The Synod Begins

Fidelity, Truth, Love Must Guide Church Outreach to Families, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

In a world filled with challenges to marriage and family life, the Catholic Church is called “to carry out her mission in fidelity, truth and love,” Pope Francis said at the Mass opening the world Synod of Bishops on the family.

Formally opening the synod Oct. 4 with a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope said the Church must encourage families and defend faithful love, the sacredness of every human life and “the unity and indissolubility” of marriage.

At the same time, he said, the Church must carry out its mission with charity, not only “not pointing a finger in judgment of others,” but also seeking out all who are lonely and in pain, caring for “hurting couples with the balm of acceptance and mercy.”

The synod was scheduled to last until Oct. 25, discussing ways to strengthen the Church’s support of families and its outreach to those struggling to live fully the Catholic ideals of marriage and family life. Marriage preparation, sexuality, procreation, communication, support for couples at risk of separation, accompaniment of divorced Catholics and possible ways to bring back the divorced and civilly remarried were all expected to be on the synod’s agenda.

The readings for the Mass were the same as those used in Catholic parishes around the world for Oct. 4, the 27th Sunday in ordinary time. But, the pope said, they seemed tailor-made for opening an assembly dedicated to the family. The first reading was the Genesis account of God seeing Adam alone and creating a helper for him; the Gospel

FAQs about the Synod

What is the Synod of Bishops?
The Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution of the Catholic Church. It was established by Pope Paul VI in 1965 to continue the spirit of collegiality and communion that was present at the Second Vatican Council. The Synod is an assembly of bishops from around the world who assist the Holy Father by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church’s teaching and strengthens her internal discipline. The Synod of Bishops meets at the request of the Holy Father, when he considers it necessary or opportune to consult with the world’s bishops.

What is the difference between an Ordinary and an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops?
A General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is called “Ordinary” if its topic is “for the good of the universal Church” and seems to require the “learning, prudence and counsel” of all the world’s bishops. A General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is called “Extraordinary” when it is convened to deal with matters “which require a speedy solution” and which demand “immediate attention for the good of the entire Church.”

The October 2014 Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops was on topics related to the family and evangelization. It is being followed up by the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is currently taking place, on the same topics.

What was the purpose of the III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops?
The purpose was to define the current situation and collect the bishops’ experiences and proposals in proclaiming and living the Gospel of the Family in a credible manner in order to examine and analyze the information, testimonies and recommendations received from the particular Churches in order to respond to the new challenges of the family.

What is the purpose of the current Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops?
Its purpose is to continue the work of the III Extraordinary General Assembly by reflecting further on the points in order to formulate appropriate pastoral guidelines for the care of the person and the family.

Will there be a document issued after this Ordinary Synod?
After an Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, it is common for the Holy Father to issue a substantive document, called a post-synodal apostolic exhortation, which takes up the themes of the Synod and deepens them further.
Seminarians Demonstrate Joy of Service at Fishers of Men Dinner

During the evening, the diocese’s seminarians – which currently number 32 – demonstrated their gratitude for the unwavering support by serving dinner attendees: welcoming them into the Cardinal Keeler Center, serving dinner and drinks, and offering hospitality.

The event also provides ample opportunity for the seminarians and the attendees to meet, converse and rekindle friendships.

The Fishers of Men Dinner raises funds for the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund, which provides financial assistance for the seminarians’ education.

Information about our diocesan seminarians, vocation discernment, and how you can support religious vocations and the Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund can be found online at www.hbgdiocese.org/vocations, or by contacting the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804.
Timothy P. Hamer was recently appointed as President of Lancaster Catholic High School.

**Timothy Hamer Appointed as Lancaster Catholic High School President**

Lancaster Catholic High School Press Release

The Secretary for Education of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Father Edward J. Quinnan, announced Sept. 22 that a new administrator has been selected for Lancaster Catholic High School.

Mr. Timothy P. Hamer has been appointed School President, with Mr. Terry Klugh continuing as the School Principal.

In considering the needs of the school, the Board of Directors for Lancaster Catholic High School has chosen to return to a previous model of organization. According to Father Quinnan, “The president-principal model of school administration is common to Catholic schools in other parts of the country and is an option available to schools in the diocese. I feel that Mr. Hamer’s strong background and experience in financial management, advancement and public relations will serve Lancaster Catholic High School very well. These are areas that the President is largely responsible for.”

The principal of the school will continue to manage the educational program, with responsibility for students and staff. Both individuals report to the Board of Directors and to the diocesan education staff.

“One on behalf of the Board of Directors, I express our universal delight to have Mr. Hamer become part of our Lancaster Catholic High School family,” said Father Peter J. Hahn, V.F., the Chair of the Board of Directors. Father Hahn continued saying, “We are most grateful to our Bishop and his Office of Education who spearheaded a nationwide search.” The local search committee undertook a detailed review of all of the applicants and then engaged in a very systematic interview process, noted Father Hahn.

Mr. Hamer comes to Lancaster Catholic High School with long educational experience. Currently he is serving as the Principal of St. Michael the Archangel High School in Fredericksburg, Va. Prior employment has been with Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va., where he served as Principal, Vice-principal, Director of Advancement, and teacher. He has previous experience with a national non-profit organization and as a fund raising consultant.

“The Diocese of Harrisburg and the Lancaster Catholic Board of Directors conducted a deliberate and thorough process that identified Mr. Hamer as the ideal candidate,” said Terry Klugh, Principal. “There is no doubt that he is the right person for the position and the school is enthusiastic to begin working with him because of all the gifts and experience he brings to the Catholic High community.”

Mr. Hamer has a BA in Political Science from DeSales University, and an MA in Educational Administration from the University of Virginia. He also holds his certification as principal from the Virginia Catholic Educational Association and the Advanced Catechetical Certificate from the Diocese of Arlington.

“I am thrilled and humbled by Bishop Gainer and the Lancaster Catholic High School Board’s appointment of me as the School’s President,” said Mr. Hamer. “I am enthusiastic and eager to continue my third decade of service in the ministry of Catholic education as a member of the exemplary LCHS team, bringing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to its fourth generation of students.”

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**St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg Named Blue Ribbon School**

St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg was named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence on Sept. 29 by U.S. Sec- retary of Education, Arne Duncan. This recognition has come through the hard work and dedication of faculty, staff, parents, parishioners, and students.

Of the 335 schools identified this year, 50 are private schools from across the country (elementary, middle, and high schools combined). Schools were selected either because their test scores in reading and math placed them among the top-performing schools in the nation or state (as is the case with St. Joseph School), or because they made notable improvements in closing achievement gaps. All winning schools will be honored at an awards ceremony by the U.S. Department of Education on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C.

“This honor recognizes your stu- dents’ accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success,” Sec. Duncan said in a video message to the awardees. “Your journey has taught us collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong rela- tionships in school and with your com- munity. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in re- sults—and we want to learn as much as we can from you.”

