A New Generation for Life
Youth lend voices to pro-life movement ~ page 6
Bipartisan Vote for Catholic News Service

The U.S. House Oct. 13 passed the Protect Life Act, which would upholding federal policies on abortion funding and conscience rights to the health reform law.

The measure passed with a bipartisan vote of 251 to 172. Its co-sponsors were Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., chairman of the House Subcommitte of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., who co-chairs the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. The bill also had 144 co-sponsors.

“The health care law made it clear that the current way we prevent taxpayer funding of abortion through annual riders is dangerously fragile,” Lipinski said in January when the measure was introduced. “We must take action to prevent federal funding for abortion under the health care law and throughout the government, without exception.”

In a statement released Oct. 14, Deirdre McQuade, spokeswoman for the U.S. bishop’s pro-life secretariat, said that by passing H.R. 358, “the House has taken an important step toward authentic health-care reform that respects the dignity of all, from conception onward.”

McQuade urged the Senate to likewise help make health care reform life-affirming.

The Protect Life Act applies the Hyde amendment to health care reform “so federal funds will not be used to subsidize elective abortions,” McQuade said, which brings the law “into line with other federal health programs such as Medicaid and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.”

It also “helps ensure that the government will not pressure health professionals to participate in abortion against their medical judgment, moral convictions or religious beliefs,” she added.

In a letter to the editor of the Colorado Catholic News, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, repeated his call to lawmakers to vote for the Protect Life Act. “Please help give us a renewed health care system that respects the life, health and conscience of all,” the cardinal wrote.

Advance of Same-Sex Marriage Deepens Concern for Religious Liberty

By Dennis Sadowski

Catholic News Service

The widening campaign by gay rights advocates to promote same-sex marriage as a civil right is forcing Catholic and other religious institutions to confront charges of intolerance and discrimination.

Also at risk, say church officials working on the legal front, is the right to religious liberty in the areas of taxes, housing, education and government contracts for social services.

Those changes can affect a wide range of practices far beyond marriage such as whether:

- A private individual can deny renting an apartment to a same-sex couple.
- A public school teacher who refuses to talk about same-sex marriage as a justice issue can later continue to teach.
- A counselor’s license can be revoked for declining to accept same-sex couples as clients.
- A religious organization that does not recognize same-sex marriage can be considered discriminatory by a state or local government and lose any contract for services.

“Redefining marriage has a multiplier effect,” Picarello explained to Catholic News Service. “The problems proliferate. The problems that we see under mere sexual orientation anti-discrimination laws multiply by an order of magnitude when marriage is redefined.”

“Marriage is a legal lever, because in our society we have a legal infrastructure that rewards those who support marriage, and punishes those who oppose it. When that legal structure is then applied to who is free to marry, those who don’t recog- nize, the marriage, the people who object to that definition are going to suffer severe discrimination he said.

Picarello pointed to the February announcement by the Justice Depart- ment that it would no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act – DOMA – which is based on prejudice against homosexuals and therefore is discriminatory as among the mounting challenges facing relig- ious institutions opposed to same-sex marriage.

They basically argued that any law that distinguishes be- tween same-sex couples and different sex couples, whether it’s for purposes of marriage or anything else, violates the Constitu- tion if the government is doing it, that the government can’t make those distinctions,” Picarello said.

“BLOW, DOMA does not define marriage as it’s always been defined,” he said. “The church stands behind that definition and now the church has been lumped in with bigots and haters.”

For states to imply such a discrimination is a major legal and ethical issue that they dismiss religious tradition and the morality of same-sex rela- tionships while portraying religious objections to same-sex mar- riage as equivalent to racial discrimination.

“The religious liberty issue has largely been played out at the state level,” he said. “Same-sex marriage has been legalized through legislation or by court decisions in Connecticut, Iowa, Massa- chusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia, Illinois and Rhode Island this year enacted civil union laws; come Jan. 1, civil unions will become legal in Dela- ware and Hawaii.

In California, Proposition 8, a ballot initiative approved by voters in 2008 to ban same-sex marriage remains in the courts and may end up at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Same-sex marriage is banned by law and constitutional amend- ment in the remaining 40 states.

In states where same-sex marriage has been enacted by law, at least a basic religious exemptions has been included. The breadth of the exemption varies with some jurisdictions offering a gen- eral exemption from performing same-sex marriages to more specific protections for religious institutions.

Michael C. Culhane, executive director of the Connecticut Catholic Conference, lobbied for three exemptions following the state Supreme Court’s 2008 decision that legalized same-sex marriage.

In addition to the normal exemption for clergy from participat- ing in a same-sex marriage ceremony, Connecticut’s law has one provision protecting fraternal societies from providing insurance benefits to anyone if doing so violates the religious beliefs of the organi- zation and another safeguarding the rights of a religious organiza- tion to the delivery of abortion services or as long as government funds are not involved.

“In the long hours we ended up with a very strong religious exemption,” Culhane said.

In Iowa, where the state Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is legal, Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, said the church has been minimally af- fected by the court’s decision.

“We have the same concerns a lot of places do and would have,” he said. “For example, Catholic schools in Iowa are ac- credited by the state. Same-sex couples to another agency. Catholic Charities appealed, but in public schools can be required in Catholic schools as well.”

