available to faculty and staff in the aftermath.

“One statue on the front of the church property is a bronze statue of Jesus sitting in the chips at the casinos and a Franciscan friar who once had that role was called “the chip monk.”

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Puerto Rico Desperate for Humanitarian Aid in Wake of Hurricane

Catholic News Service

More than two weeks after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, much of the island remained without communication and in desperate need of humanitarian aid.

News programs have been broadcasting about long lines of travelers, who have little food or water, and are desperate to get off the island at the San Juan airport to no avail.

But the scene of destruction outside the airport is even more stark: An island whose dense tropical landscape, along with its infrastructure, towns and cities, has been greatly stripped by winds that reached 155 mph.

Catholic Church groups have mobilized to send help. Some organizations, however, have reported problems mobilizing the aid out of airports and into the places and people who need them.

Officials say Hurricane Maria left 16 dead in Puerto Rico, 27 dead in Dominica and one in the U.S. Virgin Islands. But accurate information has been hard to come by since cellphone service and electricity, along with access to water and fuel, have been knocked out. Many roads into rural areas still are blocked by debris, making it difficult to access those who live there.

Many Puerto Ricans in the mainland U.S. have been making desperate pleas on social media to see if others can give them information about relatives or conditions in towns or cities where their relatives live but which remain without communication.

Scarcity of food, water and fuel is rampant. The deaths of two patients in intensive care at a San Juan hospital were blamed on lack of fuel.

On Sept. 28, the Trump administration said it would temporarily waive shipping restrictions known as the Jones Act to get fuel and supplies to the island.

A man carries containers filled with water from a tank truck in Canovanas, Puerto Rico, Sept. 26. CNS/CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINS, REUTERS

Displaced people fill containers with water Sept. 26 in Canovanas, Puerto Rico, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The Knights of Columbus and other agencies announced they are sending aid to Puerto Rico, which is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis.

Many, such as New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, are in the meantime offering Masses as well collecting donations to help in a long recovery ahead for Puerto Rico.

Catholic Charities USA, Knights among Agencies Sending Aid to Puerto Rico

Catholic News Service

Catholic Charities USA has sent $1 million in emergency aid to Cari tas Puerto Rico, the Catholic Charities agency on the island, and the Knights of Columbus is including Puerto Rico in its expanded emergency relief outreach to areas hit hard by recent natural disasters.

When Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico Sept. 20, its 155-mph winds knocked out electricity to the entire island, leaving its 3.4 million people in the dark. As of the end of September, most of the island remained without power. The situation could last up to six months, officials said.

“There’s a humanitarian emergency here in Puerto Rico. This is an event without precedent,” Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello said in a statement. He has called for additional assistance from the U.S. government as residents deal with not just the loss of power but a lack of drinkable water, fuel and numerous necessities.

Funds from Catholic Charities USA will assist Caritas Puerto Rico as it begins the work of recovery, a spokeswoman for the agency told Catholic News Service Sept. 27. The Alexandria, Va.-based national network of Catholic Charities agencies collected the money from thousands of donors across the United States in response to damage done by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

The Knights of Columbus, based in New Haven, Conn., has raised more than $2.8 million as part of an ongoing national appeal “that builds on the donations and relief work of Knights themselves.”

In a Sept. 26 news release, the organization said it donated $100,000 to Puerto Rico to aid victims of Maria and an additional $100,000 to Mexico for victims of the earthquakes that have struck that country.

In addition to financial support, it said many Knights have helped rescue stranded neighbors and provide assistance, which has included the distribution of more than $720,000 in food, water and other necessities.

“Charity has always been the defining characteristic of the Knights of Columbus, and people — both those in distress and those who want to help — have placed a great deal of trust in us,” said Knights’ CEO Carl Anderson. “The outpouring of generosity to our appeal by our members and others has been greatly appreciated.”

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, CEO of Catholic Charities USA, is making plans to go to Puerto Rico as soon as it is possible, according to the agency.

Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told reporters Sept. 26 that the badly damaged airports and seaports are making it difficult to get aid and personnel to Puerto Rico.

Long said 16 Navy and Coast Guard ships were currently in the waters around the island and that thousands more U.S. military personnel and 10 more ships have been dispatched to offer help, including a Navy hospital ship, the USS Comfort.