Watch Sec. Duncan’s comments and then see a slide show of all win- ning schools at: http://www.ed.gov/ programs/nclb/index.html.

**Part Time Vacancy**

**Cemetery Maintenance & Service**

Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services has an immediate need for a part time staff member at All Saints Cemetery, 172 All Saints Rd, Elysburg, 17824. Applicants must have skills in grounds maintenance. The ability to operate a backhoe is essential. Other equipment that will be used: tractor, pickup, mowers and a variety of small equipment related to cemetery main- tenance and operation. Must be able to work within a team and be able to demonstrate tact, courtesy and diplomacy.

Applicant must have valid clean PA driver’s license AND must provide Criminal History report from the Pennsylvania State Police and Child Abuse History Clearance from the Dept. of Human Services. Work is performed both indoors and outdoors. Must be able to work in all weather conditions, to tight deadlines and be able to lift and move items up to 100 lbs.

Resumes & cover letter should be sent to employment@hbgdiocese. org or mailed to: Human Resources Department, 4800 Union Deposit Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

**Full Time Vacancy**

**Cemetery Maintenance & Service**

Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services has an immediate opening at Gate Of Heaven Cemetery, 1313 York St, Mechanicsburg 17055. Applicants must have skills in grounds maintenance. The ability to operate a backhoe is essential. Other equipment that will be used: tractor, pickup, mowers and a variety of small equip- ment related to cemetery maintenance and operation. Must be able to work within a team and be able to demonstrate tact, courtesy and diplomacy.

Applicant must have valid clean PA driver’s license. Work is performed both indoors and outdoors. Must be able to work in all weather conditions, to tight deadlines and be able to lift and move items up to 100 lbs.

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**St. Thomas More Society of Pennsylvania 25th Annual Red Mass**

Monday, October 19 at 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

Bishop Ronald Gainer, Principal Celebrant

Bishop Kevin C. Rhodes, Homilist

Join the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania for the 25th annual Red Mass, which provides judges, lawyers, legislators, and government officials of all religious faiths with an opportunity to recognize the “Divine guidance in their pursuit of justice, and to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their work.”

Bishop Ronald Gainer, Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, will be the principal celebrant. Bishop Kevin C. Rhodes, a former Bishop of Harrisburg and current Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne- South Bend, will be the homilist.

For information, contact Michael Kimmel at tmsentralpa@gmail.com.

Happiness
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, on a Sunday morning, I opened up the local secular newspaper. Turning to the insert of the weekend magazine, I was intrigued by the title of the main article: “50 Shades of Happiness.” I thought, “Hmmm, interesting title.” Flipping through the magazine, I quickly came to feature its article, because I was amused. You see, the article centered on the latest craze amid the middle aged…coloring! Do you remember that childhood hobby? It seems that there are coloring books created with the adult mind in mind and have somewhat complicated designs. The patterns of these books contain paisleys, botanicals, animals, mandala shapes, enchanting forests, cats and decorative fans among others. Who knew?”

The article goes on to explain that because our modern life is a flurry of activity, calming activity is often needed to destress. The author, Hillari Dowdle, describes it this way, “Everything else in my life is hurry up, hurry up, hurry up. I’m constantly bombarded, and I always have trouble calming down. But now I turn off the computer and TV, and I have this beautiful hobby to go to. I decide what I want to do, how much I want to work on tonight, and immediately I’m more relaxed and happier.”

Though the very act of “unplugging” is commendable, I felt that the mere action of coloring would bring only a shade of happiness, yes pun intended. If I could begin a conversation with Ms. Dowdle, I would ask her, “Does this experience last? You see, we are made for much, much more than a few minutes of peace or a calm moment away from our distractions of our life. We have been created to experience an ultimate happiness that comes from a relationship with God. The by-product of any relationship is trust. In fact, we read in Proverbs 16:20, “Happiness is the trust in the Lord.” As it appears in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “…true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement—however beneficial it may be—such as science, technology, art, and or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love.” (CCC 1723)

Having a relationship with God is not just an intellectual ascent to the fact that we are created in God’s image and likeness and He is our Creator. It should grow into something profoundly personal. Knowledge and intellectual understanding must sink deep within the heart of an individual. Academic learning should grow into love. This in turn flowers into a way of life that is lived out by words and actions. Living a life that is centered in a relationship with God, Following His will releases abundant, radiant joy. I am sure that all of you can think of an individual who exemplifies this. Have you ever wondered why that person can be so joyful, so happy?

In response to this question, I found a blog written by Archbishop Charles Chaput. In this blog, he lists in ten ways how a relationship with God is deepened. The ways are his, the explanations are mine.

Listen to him — Relationships are grounded in time spent together. When we pray and we don’t take time to listen, our relationship becomes one sided and ego centric. With any relationship, the most important aspect is to be present and to listen.

Cultivate silence — Unplug and silence our bodies. By doing so, we still the noise in a profound way with the outpouring love of Christ. Our God is Trinitarian, relational. We need a community of believers who knows us, supports us, and challenges us when we get filled with self-importance. Your presence at your parish’s Sunday worship is truly important.

Pray — Prayer is about communication. It is two-way. Listening should be part of our prayer time, in fact most of it! True prayer is about obedience to do what is God’s will for us. One has to listen in order to discover what God wants!

Read — The scripture is the word of God. When we read the Bible, we encounter God! But, there is more! Catholic writers not only elaborate on the Word but also pen amazing stories that not only delight the mind but can touch the soul. Archbishop Chaput suggests, “read C.S. Lewis’ great religious science-fiction trilogy — Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra and That Hidden Strength. You’ll never look at our world in quite the same way again.”

Believe and act — Our faith is a gift of God. However, faith often requires a “leap” into the unknown. This leap is often frightening and unsettling. The very act of “leaping” prepares our soul for the grace that God over abundantly provides.

Nobody gets to heaven alone — We are made in the image and likeness of God. Think about this. Our God is Trinitarian, relational. We need a community of believers who knows us, supports us, and challenges us when we get filled with self-importance. Your presence at your parish’s Sunday worship is truly important.

Go to the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation are essential part of our faith. Frequently going to Reconciliation will help us combat pride and selfishness. Receiving the Eucharist weekly (or even more often) will unite ourselves into the community of believers who loves us, supports us, and challenges us when we get filled with self-importance. Your presence at your parish’s Sunday worship is truly important.

Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist
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Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist
Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Almsgiving Bridges God’s Bounty and Those in Need, CRS President Says at ‘Come and See’ Dinner

By Jen Reed

Dr. Carolyn Woo, President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, delivered a keynote speech at the annual “Come and See” dinner Sept. 29 to support Catholic Charities’ Homes for Healing.

In an affirmation of the work of Catholic Charities, Dr. Carolyn Woo, President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, told the crowd at the annual “Come and See” dinner that when we give alms to the poor, we give of the generosity of God. “It is not solely our bounty that we give; it is God’s. We are the bridge between God’s bounty and the people receiving it,” she said.