The likelihood that the forthcoming rules will be addressed by the legisla- ture is slim, Chapman told CNS.

“My own feeling is there is a desire on everybody’s part who wants same-sex marriage to leave it alone because they don’t want us to have a defense of marriage amendment or legislation that could restrict same-sex marriage,” he said.

Such an exemption in Illinois’ civil unions law failed to re- solve the dilemma faced by the Peoria Diocese. The predicament arose when state Department of Children and Family Services mandated that the diocesan Catholic Charities system end the practice of referring adoptions and foster placements to same- sex couples to another agency. Catholic Charities appealed, but lost in court, leading the diocese to back out of all state contracts for social services.

Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Confer- ence of Illinois, told CNS the law affords protections for religious practice, but that the state has the right to contract with any agency it deems necessary.

“The danger is that faith-based or- ganizations will get crowded out of the provision of services that are desper- ately needed,” he said.

Even with specific exemptions for religious institutions, individuals ev- erwhere face possible infringements on the practice of their faith, said Daniel Avila, policy adviser for mar- riage and family to the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

“Even if you think you’re protected and this is not an issue in your own state, given you have a state DOMA, they should be quite aware of events happening at the national level that could then bring these very issues and problems into their own lives,” he said.

Avila suggested that at least two cases, including California’s legal battle over Proposition 8, will likely make their way to the U.S. Supreme Court and determine the legal status of same-sex marriage in the country.

The cases are likely to years away, he said.

That leaves states to follow their own course on what will be dis- criminatory and what are not and re- ligious organizations guessing which way they will go.

State of Marriage

The majority of states define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.
Catechetical Conference Will Examine New Translation of Roman Missal

Father Dennis McManus, Member of Vox Clara, Will Keynote

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The 2011 Diocesan Catechetical Conference will focus on the New English Translation of the Roman Missal.

Registration and exhibits will open at 8 a.m. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden will be the celebrant and homilist for Mass that morning. The theme of the conference is “Do This in Memory of Me.”

Father Dennis McManus, a theologian and a member of Vox Clara, will be the keynote speaker. Vox Clara is the committee that advises the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments on English translations of the liturgical texts.

His presentation is on “Renewing Our Participation at Mass through the New English translation of the Roman Missal.”

The new Roman Missal, which will be implemented in the United States Nov. 27, offers “a very teachable moment in the life of the Church,” noted James Goins, Director of the Diocesan Department of Religious Education.

“This time is a unique opportunity that’s been given to us by the Church to catechize people anew on the treasures of the Mass. Even more important, we’ve been blessed with a new translation that really emphasizes the beauty and grandeur of the sacred liturgy which uses more Biblically-based language,” he said. “Together the two can’t help but lead us to a deeper appreciation and awareness of the mysteries being celebrated.”

The Catechetical Conference will also feature 32 workshops across four afternoon sessions offered by a full complement of outstanding speakers. Topics include an introduction to YOUCAT, the youth catechism; building a culture of life; the call to global solidarity; and teaching the faith to children with disabilities.

The day will end with closing prayer at 4:30 p.m. The conference is one of the diocese’s most highly-attended annual events, and promises support and information for catechists across all grade levels and levels.

“This diocese has outstanding catechists and people who love the faith. They love the truth,” Mr. Goins said. “They know this conference will give them presentations and workshops that will feed their souls.”

Catholic Charities Annual Luncheon
Confirmation, Our Lady of the Visitation Church, Harrisburg

Diocesan Catechetical Conference

“Do This in Memory of Me”
November 12 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Doors open at 8 a.m.)
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Principal Celebrant and Homilist:
Bishop Joseph P. McFadden

Keynote Speaker:
Father Dennis McManus, Member of Vox Clara

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – Keynote Presentation – 32 Workshops in 4 Sessions – Exhibits – Liturgical Prayer

Registration fee is $30 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is available online at www.hbgdiocese.org or by contacting Kathy Burger at 717-657-4804, ext. 229.

The Cardinal Keeler Center is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. If you require other accommodations (sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, real-time captioning, large-print materials in Braille, etc.) if you have special dietary needs, contact Kathy Burger at the number listed above.

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden’s Public Calendar

- October 21 – Confirmation, St. Andrew Church, Waynesboro, 5:30 p.m.
- October 22 – Confirmation, Our Lady of Hope Church, Coal Township, 10 a.m.
- October 23 – White Mass for healthcare professionals, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 12:15 p.m.
- October 24 – Prayers at Morning Prayer, LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, Hanover, 9:30 a.m.
- October 25 – Pennsylvania Council of Churches 100th Anniversary celebration, Trinity Evangelical Church, Camp Hill, 7 p.m.
- October 26 – Catholic Charities Annual Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon. Ecumenical Prayer Service to begin the Vigil for Peace, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- October 27 – Mass to conclude the Vigil for Peace, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.
- October 29 – Confirmation, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Elpysbg, 10 a.m.; Wine Cenotaph for Christian Brothers, LaSalle Hall, Belleville, Md., 4 p.m.
- October 30 – Solemn Profession of Sister Teresa Maria of the Sacred Heart, Carmel Elpysbg, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church, Harrisburg, 3 p.m.
- November 1 – Mass and Pastoral Visit to York Catholic High School, 9:30 a.m.; Closing of 40 Hours, St. Aloysius Church, Eldersburg, 7 p.m.
- November 3 – Saint Thomas More Society Annual Dinner, Alchenberry Resort, 4 p.m.
- November 4 – Confirmation, Our Lady of the Visitation Church, Shippensburg, 3:30 p.m.
Education: A Matter of the Heart