Thank You for Your Donations to Hurricane Emergency Collections

The Diocese of Harrisburg extends its gratitude for the generous donations that the people of the parishes donated to the special Collections for Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma Relief that were taken up in recent weeks. The total amount collected for Hurricane Harvey Relief was $700,087.55. Parishes are still reporting their figures for the collection for Hurricane Irma, and that number will be announced one it is totaled. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of the victims of these disasters.

CNS/CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINES, REUTERS

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By Chris Heisey  
The Catholic Witness

Given that south central Pennsylvania had gone more than three weeks without any measurable rain, the District 3 PIAA golf championships, played at Briarwood Golf Club in West York, offered players challenges often more prevalent in summer than autumn. Firm, fast fairways evens the field between long ball hitters and those who hit it much shorter, since all now have shorter approach shots into the greens. The finesse player and shot maker can have a distinct advantage when the ground goes dry. It takes more brains than brawn to play when it’s parched.

The district team championships are a one-day, 18-hole competition, with five-player teams competing for a total team score to determine a winner. In warm, windy conditions, the Fighting Irish of York Catholic came in second with a team score of 354, eight shots behind winner Brandywine Heights of Berks County in Class AA. Trinity came in fourth with a score of 364. In the individual championships played several days later in the same conditions, individuals competed in a two-day, 36-hole competition. Trinity’s Anthony DeFrank posted an 11-over par total to place second. Not a long hitter by any stretch, DeFrank is super accurate off the tee and quite able around the greens to get up and down for par.

York Catholic’s Jon Giambalvo and Lancaster Catholic’s R.J. Van Tash finished in 9th place, just missing a qualifying spot in the PIAA state tournament by two strokes. In the District 4 championships, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School’s Evan Salamone and Selina Albert continued their great seasons by each winning Class AA silver medals in the 36-hole championships, which were played in Williamsport. Both players move on to PIAA state regional play to be played at Golden Oaks Golf Club near Reading on Oct. 16.
Is there stress in your marriage? Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriages. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the program is under the auspices of the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries.

For confidential information about the program, or to register for a Retrouvaille weekend January 12-14 in Mechanicsburg, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Craft Shows and Bazaars

(Announcements of parish and school craft shows and holiday bazaars may be sent via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org. A listing of craft shows and bazaars throughout the diocese will also be posted online at www.hbgdiocese.org.)

The Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy are sponsoring the parish Christmas bazaar on Nov. 4 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the hall at St. Teresa of Calcutta School, 221 Cherrytown Road. The event will include a scavenger hunt, a service project and a snack. Free Admission.

Our Lady of Fatima Workshop for American Heritage Girls and Girl Scouts

November 4 from 2-4 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Mechanicsburg

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to the young children of Fatima, Portugal. All American Heritage Girls and Girl Scouts are invited to take part in the workshop to learn about Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun. The workshop will include a scavenger hunt, a service project and a snack.

The workshop is presented by the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Cost is $5 per girl. Register online at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Our Lady of Fatima Annual Winter Bazaar

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster will hold its 32nd annual Christmas Bazaar on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with complimentary coffee and donuts for all active military members and veterans. A special craft this year is a “memory file with recipes from St. Anthony’s parishioners, some “in memory of” special people. The theme of the bazaar is Christmas in the City, and the cookbook resembles a historic streetlight of black wrought iron. Baked goods table, donated by St. Anthony’s parishioners, includes homemade breads, jams, jellies, pies, cakes, cookies, candy, chocolates and more. Jewelry table features bangles and all the baubles imaginable for just a few dollars. Raffle items are valued at a minimum of $50. Raffles will be drawn at 2 p.m. For $1, take a chance on a Bath & Body Works gift card, opening night tickets to the Fulton’s “A Christmas Story,” a child’s Baptismal set, flat screen TV, wireless printer, jewelry cabinet, scarf/necklace/earrings set, corner display case, homemade Italian dinner, Vera Bradley bag and wallet, Dickens village, Nativity set and gift cards to local restaurants. A demonstration and lesson on how to make a Moravian star for Christmas trees and packages also takes place throughout the day. Much more is offered: wreath and garden, trim-a-tree, crafts, religious items, Christmas decorations, toys, and chances to win baskets of unique gifts will be sold. Breakfast and lunch will be available.