Dr. Woo was the keynote speaker for the “Come and See” dinner, an annual fund-raising event of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg to support its three Homes for Healing shelter for homeless families, Lourdeshouse Maternity Home; and Evergreen House for women overcoming addiction.

“This year’s dinner was held Sept. 29 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

Catholic Charities – a national organization of 160 local agencies that work on behalf of people in need across the country – and Catholic Relief Services – the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the United States – are linked in solidarity through their work, Dr. Woo pointed out.

Catholic Charities programs in the Diocese of Harrisburg include services for adoption and foster care, counseling, mental health, emergency shelter, youth, addiction, pregnancy and maternity, and for immigrants and refugees. All programs serve people in need, regardless of their faith, nationality, age, gender or economic situation.

Catholic Relief Services, as part of its worldwide mission, also works on behalf of vulnerable people, regardless of their nationality or creed. They offer international relief in the wake of disasters, humanitarian crisis, famine and other emergencies.

“As Pope Francis reminds us, we just go to the margins to serve,” Dr. Woo remarked.

She said she thinks of Catholic Charities as a prophet. “Prophets call out the truth. They speak truth to power,” she said. “Most of the time, they say, ‘This doesn’t look like the Kingdom of God. The way that our society works, the people we meet, the people we serve – their life does not look like the Kingdom of God.’

“You call this out to everyone, to legislators, to people, to people of faith,” and remind us that we are all responsible for caring for our brothers and sisters, she said.

Dr. Woo said Catholic Charities’ credibility lies in its willingness to act, to care for the needs of others, and offer strategies to address the issues of poverty, hunger, health and immigration.

“In our society, it’s so easy to not see. I think we give ourselves permission to not see, because we are overwhelmed,” she said. “But Catholic Charities has a voice because you are willing to act. You are willing to provide clothing, to provide shelter, to provide counseling, to provide housing.”

She spoke of the intersection between a person’s love for God – a vertical connection – and a person’s love for neighbor – a horizontal connection – and said that when we give alms, our gift is not only a means of helping the poor, it is an offering to God in thanksgiving.

“When we think about the bounty of God, we think about the many gifts of creation, the gift of our talents, even the material things,” Dr. Woo said. “The bounty of God is most profound in terms of the spirit of God that he gives to us. … We do our part, and God multiplies our efforts. His greatest bounty is that he made us his hands and his feet in this world.”

She encouraged those in attendance to remember that every act of giving is also an act of thanksgiving, and called them to remember that prayer life should be non-negotiable.

Mrs. Woo concluded her presentation with a poignant video created for the 70th anniversary of Catholic Relief Services in 2013, “Lead Kindly, Light,” based on a hymn by Cardinal John Henry Newman. The words begin:

Lead, Kindly Light, amid the gathering gloom.
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home.
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet: I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

In a world where 60 million displaced people are searching for a home, where 2 billion people live on less than $2 a day, and where disaster, poverty, hunger and hurt are met with the healing and hope provided by Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, the words of Cardinal Newman serve as reminder for charitable work today, Dr. Woo remarked.

“Those words demonstrate a true surrender to God,” she said. “In the work of Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, we have to know how to surrender to God.”

Support Catholic Charities’ Homes for Healing

Catholic Charities’ Homes for Healing are located at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg (a campaign for which is highlighted on pages 8 and 9 in this edition).

The Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families provides 30-day emergency shelter, assistance in securing permanent housing, food, clothing and baby supplies, and referrals for employment, healthcare and child care.

Lourdeshouse Maternity Home provides maternity care and residential services to pregnant women and their babies, including child-birth education, parenting classes, transportation and aftercare.

Evergreen House provides a safe and secure environment for women recovering from addiction. The program helps them achieve long-term recovery, find stable housing and learn job skills.

Donations of supplies, wish list items and monetary assistance can be made to the three Homes for Healing at any time of the year. For more information on assisting the programs, visit Catholic Charities’ Web site at www.cchbg.org or contact Christopher Meehan at 717-667-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cchbg.org.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

In Memory of Father Ogden, An Evening of Organ Donation Awareness & Education

By Margaret Leid

Special to The Witness

Pope Francis once said, “These two criteria are like the pillars of true love: deeds and the gift of self (June 7, 2013, Sacred Heart) and when the late Father Louis Ogden of Mechanic- isburg is remembered it is by his selfless service to his parishioners and community.

One parishioner described him as “a wonder- ful support in times of need” – another parish- ioner testified that Father Ogden “loved his church and his friends. So kind, so generous, an exemplary priest whose friendship stood the test of time.” These memories of Father Ogden are part of the chorus of fond remembrances and appreciation of his service, guidance and friendship.

While Father Ogden dedicated his life to giving to others, unfortunately he passed away waiting for the gift of life to come – the gift of an organ to serve. Today in Pennsylvania, there are 8,200 people waiting for a life-saving organ to be available. Approximately 1,100 of those people are waiting in Pennsyl- vania who are people who are waiting for a liver transplant. Sadly, 21 people a day die in the United States waiting for an organ to become available.

Despite the critical need for organ and tissue donation, many myths and misconcep- tions about organ and tissue donation keep people from adding donor designation to their driver’s licenses and saying, “yes” to giving the gift of life. While the time has passed to make a difference for Father Ogden, there’s still time to help the thousands of people in Pennsylva- nia in need of a life-saving transplant.

In honor of Father Louis Ogden, a special commu- nity organ and tissue donation education event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2015, from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 400 E. Simpson Street, Mechanics- burg, PA 17055. You are cordially invited to join us to learn more about organ and tissue donation from representatives from the Gift of Life Donor Program. In addition, representa- tives from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Transplant Institute will be sharing information about living donation. Special guests also include transplant recipients and donor family members.

Complimentary refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 717-766-4934 or oficemanager@ stjosephmech.org.

(Margaret Leid is a member of the University of Pennsylvania’s Organ Donor Program.)
People hold candles during a prayer vigil for the Synod of Bishops on the family attended by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Oct. 3.

The formal prayer began with an invocation of the Holy Spirit on the pope and synod members. In his homily, Pope Francis asked people to pray that the synod would show the world “how the experience of marriage and family is rich and humanly fulfilling.”

The pope prayed that the synod would “acknowledge, esteem and proclaim all that is beautiful, good and holy” about family life. But he also prayed that synod members would “embrace situations of vulnerability and hardship,” not forgetting those suffering because of “war, illness, grief, wounded relationships and brokenness.”

Pope Francis prayed that the synod would find a way to remain broken families “and every family, that the Gospel is always ‘good news,’ which enables us to start over.”

“We seem to then be talking about our own families so it puts it in a context of our own experience, what we experience with our own brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews and our own experience growing up in families, rather than talking about something in the abstract.”