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC Special to The Witness

As the first bell of the 2011-2012 school year rang throughout our area, I was transported back several years to a conversation I had with a fifth grade who was ecstatic over the fact that summer vacation had FINALLY ended. Yes, he was happy to see summer end! His joy was over the fact that the school year he could socialize with his classmates while his summer learning was limited to what he was interested in pursuing and not as collaborative as the learning at school. He went on to explain how he enjoyed learning when he could follow personal interests as well as learn about history, math and other “school stuff.”

This thought immediately reminded me of a presentation I attended at the Regional Catholic Education Collaborative in Harrisburg in 2008. According to Nelson, “who’s been a top executive at both Pixar and DreamWorks Animation), members of a team who collaborate make the other members look good. This energy allows the team to be more productive than a team that works only “cooperatively” on a project. A cooperative team works along parallel lines, conferring occasionally, as they develop project pieces. A collaborative team is set up so that the members constantly interact, bouncing ideas off of one another and creating synergy that produces something never seen before, rather than a layering of individual ideas. The collaborative approach requires the team to work together heart and soul to reach the ultimate objective. Isn’t it heart and soul that we educators hope to ignite in every student? We do that by teaching in ways that spark a creative quest for learning and a genuine love of God. St. John Bosco, a 19th century Italian educator, writes: “Remember that education is a matter of the heart.” In other words, education should make the heart thirst for what is truly good and this goodness is rooted in Christ. Pope Paul IV, in 1965 in Gravissimum educationis writes: Education …… between pupils of different talents and backgrounds promotes friendly relations and fosters a spirit of mutual understanding; and it establishes as it were a center whose work and progress must be shared together by families, teachers, associations of various types that foster cultural, civic, and religious life, as well as by civil society and the entire human community. The thirst for what is good unites all of humanity into a community that is joined at the heart. This is one of the key ingredients to Catholic education. The more we encourage and nurture collaboration, the more we satisfy that thirst.

The internet, social networking software and web 2.0 tools have paved a way to connect with one another unlike any other communication system in human history. Connectivity allows students to learn not only from experts in the field but from other students as well. No longer is one restricted to what can be accomplished in close physical proximity. But, to quote a comic book superhero, “with great power comes great responsibility.” We have a duty, as educators, to instruct our students to a higher good – one echoed by the teachings of Jesus, not just the good for me. With our guidance, they can become participants in myriad collaborative communities that can affect change for the betterment of society.

So how do educators ignite that spark? First and foremost, educators must believe in their students. St. John Bosco counsels his educators, “Love what the youth loves and they will love what you love.” In other words, we need to know who your students are and enter into their world. Don’t become their peer but give them a chance to talk to you about their life. Allow them to share their enthusiasm with you and (most of all) incorporate their excitement into the way you teach your content and the ways they pursue learning in your classrooms and schools.

Their eager interests should become guidelines for others to explore new venues and make learning relevant to today’s world, to THEIR world. They need to experience the joy in learning that you communicate to them. As a result of this pleasure-seeking men and women will not lead to more happiness and fulfillment. These decisions will not lead to more happiness and fulfillment. These decisions will lead to a world of hollow men to “a valley of dead souls.” The poem’s vivid imagery likens the world of hollow men to “a valley of dying stars. Today’s dying stars are the unique lives which are unappreciated and disregarded by those who see them as useless. Parents are encouraged to terminate the “unhealthy” unborn life. If the “unhealthy” are already present in the world, they are given the option to terminate their own lives so they won’t be a burden to others.

But eliminating the weak and defenseless will not lead to more happiness and convenience; it will only lead to increased fear and less freedom. When one category of human beings, such as the unborn, the elderly, or the sick are targeted for elimination, what is to prevent other human beings from being considered less valuable or worthy of protection? By what standard is this decided? The elimination and disrepect for the weak and defenseless only puts pressure on the “healthy” to work harder to prove that their life has worth so they too, will not be marked for elimination.

Pope Benedict XVI writes in his 2007 encyclical Spe Salvi (Saved in Hope): “A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and bear it inwardly through ‘compassion’ is a cruel and inhuman society” (183). The ability to accept those who suffer, those who are weaker and more vulnerable, makes us more human. Christ himself demonstrated this nobility of heart in his treatment of the sick and rejected members of society. With Christ, we are no longer hollow and empty; we are instead a people of hope, and therefore a people of life. We must not sit by idly as the “hollow men” systematically create a culture hostile to life at its most vulnerable stages. We must strive every day to counter these efforts by witnessing to the dignity and value of each person.