The Annual St. Joseph Parish Holiday Bazaar will be held Nov. 11, 2017 at the Parish Social Center, Hanover, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Over 60 vendors will be offering goods for your holiday needs.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish’s Council of Catholic Women in Lebanon will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar Oct. 28 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish center. Homemaid Christmas items in the craft booth, assorted baked goods, including cakes, cookies, pies, cream puffs, etc. Beautiful gift baskets to purchase. Wonderful hot beverage, and on the menu: breakfast casseroles, hot dogs & sauerkraut, chicken noodle soup, chili, mac & cheese, fried rice, spring rolls, sodas. Take change on a number of items, and come and browse through the delightful bazaar items.

The annual Christmas Bazaar at St. James Parish in Lititz will take place Nov. 17 from 4-8 p.m. and Nov. 18 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. There is no admission fee. In addition to beautiful crafts, wreaths, floral arrangements and knitted items, there will be fun activities for people of all ages, including a white elephant sale, children’s workshop and pictures with Santa, bake sale, basket raffle, silent auction, 25 cent bingo, fish bowl and a raffle drawing for fabulous prizes. St. James Café will be open Friday evening with a delicious menu from 4-8 p.m. Saturday’s menu includes light breakfast options, our famous soups, sandwiches, homemade pierogies and salads for lunch from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Our popular ham/turkey dinner takes place Saturday from 5-7 p.m. Tickets available at dinner only. For more information, call the parish office at 717-626-5580.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hanover, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
St. Anthony Parish Life & Education Center, 465 Table Rock Road. Local vendors at this event will include local artisans, flea market, baked goods, jewelry, home decor, baked goods and more. Free drawing for veterans, door prizes, bucket raffle, and multi-item raffle. Café offering breakfast and lunch items. Free Admission. Call 717-334-0374 or visit www.stannbyz.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover will hold its Christmas bazaar on Nov. 4 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the gym. Shop more than 30 vendors. There will be a bake sale, a raffle room, and the kitchen will be open for breakfast items. Event sponsored by St. Vincent’s Knights of Columbus. Cost is $5 per girl. Register online at www.hbgdiocese.org.

The St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women in Hershey will be holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 11 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Grandma’s Attic Treasures, Christmas decorations, religious items, Christmas decorations, toys, and chances to win baskets of unique gifts will be sold. Breakfast and lunch will be available.

The Annual St. Joseph Parish Holiday Bazaar will be held Nov. 11, 2017 at the Parish Social Center, Hanover, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Over 60 vendors will be offering goods for your holiday needs.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish’s Council of Catholic Women in Lebanon will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar Oct. 28 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish center. Homemaid Christmas items in the craft booth, assorted baked goods, including cakes, cookies, pies, cream puffs, etc. Beautiful gift baskets to purchase. Wonderful hot beverage, and on the menu: breakfast casseroles, hot dogs & sauerkraut, chicken noodle soup, chili, mac & cheese, fried rice, spring rolls, sodas. Take change on a number of items, and come and browse through the delightful bazaar items.