~ New Zealand Cardinal John Dew

‘Our Families’ Need Recognition, Friendship, Cardinal Says

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

Members of the Synod of Bishops are not talking about “the Church” but about “our families” – real people who deserve recognition, friendship and a helping hand, said New Zealand Cardinal John Dew of Wellington.

“One of the big things that is being spoken about a great deal this year is the ‘Church speak’ that tends to be a feature of Church documents, the cardinal told Catholic News Service Oct. 12. "A lot of people in the hall are saying, ‘Look, this doesn’t actually speak to families,’ and saying that as we prepare document let’s use language which is inspiring, which is hope-filled.”

As members of Cardinal Dew’s small working group at the synod went through the working document, he said, one member suggested reading the text and every time it referred to “the family,” substituting the words, “our family.”

“We tried it for a couple of paragraphs and it made sense to people and explain the teachings of the church that people and explain the teachings of the church that isn’t understood, to take the time to explain why we’re here to help you, to work with you.”

Cardinal Dew said he is always impressed by priests who know how important it is to sit down with people and explain the teachings of the Church that they don’t understand, to take the time to explain why the Church is asking something of them.

“An enormous challenge” facing the synod, he said, is trying to find language that “will speak to the world” with the content and tone the bishops want. In many situations, including with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the local explanations or catechetical directories are invaluable for using terms and examples that are familiar locally, making the Church’s message easier to understand.

The Catholic Church describes same-sex attraction (or being ‘intrinsically disordered’ (as the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes same-sex attraction) or being evil, that’s not going to help people. We have to find a way to express what the teaching actually says, but explaining the teaching in a way that we’re being friendly to them, we’re being helpful to them and being supportive. It’s not denying any teaching or any doctrine, but saying, ‘Look, we’re here to help you, to work with you.’

Cardinal Dew said the cardinal said that he also spoke about language last year at the extraordinary synod on the family. “I said when we have documents, which talk about ‘intrinsically disordered’ (as the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes same-sex attraction) or being evil, that’s not going to help people. We have to find a way to express what the teaching actually says, but explaining the teaching in a way that we’re being friendly to them, we’re being helpful to them and being supportive. It’s not denying any teaching or any doctrine, but saying, ‘Look, we’re here to help you, to work with you.’

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Delone Catholic Celebrates 75 Years

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Celebrating the featured event of its 75th anniversary, Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown welcomed students, alumni, families and benefactors on Sept. 19 for a Mass, open house and dinner as part of its year-long diamond celebration.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant for the Mass, concelebrated by priests of the deanery, and those associated with the school. Delone Catholic is a regional high school named for Charles J. Delone, Esquire, a prominent Catholic attorney of Hanover, who donated the land and the funds for the construction of the original building, following a fire that destroyed the facilities for elementary and high school Catholic education in 1938.

The cornerstone at Delone Catholic of the new school was laid in 1939 and the new building was dedicated by Archbishop Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, on September 2, 1940.

In conjunction with the decade surrounding the 75th anniversary, Delone Catholic, through its Diamond Decade Initiative, has been undertaking a multiple-phase capital campaign designed to renovate the entire school. Since 2001, renovations have been made to the 1963 Math and Science Wing, and to the 1940 Wing. Phase III will include renovations to the 1955 Wing, library, cafeteria, old gymnasium, music area and lobby.

The full-day celebration on Sept. 19 included an anniversary dinner with a keynote speech from D. Stephen Mathias, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs at the United Nations, and a member of the Class of 1973, and the induction of the first class of the Delone Catholic Hall of Honor.

Students in grades 9-12 waited in their gymnasium at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township on Oct. 12 in anticipation of a special visit from Bishop Ronald Gainer.

Bishop Gainer spoke to the students about the importance of their relationship with Jesus and how when you care for a person and want to build a relationship, it requires time. The same applies to a relationship with the Lord, he said. “We need to be willing to spend time with Jesus.”

Three gifts were then given to the students, supplied by David Abel and Tom DeAngelis, who have sponsored a high school stewardship program via the non-profit Stewardship: A Mission of Faith. The students received a collection of the New Testament, a prayer book and a Rosary handmade by sisters in Vietnam who care for blind children; the proceeds from the rosaries go back to the children.

Following the stewardship presentation, Bishop Gainer followed alumni, students, parents, local priests and sisters, and generous donors to the newly renovated science wing for a blessing and dedication. The new science labs were made possible from $130,000 given by donors via a recent campaign.

Science teacher Kelly McCarthy said she is extremely grateful to the donors who made the lab a reality. “The facility will be a good way to engage students and get them excited in science and STEM.” She noted that the space is brighter and is competitive with other professional labs.

The students are just as excited as the faculty to get started with biology, chemistry and physics lessons in the new space.

Senior Kendall Kraebs said, “I like the new set up, it is more open and makes for a better learning environment.” Classmate Nicole Komara agreed and said, “I think we can do a lot more. We were limited in what we could do [with experiments].”
COMMUNITY SERVICE CAMPAIGN:
FOR THE SAINT SAMUEL CENTER

"Interfaith Shelter is the only facility in the region that keeps families together during a homeless crisis. Lourdeshouse provides a safe haven for pregnant women and their babies who have no other means of support. Evergreen House provides a caring, nurturing environment for women recovering from the grips of drugs and/or alcohol. Each of these important programs parallels a quote from St. Francis de Sales who said, "It is to those who have the most need of us that we ought to show our love more especially." Without the services offered at the Saint Samuel Center, many of the individuals served would not receive the help and care they desperately need.

Your support will greatly assist us in securing the funds needed to help us reach our goal of having a fully functional and handicapped accessible residential facility."

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg

"Collectively, these three programs are known as our "Homes for Healing." Each of these services provides help and creates hope for different client groups. Evergreen House helps women recovering from addiction. The Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families is the only shelter in the tri-county region that keeps families together during a homeless crisis. Lourdeshouse offers various types of support for pregnant women and their babies.

If you need an example of the kind of work being performed by Catholic Charities, the Saint Samuel Center is the perfect illustration. I have been there many times, and I am both proud and humbled every time I visit. I am proud of the staff who do everything they can to help individuals facing various issues, and I am humbled by the people who are trying to face these challenges.

While the move to the Saint Samuel Center has been beneficial for us, there is one challenge that still confronts our programs in the facility. The building is not accessible for individuals with physical challenges. It is imperative that we address the issue immediately and position ourselves to offer services to all individuals.

In order to do that, renovations are necessary to provide handicapped accessible accommodations. These renovations include accessible bedrooms and bathrooms, upgrades to the kitchen and dining areas, a new elevator, a new garden space, etc. To raise the needed funds to make this possible, Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Harrisburg have embarked on an ambitious fundraising effort. The Hope for All campaign is a large undertaking for us, and I am hopeful that many individuals, businesses and foundations will join us in this ambitious effort."