Kimberly Baker is a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops’ pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/prolife.html

Life Issues Forum: The Hollow Men and the Culture of Death

By Kimberly Baker Special to The Witness

The culture of death so prevalent in today’s society is in large part due to the emptiness and disillusionment so vividly expressed in The Hollow Men by T.S. Eliot. This famous poem depicts a world of “stuffed men” who do not fully live life, who go through routine motions awaiting “death’s twilight kingdom.” The lack of hope in today’s secular culture is evidenced by broken or non-existent family life and relationships, a breakdown of manners and common courtesy in social interaction, and indulgence in lavish lifestyles, sex, food, and media as ways to escape the emptiness.

As a result of this pleasure-seeking mentality, there is also a systematic effort to suppress and eliminate the weaker, more defenseless members of society who present inconveniences to others and are seen as burdens. Legislative efforts to loosen or abandon restrictions on assisted suicide, euthanasia, and abortion are a direct result of the mindset that encourages us to eliminate people who are inconvenient or unwanted in our pursuit of pleasure. The result? “Hollow men” trying to keep themselves entertained on the death march.

The poem’s vivid imagery likens the world of hollow men to “a valley of dying stars. Today’s dying stars are the unique lives which are unappreciated and disregarded by those who see them as useless. Parents are encouraged to terminate the “unhealthy” unborn life. If the “unhealthy” are already present in the world, they are given the option to terminate their own lives so they won’t be a burden to others.

But eliminating the weak and defenseless will not lead to more happiness and convenience; it will only lead to increased fear and less freedom. When one category of human beings, such as the unborn, the elderly, or the sick are targeted for elimination, what is to prevent other human beings from being considered less valuable or worthy of protection? By what standard is this decided? The elimination and disregard of the weak and defenseless only puts pressure on the “healthy” to work harder to prove that their life has worth so they too, will not be marked for elimination.

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Kimberly Baker is a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops’ pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/prolife.html
Governor Corbett Introduces School Choice Plan to Benefit Students, Community

By Joelle Shea

Speaking at a press conference at Lincoln Charter School in York Oct. 11, Governor Tom Corbett introduced an education reform package that includes two of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference’s main priorities: a pilot voucher program and an increase to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) scholarship program.

Governor Corbett, a former teacher, said the focus in education reform needs to be “child, parent, teacher… and just in that order.” He was accompanied by several state senators and representatives as well as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden of the Diocese of Harrisburg, applauded Governor Tom Corbett’s recently released agenda for education reform.

“I believe you need to crawl before you can walk, walk before you run,” said Corbett. “The first priority of any school reform plan is to improve the school districts that are struggling. That is very important, but we also have to think about our children in the future.”

In a statement released on Sept. 28, the Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania said that school choice “could herald a new, more just era for education in Pennsylvania – an era in which we focus on the ideal educational environment for each student, not on a mandatory system in which students are assigned to a school based solely on geographic location.”

The current treatment of these children, particularly children from low-income families, is unjust and inequitable. Families are often prevented from accessing the educational options that would be best for them because of economic or social barriers.

In addition to Governor Corbett, House Majority Leader Michael Turzai and Senate Majority Whip Pat Browne also spoke at the press conference. Senator Turzai (R-Allegheny) said that the reforms discussed today are a start, “we have to have the reforms, particularly in failing school districts, that can make a difference so that we can offer parents options and let these approaches compete.”

The specifics of the increase to the EITC program, which is currently funded at $75 million, have yet to be announced. An increase to the EITC will provide more low and middle income families with the tuition assistance they need to create options in education. The suggested pilot program for vouchers includes full opportunity scholarships to students in the bottom five percent of failing elementary and high schools and middle income families with the tuition assistance they need to create options in education.

Senator Browne (R-Allentown, Lehigh, Northampton) said that education reform is “about one thing, it is about providing opportunities for our children…we need to have the reforms, particularly in failing school districts, that can make a difference so that we can offer parents options and let these approaches compete.”

Governor Corbett’s plan also includes a reform of Pennsylvania’s charter school law and teacher evaluations. A vehicle for the education reform proposal has not been determined; visit www.pacatholic.org for updates and to send a message to your legislators in support of school choice.

(based on the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.)
‘A New Generation’ Lends Voice to Pro-Life Masses and Rosary Rallies

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Since the inception of the pro-life rosary rallies in Harrisburg 21 years ago, nothing has thwarted the dedicated group from keeping a prayerful vigil in front of the Hillcrest abortion clinic on Saturday mornings. Not threatening skies, not icy sidewalks, not offensive gestures or words from those driving down Front Street.

And on Oct. 8, not abortion activists either.

That morning, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden led a peaceful crowd of pro-life faithful following the annual Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church. Impressive in number, the clergy, religious, men, women, children and Knights of Columbus stopped in front of Hillcrest, where a dozen or so abortion supporters lined the property.

At the bishop’s cue, those in the pro-life contingent raised their rosaries to their foreheads and began, “In the name of the Father….”

As they prayed the rosary, the students stood just a few feet from the abortion advocates. But they were not daunted. Instead, they said, they felt even more determined in their stand for life.

“I’m glad the pro-abortion people were here when we arrived because I like how we overtook them by our numbers,” said Sydney, a junior who was participating in her first rosary rally that day.

Carrying a sign that read “Women Do Regret Abortion,” Abby said that “Seeing the abortion supporters with their signs about choice made me want to stay here longer. Their signs made me sad, because they really have no idea about the truth of abortion.”