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St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster will hold its 32nd annual Christmas Bazaar on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with complimentary coffee and donuts for all active military members and veterans. A special craft this year is a “memory file with recipes from St. Anthony’s parishioners, some “in memory of” special people. The theme of the bazaar is Christmas in the City, and the cookbook resembles a historic streetlight of black wrought iron. Baked goods table, donated by St. Anthony’s parishioners, includes homemade breads, jams, jellies, pies, cakes, cookies, candy, chocolates and more. Jewelry table features bangles and all the baubles imaginable for just a few dollars. Raffle items are valued at a minimum of $50. Raffles will be drawn at 2 p.m. For $1, take a chance on a Bath & Body Works gift card, opening night tickets to the Fulton’s “A Christmas Story,” a child’s Baptismal set, flat screen TV, wireless printer, jewelry cabinet, scarf/necklace/earrings set, corner display case, homemade Italian dinner, Vera Bradley bag and wallet, Dickens village, Nativity set and gift cards to local restaurants. A demonstration and lesson on how to make a Moravian star for Christmas trees and packages also takes place throughout the day. Much more is offered: wreath and garden, trim-a-tree, crafts, religious items, gift shop, children’s crafts, and gift baskets. Food will be offered throughout, including authentic Vietnamese egg rolls and a variety of soups and sandwiches. Contact Livia Riley, 717-299-6617, for information.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Christine Blake.
CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Theodore Peschack.
CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Eva Jane (Nebrasky) Ballint, Kyle Reno.
CHAMBERSBURG – St. John the Baptist: Nicholas D. Kudera, John David Giorgini.
CONEWOGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Regina C. “Jeanne” Murren.
GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Julia Mallette.
HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Dr. Alvardo Alandete, Edgar S. Kuhn, Julian Polominio.
HARRISBURG – Holy Name of Jesus: Peter McHale, Sr., Stephen Pendragon, St. Catherine Laboure; Mary (Trudy) Hatfield; St. Francis of Assisi: Emilina Hernandez, Tottie Mundy, Sandra Vanuga.
KILMINGTON – Holy Angels: Frank M. Palomino.
LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Mary Ann Campion.
LEBANON – St. Francis of Assisi: Ermelinda Hernandez, Catherine Labouré: Mary (Trudy) Hatfield; Regina C. “Jeannie” Murren.
MILLEDGEVILLE – St. Andrew: Dorothy B. Shebelski.
MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Mary Ann Bill, Virginia Costlow.
MILLERSVILLE – Queen of Peace: Truman Kobel, Leesek Kulczyck, Sharon Vettero.
MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Edward Bros, Paul A. Miller, Andrea Tontodonati.
NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Roberta D’Agostino, Thomas Noppenberger, Felice Torchia.
QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Siena: George Petock.
WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Dorothy B. (Bowling) Willhide.
YORK – St. Rose of Lima: Margaret Dooley, Thomas Kuhn.

REMEMBER OUR DECEASED CLERGY

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

Father Walter Halabardu, 2000
Father Edward J. Barrett, 2001
Father John Suknaic, 2004
Deacon Edwin Fitzpatrick, 2008
Father Stephen Sheetz, 2009
Father Kevin Kaysa, 2013
Father Andrew J. Fontanella, 2014

Obituaries

Diocese of Harrisburg
GRAND ULYTRA
Saturday, October 28th, 2017
9:00am till 3:00pm
Cardinal Keeler Center
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, Pa 17111

Contact: Phil Talarico
Email: bstala1@gmail.com
Phone: 717-756-4966
Address: 2227 Canterbury Dr
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - 9:15am
Main Celebrant - Bishop Ronald Gainer
Co-Celebrant - Fr. William Weary

A Day of Renewal – of Exhortation and Challenge
By Lynne M. Huddleston
Special to The Witness

On Saturday, Sept. 16, approximately 160 charismatic Catholics converged on the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg for the annual Day of Renewal to celebrate the Jubilee anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) with the theme “The Holy Spirit – Fountain of Grace.”

Father Francis Karwacki, diocesan liaison, read a letter from Bishop Ronald Gainer, in which he acknowledged the past 50 years of the Renewal, encouraging continued reliance on the ever-flowing graces of the Holy Spirit into the future, and taking time each day for reflection so as to “have life more abundantly.”

Keynote speaker, Father Bill Cosgrove, CCR, liaison for the Archdiocese of New York, opened his morning presentation with a visual detailing of the “water flowing beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east.” From Ezekiel Chapter 47, portraying it as waters of Baptism in the Church. This water formed an increasingly deep river that God measured off in sections for Ezekiel to walk through, first ankle-deep, then waist-deep, and, finally, swimming-deep.

Father Cosgrove interpreted this on a personal level for us as our own conversion to Jesus, to community and as evangelizers. Those familiar with the Scriptural passage know that, as the river continues, God points to it as a source of life with its many fruit trees and fish, that it is a source of food and medicine. But when Pope Francis tells us to go after the marginalized, to be “fishers of men,” Father Cosgrove challenged those gathered to explore new methods of evangelization as they are being called out of our comfort zone to be fishers of men, from crawling, to walking, to running. Reminding us that Einstein’s definition of crazy was to do same thing over and over and expect different results, and that our culture offers diversion and avoidance, Father Cosgrove encouraged the crowd to “think like a fish” that wants to avoid capture, to “go deep,” get them on the hook, persevere, wear them out, and reel them in.