Christopher Meehan
Catholic Charities Director of Development

"HOPE FOR ALL"
GOAL $775,000

PROPOSED RENOVATIONS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

PHASE I
ADA Renovations to Bedrooms (2)
ADA Renovations to Bathrooms (2)
*ADA Powder Room
*Kitchen
*Dining Room
Pantry
*Laundry Room
Living and Play Room
*Office
*Conference Room
Interior Ramp
Exterior Ramp
*Claimed Naming Opportunities

PHASE II
Design and New Construction of Elevator

PHASE III
HVAC Replacement
Window Replacement

PHASE IV
Storm Sewer Replacement

PHASE I
SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR CLAIMED NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

ADA Powder Room
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Modesto
In memory of Aldo and Alma Modesto and Joseph and Kathleen Krupka

Conference Room
James Griffin
Dining Room
Anonymous

Kitchen
Anonymous
"Effie's Kitchen"

Laundry Room
Ethan Hess
Eagle Scout Project

Office
Patrick Hanigan Foundation

Phase I
There are still naming opportunities available for this phase of the proposed renovations and new construction.
Phase II
Installation of the new elevator and enclosure of new elevator.
Naming Opportunity

This phase will not only allow our clients to safely travel from floor to floor, but will allow anyone with physical limitations to travel throughout the center.

“OUR PARENTS WERE ALWAYS INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY. SERVICE WAS JUST A PART OF LIFE. GIVING BACK WAS SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS DID.”

“EVEN THOUGH DONORS DON’T KNOW THE RECIPIENTS PERSONALLY, THEY’RE OFFERING HELP IN THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.”

Dr. Tomas and Mrs. Maria Modesto Donors

WAYS TO GIVE

GIFTS
Gifts can be made at any time

PAYMENT METHODS

MAKE A PLEDGE
You can make a pledge and pay in monthly installments for a period of one year

VISA AND MASTERCARD
Visit www.cchbg.org and click on the “Donate” box

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM
Many employers will match charitable donations through an employee match program

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES EXIST AT VARIOUS GIVING LEVELS
VISIT WWW.CCHBG.ORG FOR DETAILS

ST. SAMUEL CENTER
of Catholic Charities
Evergreen House • Interfaith Shelter • Lourdeshouse
The excitement and anticipation of a new year at St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown was amplified as September approached, with students, faculty and administrators eager to begin the academic year in their newly expanded and renovated school.

The school and parish community had celebrated a ground-breaking for the project in March with Bishop Ronald Gainer, and eagerly welcomed his return there on Sept. 20 for Holy Mass, followed by the dedication and blessing of the school.

“We thank God for the countless blessings to our parish and school, to the faith and generosity of so many benefactors who have supported our project, and to the hard work of so many in our parish and school who have made this dream a reality,” said Father Peter Hahn, pastor.

Plans for the project – which will involve several additional phases for the parish – began in 2009, and the parish kicked off its capital campaign, “Building His Kingdom Among Us,” in conjunction with the celebration of its 50th anniversary in February 2014.

According to recent figures from St. Leo’s, school enrollment has increased dramatically over the last four years, from 225 students to some 350 students this year. The school also serves students in the parish’s religious education program.

“I am blessed to serve in this vibrant faith filled community, grateful to all who have given so generously over the past 50 years,” Father Hahn said. “Now, it is our turn to continue the work of our school, to provide that academic excellence in the context of the treasure of our Catholic faith to the next generation and beyond.”

The 13,000 square foot, eight-classroom school expansion, and the 20,000 square foot modernization and renovation of the current school facilities includes open concepts for collaboration, energy efficient upgrades, new floors, ceilings and doors, a canopy at the main entrance, and upgrades to make the school handicap accessible.

It was designed by Cornerstone Design-Architects, constructed by Warfel Construction Company, the General Contractor, and has been overseen by Frank Kuchinski, Ph. D., the parish manager. “It has been a most ambitious project with a lot to do in a short period of time, but the representatives of Cornerstone and Warfel and their subcontractors have worked most diligently to accomplish their work on time and on budget. We are so grateful to all of them,” Kuchinski said in a statement.

Students celebrated the first day of school on Sept. 17, 50 years after it first opened its doors.

“I can’t explain the excitement that our teachers and staff have as we look forward to the new school,” said Christine McLean, Principal. “We are so happy and eager to begin this new year of service.”

For information on St. Leo the Great School, visit www.stleoschool.org or call 717-392-2441.
October 16, 2015 • The Catholic Witness

ROBERT J. CHADERDON, ELBE PHOTOGRAPHY

York Catholic’s Liz Johnson scored her milestone 100th career goal for the Fighting Irish this month in a 10-0 win against the Nighthawks of Hanover High School. She was selected as the 2014 York Adams Division III Player of the Year and will continue her soccer career collegiately at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC next fall.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Early October means tournament golf for District 3 players who each autumn are tested at Briarwood East Golf Course, located some five miles east of York. Slippery greens, undulating fairways and a sneaky long group of par-fours make this course difficult to break par on. Throw in the usual stiff west winds that seem to push the player in the face all day, and Briarwood stands as a good test of golf.

In the team District III Class AA 18-hole competition, the Crusaders of Lancaster Catholic, who cruised through the regular league season with a perfect 42-0 record, won the team title with a team score of 310 – 77.5 average – besting Berks Catholic by a dozen strokes.

A couple of days later on October 9 and 10 in the 36-hole individual championship, York Catholic’s Andrew Forjan finished second to win the silver medal with a five-over par, 147, two-day total. Lancaster Catholic placed three golfers in the top-eight, as they will advance in sectional PIAA play next week. On the girls’ side played on Briarwood’s West Course, Lancaster Catholic’s Lauren Bird finished in second place, just two strokes off the winning score.

CRUSADERS’ LINKS TEAM TEES UP PERFECT SEASON FOLLOWED BY DISTRICT GOLD

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

York Catholic’s Andrew Forjan hits a pitch shot at the 17th hole.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Lancaster Catholic’s Thomas Moran drills a drive on the 18th hole. He shot 74 to lead the Crusaders to their District 3 team title.

Will Riva of Lancaster Catholic hits a lob wedge to make birdie on 17. He shot 75 to help the Crusaders win gold.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

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CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Lancaster Catholic’s Thomas Moran drills a drive on the 18th hole. He shot 74 to lead the Crusaders to their District 3 team title.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parish. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Barbara Bowen, Arnie Reistad, Kathleen Schuler.

BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Eleanor Dudasko, Marcia Eddinger, Helen Maher.


BUCHANAN VALLEY – St. Ignatius Loyola: Mary Schlosser.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Dr. Katherine Gallagher-Shrift, Mary Ann Kelly, Kathleen Villanovan.


DANVILLE – St. Joseph: Margaret A. Adkins, Todd David Lane, Heather L. Myers.


GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Barbara Jane Clark, Joseph Patti, Regina Rosentreter.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Elizabeth Fischer, Rosetta Patti; St. Margaret Mary: Clorinda Carloni, The Honorable Bernard L. Coates, Jr.; Alvida Connolly, Margaret DeFalco, William Neal.

HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Sarah Altzi, David Murphy, Pauline Pestrock, Claudette Shibler.

LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Eleanor Paytas, Elizabeth Westcott; St. Anne: Geraldine Dougherty; St. John Neumann: Pauline Arcudi, Kathryn DeMott, Dorothy Ferguson, Gerald McCracken, Stella Trenta, Daniel Yoder.

LEWISTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Ed Miller, Joe Zampelli.


MCHERRYSKYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: R. Mary Colgan, Evelyn M. Weaver.

MECHANSBURG – St. Joseph: Joan Ducheschi, Lillian Portone.

MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Dorothy Grassi, Faye Stago.

MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Sara Vergis.

MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: Barbara Whispell.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Margaret Edwards, Thomas Traynor, Timothy Young.

NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Michael Brown, Blanche Staub.

PALMYRA – Holy Spirit: Frank A. Acri.

QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Siena: Celia Piergiorgi.

SELINGROVE – St. Pius X: Juanita Barlow, Lawrence Boelhoff.


TREVORTON – St. Patrick: Freda Boblick, Margaret Stackowitz, William Weiber.

WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Helen Noel.


Sister M. Rose Anthony Spinger

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister M. Rose Anthony Spinger, formerly Florence Spenger, died in Paoli Hospital on Sept. 19 in the 57th year of her religious life. She was 75.

Born in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1957. She was a graduate of Immaculata and Villanova universities.

Sister Rose spent most of her religious life teaching chemistry in the high schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the dioceses of Allentown and Harrisburg. While at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia, where she taught for 20 years, she was both Director and Teacher in the Medical Careers Program. For the past several years, she served in the Guidance Department at Lancaster Catholic High School, Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, and Villa Maria High School in Malvern, Pa.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at Camilla Hall in Immaculata, Pa.

Sister M. Anita Joseph

Holy Cross Sister M. Anita Joseph, formerly Gertrude Henrietta Reeves, died at St. Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Ind., on Sept. 30. She was 92.

Born Rosalie Elizabeth Mullen, she attended St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School and York Catholic High School, and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1949.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Sister Rita of the Five Wounds, O.Carm., and is survived by two brothers and six sisters, including Sister Rosemary MSC.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at the St. Joseph Villa Chapel, with burial in the Villa Cemetery.

Sister Lucia Kistner

Christian Charity Sister Lucia Kistner died at Holy Family Convent in Danville on Sept. 16. She was 100.

Born Elizabeth Kirstner in Elizabeth, N.J., she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Mendham, N.J., in 1930. From 1933-1946, she taught in the elementary schools of the community in Baltimore, Md., and Wilkes-Barre, Pa. She then entered training at St. Michael Hospital in Newark, N.J., in 1946. Her entire field of activity over the years centered in service at Divine Providence Hospital in Williamsport, Pa., Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, and Holy Family Convent in Danville. She took great joy in giving love and service to the mothers and babies in the obstetrics departments in the hospitals.

The funeral Mass was celebrated in the chapel at Holy Family Convent. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Danville.

Sister Patricia Ellen Cosgrove

Sister Patricia Ellen Cosgrove, formerly Sister Laboure, died in Assisi House in Aston, Pa., on Sept. 18.

Born in Baltimore, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1949. She earned a degree in nursing from St. Mary’s, and one in psychiatric mental health from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Sister Patricia ministered primarily in health care, and in 1979 spent three months in service to the American Red Cross in a relief center on the Thailand-Cambodia border. She ministered for 18 years in the Diocese of Wilmington, 17 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, nine years in Reading, Pa., two years in Virginia, and one year in New Jersey.

During her 12 years in the Diocese of Harrisburg, she served at St. Joseph Hospital/Health Ministries in Lancaster from 1962-1972 and 2000-2002. She became a resident of Assisi House in Aston in 2009 and served in prayer ministry until her death.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 22 in Assisi House. Burial was in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.

Sister M. Emmanuel Palus

Adorers of the Blood of Christ Sister M. Emmanuel Palus died Sept. 24 in Columbus, Pa. She was 91.

Born in Johnstown, Pa., she entered the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in 1939. She studied at the Precious Blood Teacher Training Institute in Columbus, and at DePaul University in Chicago, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She also earned a master’s in elementary education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She studied at Villanova for math and Latin; at St. Mary’s and Notre Dame for spiritual theology; and at Misericordia College for Canon Law and Scripture. While in Rome, working at the Archives, she studied theology at the Regina Mun- di, Angelicum and Gregorian Universities in Rome, and Italian at the Dante Alighieri School of Languages. Sister Emmanuel taught for 21 years at elementary schools in Chicago, North Carolina and New York. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught at the schools in Enhart, Steelton and Lewistown.

Over the years, she served as director of women who were temporarily professed, as local coordinator of community houses, as secretary to the provincial council, and as provincial of the former Columbia Province. Sister Emmanuel helped to organize retreats in Columbus, served as that province’s archivist, and prepared books on the Adorers’ history and spirituality. She also organized talks and renewal programs for religious congregations of the Harrisburg Diocese in the years after Vatican II.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 29 at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbus. Burial was in the convent cemetery.
**Diocesan Notebook**

**Harvest and Christmas Bazaars will be celebrated beginning with the October 30 edition.**

**Spirtual Offerings**

Recitation of the Rosary for America and the world takes place on the square in Littlestown every third Saturday of the month at noon. The prayer service is also live streamed online: rosaryatlittlestown.com or at youtube.com.

Mary in the Polish language will be celebrated October 18 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisontown. Confirmations are heard in English and Polish after Mass.

**Retreats, Pilgrimages & Trips**

Year of Mercy—Pilgrimage—June 15-22, 2016. Join Fr. Stan Favier Parish in Gettysburg on a special Year of Mercy Pilgrimage in Paris (cost of coach travel and meals only—airfare is not included). General Wednesday Papal Audience and the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door. Cost is $979 per person for this 5-day trip. For more information or to get a brochure, contact Father John Bateman (frbateman@sfxs.org) or visit www.papalpilgrimage.com.

Mary in the Polish language will be celebrated October 18 at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisontown. Confirmations are heard in English and Polish after Mass. 4-5 hour sites in downtown areas, and certified local tour guides. Cost of $35 per all-inclusive coach lunch/participant. Transportation is included in the fee. For more information or to get a brochure, contact Father John Bateman (frbateman@sfxs.org) or visit www.papalpilgrimage.com or call 717-763-2553 for information.