Cesar, a sophomore joining in the rosary rally for the first time, said he welcomed the opportunity to witness for the Sacrament of marriage, she said, contributes to a culture that perpetuates abortion.

Mrs. Stoner said she is heartened by the youth who attend the pro-life Masses and rosary rallies, including those from Lebanon Catholic School.

“It’s critical to educate them about abortion, and to get them to pray for an end to it. They’re our future,” she said.

Lebanon Catholic religion teacher Julie Shuyler noted that “Once you explain to students the horror of abortion, they want to do something about it. If you invite young people to come here in support of life, they will do it.”

She has been bringing Lebanon Catholic students to the monthly Masses and rosary rallies for eight years.

She hopes that one day she can stop praying with them at Hillcrest.

“You look at that building and you think, ‘This horror has to end,’” she said.
Woven into the very fabric of married love is the desire to bring children into the world. And among the most painful and distressing problems a husband and wife can encounter is the heartache and worry that arise when they find themselves with serious difficulties in conceiving a child of their own.

Keri and Dan had always wanted to have children, but their careers were going well and they decided to save up for a house first. Unfortunately, even once they were financially secure, they found themselves struggling with the growing uncertainty and distress that one in six U.S. couples experience. They were struggling with infertility.

Infertility clinics today seem less interested in identifying and addressing the causes of infertility—first and foremost, correcting a hormonal imbalance, unblocking a fallopian tube scarred by many of the causes of infertility—for example, correcting a hormonal adjustment that can allow parents to conceive a child.
Three hundred years ago, the Tuscarora Native Americans traversed Path Valley and used the great valley as a trading route to buy and sell goods with frontier white settlers. And if you have the curiosity to seek, you can still find the original road trace of the trade route which was laden down by the incessant pounding of horses’ hooves.

Today, Path Valley remains ever bucolic with the landscape dotted by sparsely settled farms that are immersed in fog on cool autumn mornings. Ninety-nine percent of the valley residents are non-Catholics with many Amish and others of plain faith traveling the country roads by horse and buggy. And connecting the valley are quiet hamlets such as Dry Run, Spring Run and Doylesburg—where in 1790 a priest from Ireland named Father Dennis Cahill visited the town and celebrated Holy Mass at the Doyle homestead where a decade later a log church was built and was deeded to the Diocese of Philadelphia. In 1852, a beautiful brick church was erected and it became a mission church for the Diocese of Harrisburg when the diocese was formed in 1868.

That humble brick mission church, Our Lady of Refuge, stood until September 11, 2011, when in the dark of night, fire consumed the entire interior of the church. The heat was so intense, one firefighter noted a day later as the embers still smoldered, that the stained-glass windows exploded from the intense heat built up. When firefighters arrived at 4 a.m., the wooden cross, which was long a fixture above the altar, was strikingly ablaze in the inferno.

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden made a pastoral visit to Doylesburg on October 9 to celebrate Holy Mass at the town’s humble community center that feels more shed than church. More than 100 faithful filled the center for Mass, which was concelebrated by pastor, Father James O’Brien of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg—located some 30 miles to the south of Doylesburg.

“The Lord never gives us a cross that he does not give us the grace to handle,” Bishop McFadden said in his homily. “There is one constant in life—The Lord loves us. We are the Church of the Eucharist.”

After Mass, Bishop McFadden visited with parishioners and then toured the burned out shell of the 160-year-old church, which is surrounded by a graveyard that includes tombstones that date back to the American Revolution. The town’s founder and family are buried there and the burial grounds are also the final resting place for a number of Civil War veterans who fought for the 202nd Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden looks through the shell of a window into Our Lady of Refuge Church, which was consumed by fire on Sept. 11 of this year. The fire was determined to be accidental.

Bishop McFadden Celebrates Mass for Fire Ravaged Parish

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

The autumn sun shines through the trees at the site of Our Lady of Refuge Church. Among those buried in the church cemetery are Doylesburg’s town founder and family members, Civil War veterans and members of Our Lady of Refuge Church.
By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness  

The morning sun peeked through rustling trees in rural Buchanan Valley Oct. 16, casting an autumnal light over the historic St. Ignatius Loyola Church nestled there. On the church’s scenic grounds, Catholic faithful – some whose families go back several generations in the valley – gathered to joyously mark their parish’s centennial anniversary.

Outside the 194-year-old brick church, a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard lined up to lead the procession for Mass, celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. As the congregation filled the picturesque church, leaves fell from the trees, signaling the change of season.

“Think about all the change in this beautiful valley in the past 100 years,” Bishop McFadden told parishioners in his homily. “But also think of the constant of Jesus Christ here as well. Christ is here, here in the Eucharist. That has not changed.”

St. Ignatius Church has stood as a place of worship since 1817, nearly a century before being established as a parish. In the 1700s, the growth of the Pennsylvania territory spread into what was then known as Pleasant Valley (in 1856 it was named Buchanan Valley after the 15th President of the United States). Jesuit priests laid the cornerstone for the church on Oct. 10, 1816, and the first Mass was celebrated there a year later. They named it St. Ignatius Loyola after the saint and founder of their order. The church is the third oldest in the diocese.