Returning to Scripture for his afternoon presentation, Father Cosgrove emphasized this trust in God as Peter’s in John 21:1-14, when he obeyed Jesus and put out his net “on the other side of the boat.” Peter trusted Jesus even though fishing was not his expertise, and, in doing so, Peter became a “fisher of men.”

Father Karwacki reminded the gathering that Father Cosgrove stated that the task of the institutional Church is to discern the movements of the Holy Spirit in the renewal movements occurring in the Church, and to encourage those that are discerned to be valid movements by fostering their growth. He also stated that the United States Bishops, in 1969, through a committee, encouraged priests to shepherd the Charismatic Prayer Groups in their parishes. As Father Cosgrove reflected on the growth of the Charismatic Renewal throughout the world in these past 50 years, he discerned that, as Jesus told St. Peter to take his boat out into the deep waters and lower his net, the Lord is calling the Charismatic Renewal to go out into the “deep” of the “New Evangelization” which Pope St. John Paul has called us to by using new methods and being open to new ways of evangelization as the Holy Spirit leads us in that call.

Sharing in the Jubilee anniversary milestone with their 50th year of marriage were Jim and Teresa Heller, from St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, who were gift bearers at Mass.

Father Cosgrove concluded the day with a Healing Service, praying for well-being of body, mind and spirit to go forth refreshed for our mission as fishers of men.

Under the leadership of Mary Ann Campion, the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal service team meets on a regular basis to prepare for events such as the Day of Renewal and a winter workshop, as well as to keep abreast of regional, national and global events. Anyone wishing to assist with upcoming events is welcome to contact the team on our website at http://charismaticharrisburg.org.
Spiritual Offerings
Jesus tells us that the only thing you need to know God’s message of Mercy! Join us for an Evening of Divine Mercy Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. St. Rose of Lima Church, York. For more information contact the Parish Office or visit www.srlohp.org, located at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge in MA. Tickets by donation or longing. Contact Rev. Msgr. Daniel O’Neill, 717-637-8827.

A public square Rosary will be prayed at noon on the square in New Oxford in observation of the 100th anniver- sary of the apparitions of Fatima and to pray for our families, our country, and reparations for sin. Bring your own Rosary. The group will be in the circle on Route 30, please come line the circle. For more information contact Rev. Msgr. Daniel O’Neill at 717-832-8827.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall continues its fish dinners Oct. 18 and 25 and Nov. 1 from 4 -7 p.m. Dinner includes baked haddock or fried fish, baked or fried French fries, cole slaw, and cranberry sauce. A la carte is also available. Bernie’s Bakers famous homemade desserts with coffee, tea or for $5.00. 22 can eat a fresh chicken dinner and fries for only $3.00.

The Little Flower Seniors Club of St. The- rese Parish in Carbonet is offering a trip to Paradise, Pa., for a Christmas play at Rainbow Comedy Play- house on Dec. 6 to 10. Space is limited, tickets are $45.00. Cost of $70 includes transportation, lunch and gratuities. RSVP date is Nov. 12. Call 717-774-6783 or 717-774- 5671.

St. Andrew’s Council of Catholic Women in Waynesboro will sponsor an American Girl Dolly/Lego/Lunch/Shoppe Open House on Oct. 14 at 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the St. Waynesboro. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and bingo starts at 1 p.m. Tickets are $18 and are available at the parish office, 717-762-1914, ext. 5. A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Andrew Parish family children.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will host Big Bingo on Oct. 15 on the parish center on State Drive. Doors and kitchen open at 11 a.m. There will be 24 big cash games, as well as raffle tickets. Tickets are $25. For questions, call Bishop O’Neill at 717-273-9488.

St. Cecilia Parish’s Holy Name Society in Lebanon will offer Bingo every 4 weeks at the Parish Center on Oct. 15. Slow rooved over charcoal, 7 to 9 p.m. Pick up between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the parking lot. Each game will be $5.00 with payment required by Oct. 20. Tickets available from any Holy Name Society member, or at the parish office. For ques- tions, call Bishop O’Neill at 717-273-9488.

A Monte Carlo Night to benefit St. Margaret Mary School in Harrisburg will be held Oct. 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Oasis Club of Harrisburg. Call 717-562-3851 or visit www.saintmargaretmaryschool.org for more information. The evening includes, for a $10 cover, food, beverages, cards, and games. A half-baked dinner is also available. Five Sheets of Bingo are available for $5 each.