You are invited to join Father Kenneth Smith on a Jubilee of Mercy Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 19-December 6, 2015. Daily Masses at all sites, Holyland personalized Pilgrimage Journal, optional land transportation, and optional hotels (five nights in Jerusalem, three nights in Tiberias, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee), breakfast and dinner daily, land transportation to and from the airport, and travel insurance. Please address any questions to Dr. Angela Soto Hamlin from Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary at 717-421-8020 or via email at: StAnneParishLancaster@hbgdiocese.org. For more information, or to register for the trip, please contact Dr. Michael Holton, Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary, at 717-443-2981 or email at: holtonm@hsgh.com.

You are invited to join Father Steven Fauzer on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 2-12, 2015. The scriptures will come alive with a unique approach to the sites of our journey. Ten include Holyland personalized Pilgrimage Journal, the Holy Land private tour guide, all sites, Holyland personalized Pilgrimage Journal, the Holy Land private tour guide, all sites, air travel, land transportation to and from the airport, and travel insurance. Please address any questions to Dr. Angela Soto Hamlin from Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary at 717-421-8020 or via email at: StAnneParishLancaster@hbgdiocese.org. For more information, or to register for the trip, please contact Dr. Michael Holton, Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary, at 717-443-2981 or email at: holtonm@hsgh.com.

You would like to go to Ireland? Join Sister Mary Anne Beakler, H.S.S., from October 18-28, 2016, for a 11-day Pilgrimage to Ireland. Tours include visits to Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, and Galway. The plane will depart from Harrisburg on 10/17/16 and arrive at Shannon Airport in Ireland on 10/18/16. The tour will be held at the school at 210 p.m., visit our website (www.stanneparish.org) for more information. The final session, contact Chen Conosco 717-239-7973 x6123 or ccamosso@stanneparish.org

**Events & Fund-Raisers**

**Feelin’ Lucky? Need extra cash for your holiday shopping?**

Come for a home-cooked Italian Dinner and Bingo Bash November 6, 2015 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the high school. At the entrance are St. Catherine Laboure Church, 500 Camp Hill, to reserve your seat, go to www.psych.org/pilgrimage and pay $20.00 per person for a delicious Italian meal. You may also stop by Good Shepherd Church Parish Office to pay $20.00 in advance for your admission pack. You may also stop by or call 802-2576 for information.

St. Anne Church and School will be hosting an ArtFair on October 17, from 8am to 3pm in the gym at 800 1st Street in Lebanon. There will be an art fair at the church from 10am to 3pm. The event will take place in the lobby and in the St. Anne Church Hall. There will be a bake sale in the hall, a silent auction, and a raffle for a gift basket. The proceeds will benefit the Guardian Angel Fund tuition subsidy program.

**St. Anne Church**

**Employee of the Year**

The annual Employee of the Year Award is presented to an employee who has demonstrated exceptional performance and has made a significant contribution to the education andwell-being of all students.

**Parish Staff**

The following staff members have been honored as Employees of the Year:

- **Principal**
- **Teacher of the Year**
- **Support Staff Member of the Year**
- **Volunteer of the Year**

**Parish Events**

- **Catholic Education Week**
- **School Tours**
- **Masses for Students**

For more information, contact the school office at 717-394-6711.

**Food Pantry**

The food pantry is open to the public on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at St. Anne Parish Hall. Donations are welcome and can be dropped off at the parish office.

**Family Resources**

- **Mental Health Resources**
- **Substance Abuse Resources**
- **HIV/AIDS Resources**

For more information, contact the school office at 717-394-6711. You can also visit www.stanneparish.org for more information.

**St. John's Catholic Church**

**Parish Announcements**

- **New Parishioner Registration**
- **Catechesis**
- **Ministries**
- **Social Justice**

For more information, contact the parish office at 717-394-6711. You can also visit www.stjohnscatholicchurch.com for more information.

**Diocese of Harrisburg**

**Diocesan Wellness Program**

The Diocesan Wellness Program is open to all diocesan employees. The program offers a variety of activities to promote health and wellness, including fitness classes, nutrition workshops, and stress management sessions.

**Diocesan Communications**

Lancaster Catholic is partnering with the Diocese of Harrisburg to launch a Diocesan Wellness Program. The program offers a variety of activities to promote health and wellness, including fitness classes, nutrition workshops, and stress management sessions.

**Diocesan Catholic Schools**

**School Announcements**

- **Middle School**
- **High School**
- **Elementary School**

For more information, contact the school office at 717-394-6711. You can also visit www.lancastercatholic.org for more information.
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<td>Good Shepherd, Camp Hill</td>
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<td>St. Patrick, Carlisle</td>
<td>Friday, 8:30 a.m., Marsh Drive Church</td>
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<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, Mechanicsburg</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>St. Bernard, New Bloomfield</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>Franklin</td>
<td>St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>Immaculate Conception BVM, Fairfield</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>St. Andrew, Waynesboro</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>St. Paul the Apostle, Annville</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Joan of Arc, Hershey</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Assumption BVM, Lebanon</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>Northern</td>
<td>St. Joseph, Berwick</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>St. Monica, Sunbury</td>
<td>Monday, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Pius X, Selingsgrove</td>
<td>Tuesday, Thursday, noon, Wednesday, Friday, 7 a.m.</td>
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<td>North Lancaster</td>
<td>Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. James, Lititz</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Trinity, Columbia</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 7 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Patrick, Trevorton</td>
<td>Wednesday, 7 a.m.</td>
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<td>South Lancaster</td>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua, Lancaster</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Leo the Great, Rohrerstown</td>
<td>Monday, 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>York</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, New Freedom</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, Dallastown</td>
<td>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, York</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Patrick, York</td>
<td>Friday, 8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Rose of Lima, York</td>
<td>Monday, 8:30 a.m., Thomasville school</td>
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**Schedule of Daily Masses at Parishes during Priests’ Workshop**

The annual Priests’ Continuing Education Workshop will be held Oct. 26-30 in Hunt Valley, Md. During this time, daily Masses will be celebrated by visiting, retired and religious order priests in the following churches.

**Adams Deanery**
- St. Joseph the Worker, Bonneauville: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m. (Wednesday, 7 p.m.)
- Annunciation BVM, McSherrystown: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:15 a.m.
- Dauphin Deanery
  - Holy Family, Harrisburg: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Francis of Assisi, Harrisburg: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
  - St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, noon
- Cumberland/Perry Deanery
  - Good Shepherd, Camp Hill: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 a.m.
  - St. Patrick, Carlisle: Friday, 8:30 a.m., Marsh Drive Church
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Mechanicsburg: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- St. Bernard, New Bloomfield: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- Franklin Deanery
  - St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.
  - Immaculate Conception BVM, Fairfield: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.
  - St. Andrew, Waynesboro: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**Lebanon Deanery**
- St. Paul the Apostle, Annville: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- St. Joan of Arc, Hershey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m.
- Assumption BVM, Lebanon: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**Northern Deanery**
- St. Joseph, Berwick: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
- St. Monica, Sunbury: Monday, 6 p.m.
- St. Pius X, Selingsgrove: Tuesday, Thursday, noon, Wednesday, Friday, 7 a.m.