In the fall of 1911, St. Ignatius was proclaimed a parish by Bishop John W. Shanahan, third Bishop of Harrisburg. The first resident pastor was Father William Howard. Succeeding pastors were Father Patrick Sutivan, Father Jules Foin, Father William Whalen, Father Mark McElwee, Father Daniel Crowley, Father Joseph Goetzelt, Msgr. Louis Yeager, (Father Emmett DePauw assisted Msgr. Yeager for more than ten years) Father Thomas Graninski, Father John Paukovits, Father Carl Steffen and Father Kenneth Smith. The current pastor is Father Daniel O’Brien.

St. Ignatius Parish plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of its historic church in 2017.

In his homily during the parish anniversary Mass, Bishop McFadden spoke of the happiness found in lasting love.

“Money does not make us happy, though some believe it. Things get old and rust, they do not make us happy. The love of God is eternal, lasts forever. That is what makes us happy. Do not be afraid of giving your life to the Lord,” the bishop said.

He thanked the parishioners “for the work of your faith, for your labor of love here in the parish, for how you love one another and help one another.

“When you love someone, it’s not what you say always, it’s just being with each other, comforting and helping that shows true love,” he said.
Lancaster native Katie Hayek and original Mighty Mac Theresa Shank (whom Hayek portrays in the film) encourage students at St. Anne School in Lancaster to follow their dreams in life during a special school assembly Oct. 12.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Mighty Macs Movie Inspires

Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

I remember seeing the movie “A League of Their Own” when I was about 13. It had already been to theaters and on videotape (remember those blocks of film we used to watch movies from?) I remember it was summer time and I remember seeing the movie and thinking “Those women are amazing.”

I had the same thought three weeks ago when I was privileged to watch a sneak preview of “The Mighty Macs” which will be in theaters October 21. I was immediately moved within the first five minutes, listening to a radio program as women’s basketball Coach Cathy Rush drives to Immaculata College for the first time. The radio announcer quotes a woman, “We should be training to be doctors, not training to marry doctors.” In that one sentence, I had a feeling this movie would be motivational, and show our young ladies of today that many great women worked extremely hard for equality.

This film takes place in 1972 at Immaculata University, when the rules for women’s basketball had just changed: the game would be played full court with a 30 second shot clock, “similar to men’s rules, except we will play as a team,” says Coach Rush, played by Carla Gugino.

This film is a story about a coach with a passion for basketball and a spirit to win, and a team who trusted that spirit. Will it win an Academy Award? Not with an Academy seeming to have drama on the brain. This is a feel good movie for all ages; though I think it will most be enjoyed by those 12 and older. And to top off things, this film stars an actress from right here in Central Pennsylvania.

Katie Hayek, a graduate of St. Anne School and a basketball star at Lancaster Catholic High, is now pursuing an acting career after playing college ball and studying drama at the University of Miami. She and the original 1972 Mighty Macs basketball star she portrays in the film, Theresa Shank, visited St. Anne’s on Oct. 12. They spoke a little about the movie, the students watched a 10-minute sneak peak and then the women answered questions of the students.

Chris from St. Anne’s asked Ms. Hayek, “What position did you play in college?” Ms. Hayek answered she was a shooting guard. Immediately, another student asked, “Did you really shoot the basketball in the film?” Ms. Hayek explained that in one scene, though she had to shoot and miss the first foul shot, she did have to shoot and make the second. There are special choreographers who arrange the basketball games they play in the movie, she said.

Mrs. Shank shared with the student audience how college basketball has changed from the time she played. There were no scholarships, and no special training practice. “Coach Rush would tell us what to do to train.” And she told the students that yes, as in the film they really did wear goofy looking uniforms.

Mrs. Shank also shared that she and her team have a friendship that has lasted the years since they graduated college. They still occasionally meet and after a brief catch up, it feels like nothing has changed.

As I listened to Mrs. Shank continue to speak about the team, it was clear she and Ms. Hayek must have spent some time together, because in the film it seems they are the same person. Ms. Hayek’s tone of talking, facial expressions, and general body language really seem to mimic that of Mrs. Shank.

“Everyone said we couldn’t win, we won and we continued to win. Don’t let anyone tell you what you can’t do,” Mrs. Shank told the students. She continues to have an unbelievably optimistic outlook and shared it with the students at St. Anne.

This movie will have you leaving the theater feeling the same way; the optimism and overall sangrinity is contagious. It will also leave you with some amazing and inspirational quotes to carry through life.

Even at age 13, after seeing “A League of Their Own,” I still remember my favorite inspirational quote which I wrote on the inside of my day planner in college, probably not word for word, it’s what I remember: It’s supposed to be hard, because it if were easy everyone would do it. It’s the hard that makes it great.

“The Mighty Macs” left me with another great quote: “If we didn’t have to struggle we could never harvest the glory.” What’s even better is that the director doesn’t hide religion. Such lines as “sometimes God is very obvious” and “Jesus likes to dance” really let in the reality that Immaculata is a Catholic College supervised by a group of Sisters. The director shows prayer, and the Sisters are quick witit, articulate and hard working, much like the Sisters that I meet every day.