St. Teresa of Calcutta School will be hosting a Fall Open House on Oct. 16 from 12 - 2 p.m. They are inviting all to attend. We would love to see former students and their families. We will also present information about the school, our curriculum, and the ways that we can provide your child a top-notch education.

Saints, Martyrs and others come to life in the historic cemetery, sharing the stories of their lives. The Shrine is holding the 3rd annual tour of the cemetery Oct. 21, 2017 at 1 p.m. Call any Knight or the Parish Office at 717-985-1330 to purchase your tickets. The Octoberfest tickets are available for $25, which includes buffet dinner, desserts and beverages.

The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will hold “Back from the Dead Cemetery Tour” Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. The tour will highlight the lives of some of the country’s most beloved saints, martyrs and others come to life in the historic cemetery, sharing the stories of their lives. There will be a meeting for tour participants Oct. 21, 2017 at 1 p.m. Tour tickets are $20. There is no charge to the public.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster will have an Open House on Oct. 22 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information call 717-299-5616 or visit www.sacredheartstlucia.org.

A fall harvest indoor flea market and bake sale sponsored by Holy Family and St. Francis of Assisi parishes in Hanover will be held Oct. 13. Call 717-637-2711 for more information. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. Door prize will be drawn at 3 p.m. All proceeds go to LvH Foundation.

The Lancaster Catholic High School Student Council will be hosting a spooky event on Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. -11 p.m. at the old Man Auditorium, featuring the following graceful and gorgeous works of art: A trip to Paradise, Pa., for a Christmas play at Rainbow Comedy Playhouse on Dec. 6 to 10. Space is limited, tickets are $45.00. Cost of $70 includes transportation, lunch and gratuities. RSVP date is Nov. 12. Call 717-774-6783 or 717-774- 5671. There is a $20 admission fee to attend this event.

Lancaster Catholic High School’s Annual Open House will be held on Oct. 29 starting at 1 p.m. This is the chance for parents and potential students to explore, Lancaster Catholic discover the mission and meet teachers, faculty and current Crusaders. For more information about the Open House, visit lchas.org.

The Excellence of Joy Alumni Singers from Penn Stateylimed.org will perform at the Lancaster Catholic High School with a benefit concert. On Oct. 19 students will present a concert at St. The- rese Church in New Cumberland Oct. 15, 2017. This world-renowned choir, under the direction of Dr. Anthony Leahy, has performed extensively throughout the county and in Belgium, Luxembourg and France. The choir’s mission is to learn, grow, and provide a love of music and sacred music in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community. This is the third in a series of concerts throughout the year. For more information about St. The- rese’s Free-will offering will be accepted to help defray costs.

The Shrine of Mary, Holy, a Christian family home in Allston Hill section of Harrisburg, will host its 11th annual gala, “Feeding the Multitude,” on Nov. 18 at The Sheraton Harrisburg Hotel and Conference Center. Tickets are $55 per person. If you have questions or would like to attend the event, please call 717-299-5616, or email lirasemary@verizon.net. To learn more about the Shrine of Mary, visit our website at www.theshelensforday.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Myerstown on Oct. 21. Take outs available from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and dine-in from 4-7 p.m. Cost of $18 includes 5 different homemade soups, bread and jelly. Bake sale items will be available for purchase as well.

Knights of Columbus Council 3625 of Prince of Peace Parish in Steubenville will hold an Oktoberfest event on Oct. 23 from 5-8:30 p.m. in the parish center. We will have an exciting German night of music and entertainment by the “Polka Quad” Raffles, raffle baskets and contests. All proceeds benefit the parish religious education fund. Call any Knight or the Parish Office at 717-985-1330 to purchase your tickets. The Oktoberfest tickets are available for $25, which includes buffet dinner, desserts and beverages.

The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will hold “Back from the Dead Cemetery Tour” Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. The tour will highlight the lives of some of the country’s most beloved saints, martyrs and others come to life in the historic cemetery, sharing the stories of their lives. There will be a meeting for tour participants Oct. 21, 2017 at 1 p.m. Tour tickets are $20. There is no charge to the public.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster will have an Open House on Oct. 22 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information call 717-299-5616 or visit www.sacredheartstlucia.org.