**North Lancaster Deanery**
- Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.
- St. James, Lititz: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.
- Holy Trinity, Columbia: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m.

**Northumberland Deanery**
- Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 7 a.m.
- St. Patrick, Trevorton: Wednesday, 7 a.m.

**York Deanery**
- St. Joseph, Gallitontown: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spring Grove: Wednesday, 12:10 p.m.
- Holy Angels, Kulpmont: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- Divine Redeemer, Mount Carmel: Monday, Wednesday, 7 a.m.
- Mother Cabrini, Shamokin: Monday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**South Lancaster Deanery**
- St. Anthony of Padua, Lancaster: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**York Deanery**
- St. John the Baptist, New Freedom: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.
- Main Church, Our Lady’s Chapel: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spring Grove: Wednesday, 12:10 p.m.
- St. Joseph, Dallastown: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.
- St. Joseph, York: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:45 a.m.
- St. Patrick, York: Friday, 8:30 a.m.
- St. Rose of Lima, York: Monday, 8:30 a.m., Thomasville school: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. church

**Defense of the Faith Presentation**

"Saving Christianity in the Middle East"
**October 22 from 7-9 p.m.**
**Eden Resort and Suites, Lancaster**

Featuring presentations by:
- Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Maronite Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn
- George Marlin, author of *Persecution of Christians in the Middle East: A 21st Century Tragedy*

The evening will conclude with a short ecumenical prayer service for all those suffering persecution for their faith and for all those who have died as a result.

Prayers will be offered by Catholic and other Christian clergy of the Evangelical, Mennonite and Orthodox faiths, including Bishop Ronald Gainer.

**A Second Event**

"Ecumenical Summit on the Current Middle East Christian Plight"
**October 23 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Tickets are free and can be reserved online at maltaevents.ticketleap.com.

The event is hosted by the Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta through their Defense of the Faith Series.
Conference Calls Educators to Focus on Family

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Potted mums that decorated the altar, stage and podium for the annual Diocesan Education Conference served as a springboard for the Catholic school educators gathered at Bishop McDevitt High School for the Sept. 16 event.

Likening the school as a family, where members learn fidelity, grow in patience and practice sacrifice, Bishop Ronald Gainer pointed to the mums as a metaphor for growth, asking the educators to consider the flowering plants as icons of themselves and their students.

“The presence of these mums as images of the students that God has placed in your care,” he said. “Some are beginning to open and will bloom; others are wrapped tight. Like these mums, none of us are in full bloom, but we walk together on this path of growth. With patience, faithfulness and sacrifice, we watch our students grow on the path of life.”

This is what it means to be in the household of God,” Bishop Gainer said. “Full growth will take the whole of our lives.”

The conference, an annual event of the Diocesan Secretariat for Education, focused this year on the Christian family as the bedrock of society and the cornerstone of the Church. In a keynote address to begin the day, Dr. John S. Grabowski, an Associate Professor of Moral Theology and Director of the Moral Theology/Ethics area at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., spoke on Catholic education’s role in forming families for the New Evangelization.

A term first put forth by Blessed Paul VI, who was pope from 1963-1978, the New Evangelization calls Catholics to deepen their faith and then go forth to proclaim the Gospel and evangelize others.

“Pope Francis encourages people in having a renewed personal encounter with the person of Christ,” Dr. Grabowski said, pointing to the two synods on the family that the Holy Father has convened, and his weekly general audiences devoted to catechesis on the family.

The catechesis and synods, Dr. Grabowski said, are about addressing issues, but rather about “equipping families to be agents of the New Evangelization. Families are part of the field hospital, inviting people to experience the healing and mercy of Christ,” he said, quoting Pope Francis’ vision of the Church as a field hospital healing the wounds of the faithful.

Pointing to the Second Vatican Council’s vision that Catholic schools and families would be collaborators in the education of children, Dr. Grabowski offered practical ways in which educators and parents can work together in this effort, such as volunteering, assisting others in daily tasks, and teaching young people how to extend hospitality, express gratitude and ask for forgiveness.

“We must walk with others on the path to growth and healing,” said Dr. Grabowski, who currently serves as a theological advisor to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family and Youth.

“As Catholic educators, we have the privilege of inviting others to experience the beating heart of the Gospel and the mercy of God,” he said.

“Our call is to place mercy and love at the heart of what we do. Our challenge is to make a contribution to the New Evangelization, to help families to take up their calling to be missionary disciples,” he said.

In addition to dozens of workshops — many of which focused on the family — and vendors available to the educators that day, the conference also highlighted the talents and volunteer efforts of students, who, on a day off from school, gave of their time to offer hospitality and ambience. Fifty-five Student Ambassadors from Bishop McDevitt High School assisted with conference preparations the day before the event, helping vendors unload, carry and set up their tables, and served as greeters and guides at the gathering, assisted the caterer with boxed lunches, and helped the vendors again as they broke down their displays at the end of the day. Students from St. Theresa School in New Cumberland offered musical selections in the lobby as educators arrived, and the choir from York Catholic High School led praise and worship music during Holy Mass.
The parish community of St. Francis of Assisi in Harrisburg celebrated on Oct. 4 the feast day of their patron, who, in the early 13th century, heeded Christ’s words to rebuild the Church.

With spirit and solemnity, and with a focus on the family, parishioners welcomed Bishop Ronald Gainer to their historic church to celebrate the Mass.

Widely associated with his care for creation, St. Francis was born to a wealthy merchant couple in the early 1180s, and lived a life among the upper classes until a period of imprisonment in a war with another Italian city-state eventually drew him into discernment.

Search for conversion led St. Francis to an ancient church at San Damiano, where he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him: “Francis, repair my Church.” He took the request literally, and worked to rebuild the San Damiano Church with his own hands. But it was the Church he was called to rebuild, and St. Francis’ turn to poverty and preaching drew followers back to the faith and gave rise to the Franciscan movement.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg follows in the spirit of its patronal saint, sharing the light of Christ in the city’s Allison Hill neighborhood through cultural dinners, fundraisers and social justice efforts. Since 1981, it has operated the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen, which serves meals six days a week for those in need.

For the past ten years, the parish has been under the pastoral care of the Capuchin Franciscans. Its current pastor is Father Orlando Reyes.

The parish is home to a vibrant Hispanic community, and routinely hosts celebrations of various cultures. Upcoming celebrations, for example, will honor Peruvian, Puerto Rican and Mexican culture, highlighting native dress, dancing and poetry to celebrate their traditions.

A statue of St. Francis of Assisi is seen during the celebration of Mass on his Feast Day.

Erick Delgado and Chucky Palmer, join in the Entrance Procession as lectors for the Mass on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Father Orlando Reyes, O.F.M., Cap., pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, distributes Holy Communion.

Above: A young member of the flock looks on during the celebration of Mass.

Left: Paula Headen and Alex Ashman lend their talents to the choir offering praise and worship music.