It’s a motivational film with a good faith-based and Catholic undertone, not just a basketball movie. I would suggest it to any parent. Even if your child is into music, dance, math league, this movie is about following your dream, whatever that dream may be.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: James Conner
BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: Judy Decker, James Lewis
CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Elizabeth Garvey, Rose McCormick, Antonio Morone
CARLISLE – St. Patrick: Gladys Deglas, Natasha Haulman
CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Mae A. Kochert
COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Anthony Petroski, Florence Uhrin
COLUMBIA – St. Peter: Joyce A. Lesley
CONEGADO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Richard C. Zimmer
DANVILLE – St. Joseph: Margie Hickey
DUNCANNON – St. Bernadette: Raymond Ruscitti
GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Charles Carnaggio, Ryan Jansen, Shelly Ann Ramirez
HANOVER – St. Joseph: Charles Eveland, Janet Gray, Anna Miller
HARRISBURG – Holy Name of Jesus: Nancy Zimitki; St. Catherine Labouré: Geraldine Rish, Mary Robenseifner
Raymond Magaro, Katherine Pagano.

Father Joseph William Oppitz served as a parish priest in the Diocese of Harrisburg. In 1961, Sister Josephine devoted many years to catechism in Lebanon’s Catholic schools. She entered the Carmelite Monastery in Loretto, Pa., in 1948. In 1953, she and five other nuns made the translation in Mount Carmel, and the community moved to the monastery in Elyburg in 1961. Sister Josephine devoted many years to the translation of the works of Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta), a Discalced Carmelite nun and German Jew.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 15 in the Manor Hall Chapel, Danville.

Sister Zetta LaVallée
School Sisters of Notre Dame Sister Zetta LaVallée died at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn., Sept. 21, two days after 90th birthday. Born Mary Jacqueline LaVallée in Mossip, Conn., she entered the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1939 and earned a baccalaureate degree in education in 1962 from what is now Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore.

During her years in education ministry, Sister Zetta taught at schools in New Jersey, Florida and Virginia. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught at St. Margaret Mary School in Harrisburg from 1949-1961. For three decades, she ministered at Epiphany Parish in Venice, Fla., conducting parish ministry and being a companion to the aged. She moved to Villa Notre Dame in Haddonfield, N.J., and was long-time community director at Holy Family Parish, Steelton, where she was recently appointed Coordinator of Religious Education.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 13 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Mercy Center, Dallas, Pa. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Harrisburg.

Sister Josephine of St. Teresa
Sister Josephine of St. Teresa of the Community of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Danville, died Sept. 10 at Emmanuel Center in Danville. She was 90.

Born Ida Klara Koeppel in Widnau, Switzerland, she came with her family to America, where they settled in Lebanon. She was educated in Lebanon’s Catholic schools. She entered the Carmelite Monastery in Loretto, Pa., in 1948. In 1953, she and five other nuns made the translation in Mount Carmel, and the community moved to the monastery in Elyburg in 1961. Sister Josephine devoted many years to the translation of the works of Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta), a Discalced Carmelite nun and German Jew.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 15 in the Manor Hall Chapel, Danville.

Sister M. Frances deChantal Murray
Sister M. Frances deChantal Murray R.S.M., a member of the Sisters of Mercy - Mid-Atlantic, died Oct. 7 in Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill. She was 76.

The former Mary Ann Murray was born in Williams Barre, Pa., in May 1935. She was a graduate of Harrisburg Catholic High School. She received a degree in music education from College Misericordia, Dallas, Pa., and her Master’s degree in music education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

She spent the summer months of each year in Dallas, Pa., in 1952 and professed her solemn vows on Aug. 16, 1958. With the exception of a few years in Bayside, N.Y., Sister de Chantal spent her entire religious life ministering in the Diocese of Harrisburg. In the Catholic schools of Harrisburg, New Cumberland, Carlisle and Steelton, Sister de Chantal served as principal, administrator, and beloved elementary teacher for more than 50 years. She served more than 30 of these years at the former St. James Parish in Hanover, and currently Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton, where she was recently appointed the Coordinator of Religious Education.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 13 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Mercy Center, Dallas, Pa. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Harrisburg.

Elysburg Knights Present AED to Parish
Grand Knight Vic Lisiewski and Past Grand Knight Louis Odoziiri representing the Father Charles R. Slough Knights of Columbus Council 14161 of Elysburg presented a new 2011 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to Father Alfred Sceksi, pastor, after Mass Oct. 9. The AED will be available at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in case of any cardiac emergency.

Julie Lisiewski, R.N., instructed and certified nine adults in CPR and the use of the 2011 AED. She followed the Heart Savers course provided by the American Heart Association. Julie is a certified instructor who did an excellent job in preparing people in both areas Sept. 25. These people will be qualified to use the Defibrillator in an emergency at the Church.

Julie will provide another training session Nov. 20 in the Knights of Columbus Hall. The training will be open to all parish members. The Council purchased the AED unit and provided training to enhance the overall wellbeing of the parish community.

Jewish-Christian Study/Discourse to Focus on Isaiah
“Sharing I saiah: Common Prophecies, Contrasting Messages” will be offered Oct. 26, and Nov. 2, 9, and 16 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Beth El Temple in Harrisburg. The Jewish-Christian dialogue is convened by the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Project of the Religion and Society Center, and promoted by the Harrisburg Diocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs.