A Designer Purse Bingo will take place Oct. 18 at Trinity High School. Doors open at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dinner will be served at 11 a.m. for $10. Tickets are $25 to shop. Send typed walks follow every 15 minutes, with the last walk occurring at 8:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.setonshrine.org and www.backfromthedeatcemeter.com. Tickets are $30.00 to $45.00 and are available at 301- 447-7050 or Bridget Bassler at setonshrine.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the Oct. 17 edition is Wednesday, Oct. 11.
Sisters Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

Religious Sisters in the Diocese of Harrisburg who are marking milestone jubilee anniversaries this year were recognized and honored during the annual Sisters’ Jubilee celebration hosted by the Diocesan Secretariat for Clergy and Consecrated Life on Sept. 30 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. The gathering began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer, and included photos with the bishop and a luncheon for the jubilarians in attendance, as well as members of their congregations present for the celebration.

Congratulations to This Year’s Jubilarians

20 Years
Sister Maria Jana Polakova, SSCM
Sister Renee O’Hara, SSCM
Sister Mary Grace DeJoseph, DM
Sister Mary Anne Lawrence, MSC
Sister Jo Ann O’Hara, ASC

45 Years
Sister Seton Marie Connolly, SSCM
Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM
Sister Mary Veronica Fregapane, OP
Sister Joan Lundy, OCD
Sister Margaret Pender, OSF
Sister George Ann Biscan, ASC
Sister Maria John Goles, ASC

50 Years
Sister Allan Crowder, SCC
Sister Carol Schuyler, SCC
Sister Anna Cosgrave, OFS
Sister Anna Renee Pennino, SSCM
Sister Mary Marzen, SCC
Sister Felice Donelin, SCC
Sister Loretta Marie Stevens, DM
Sister Margaret Pender, OSF
Sister Mary Paul Kurator, SSCM
Sister M. Geraldine DiNicola, DM

55 Years
Sister M. Damian Aussi, DM
Sister Mary Verónica Fregapane, OP
Sister Joan Lundy, OCD
Sister Mary Louis Schuster, SCC
Sister M. Geraldine DiNicola, DM

60 Years
Sister Bernadette Bergen, RSM
Sister Mary Mary Grace DeJoseph, DM
Sister Mary Ann Lawrence, MSC
Sister Mary Paul Kurator, SSCM
Sister Rita Polchin, SSCM

65 Years
Sister Agatha Marie Groft, ASC
Sister Margaret Mary Smith, ASC
Sister Loretta Marie Stevens, DM
Sister Joan Bourne, OCD
Sister Mary Paul Kurator, SSCM
Sister M. Damian Aussi, DM

70 Years
Sister M. Damian Aussi, DM
Sister Anna Renee Pennino, SSCM
Sister M. Amelia Vera, DM
Sister M. Claudia Mauri, DM
Sister Mary Marzen, SCC
Sister Martina Reuther, SCC

75 Years
Sister M. Damian Aussi, DM
Sister M. Geraldine DiNicola, DM
Sister Rita Polchin, SSCM

80 Years
Sister M. Damian Aussi, DM
Sister Mary Marzen, SCC
Sister Mary Louis Schuster, SCC
Sister M. Geraldine DiNicola, DM


Diocese of Harrisburg’s
Annual Catechetical Conference

November 11
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

“Mary: Star of Evangelization, Mother and Model of Catechists”

Keynote Speaker, Joe Paprocki, DMin.,
National Consultant for Faith Formation
at Loyola Press, noted author and speaker

Celebrant and Homilist for Holy Mass,
Bishop Ronald W. Gainer

Conference includes keynote address, more than 30 workshop sessions, celebration of Mass, and vendors.

Registration materials will be available soon at parishes, and at www.hbgdiocese.org/cat_conference.

For information, contact
Jim Gontis, Director of the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, at 717-657-4804, ext. 227,
or jgontis@hbgdiocese.org.

A Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Principal Celebrant

Saturday, November 18, 2017
5:00 p.m.

Saint Joseph Church
400 East Simpson Street
Mechanicsburg, PA

A light reception will follow the Mass. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside Saint Joseph Parish kindly RSVP.

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