The Oct. 26 topic is “Where Are You, God?” and features presenters Rabbi Carl Choper and Father James Lease. The topic for Nov. 2 is “Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye” and features presenters Rabbi Eric Cytryn and Rev. Brooks Schramm, Ph.D. The Nov. 9 session examines “Messiah: God or Man” with presenters Rev. Deborah Volker and Rabbi Eric Cytryn. The topic of the Nov. 16 session is “Good News” with presenters Dr. Andrea Lieber and Father James Podlesny, O.S.B.

Cost, which includes lunch, is $15 per session. Register at mail@religionandsocietycenter.org or 717-232-5195. For general information about the sessions, contact Deacon Charles Clark in the Diocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs at 717-657-4804 or declark@hbgdiocese.org.
Sacred Heart School Launches Green Team Club

From Sacred Heart School in Lancaster

Get ready for the Green Team. Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster has a new afterschool club that offers fourth- to eighth-graders a chance to dig into gardening, explore where their food comes from and learn more about ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

In August, youth began their first major project — building and planting raised beds for a vegetable garden in a side yard of the school. It marked the start of the school’s “seed-to-table” program, inspired by the work of chef and author Alice Waters and meant to raise students’ curiosity about the food they eat and how food is grown.

“I live in the city, and a lot of the children who attend the school live in the city,” said club leader Stacie Seifert. “Sometimes, going to the grocery store, it’s not very obvious where the food does come from and what’s done to it before it ends up there.”

Through the project, children can see all stages from the garden to the table — and taste the difference in food “that hasn’t traveled 1,000 miles,” Seifert noted. As youth on the Green Team focus on growing and using the vegetables, teachers at Sacred Heart School will be able to use the garden as a laboratory to enhance experiential learning of their curricula with opportunities for learning in science, nutrition, finance, spirituality and math and language arts.

The Green Team is not all about dirt. In addition to gardening, students will be active in other projects, including a recycling station, where specific items such as egg cartons and yogurt containers will be collected for reusing and recycling. Students also will assist in conducting an energy audit of Sacred Heart School this school year.

Sacred Heart School, located in the city of Lancaster and administered by Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, serves 170 students from kindergarten to grade 8. The school’s mission, Seifert noted, focuses on educating the whole child. “This is part of our mission,” she said. “We have a responsibility to care for the earth that God has given us and not to do harm.”

Trinity Students Help Run Summer Camp in Jamaica

From Trinity High School, Camp Hill

Four students and two adult chaperones from Trinity High School in Camp Hill spent a week in Jamaica, not relaxing on a popular beach, but running a week-long summer camp.

Students Brigid Mumford, Maret Hench, Maggie McLaughlin, and Morgan White appeared on the week living, playing and praying with the 37 children, ages 3-18, at the Lady of Hope Children’s Home in Spur Tree, Jamaica. The home for orphaned and displaced children is run by the Roman Catholic Church and is located in the mountains of central Jamaica.

Trinity chaperones Sister Susan Kuk, admissions and activities director, and Denise Pieper, administrative secretary, accompanied the girls along with Sister Mary Henrick of Immaculata University in West Chester.

“We spent much of our time in the school house with the children, making crafts, ‘fixing’ puzzles, and calling Bingo games,” Brigid recalled. “On our first night and almost every other night, the four of us and the children danced to every song under the sun, from the Cha Cha Slide to all of Justin Bieber’s hits.”

“Countless games of ‘football’ and tag exhausted us, but it did not tire them at all,” she added.

In addition to the attention and camaraderie, the visitors brought gifts to the children. Throughout the year, Trinity students collected money, non-perishable food, clothing and school supplies for the children. Students in some homerooms sponsored a child and corresponded with the youngster.

“We were able to donate $5,000 for the school,” Sister Susan said. “Some of the money will be used to build a hurricane shelter on the property,” she added.

At the end of the week, the girls, in addition to the Jamaican youngsters, realized that they too received special gifts.

“As I reminisce about my time spent in Jamaica, I realize that Our Lady of Hope is the perfect patroness for these children,” Brigid said. “Although so many of the girls and boys were abused or abandoned by their parents, not a single one of them has lost hope in the world,” she explained.

“From dreams of being a musician to joining the military or going to college, they all have plans for their lives after they leave the orphanage. These kids are resilient,” she said.

Don’t Abandon God because of ‘Attacks of Evil’ in Church, Pope Tells Youth in ‘YouCat’

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI urged young people not to abandon their faith in God because of the “attacks of evil” within the church.

“Carry intact the fire of your love in this church every time that men have obscured her face,” he said in a foreword to a new catechism edited specifically for young people.

The new “Youth Catechism,” is also known as “YouCat,” focuses on educating the whole child. “This is part of our mission,” she said. “We have a responsibility to care for the earth that God has given us and not to do harm.”

In the foreword, the pope urged everyone to study the catechism “with passion and perseverance” either alone, in study groups or in exchanges with others online.

Today’s Christians really need to understand their faith more than ever before in order to resist modern day challenges and temptations, he wrote.

“You have need of divine help if you do not want your faith to dry up as a dewdrop in the sun, if you do not want to succumb to the temptations of consumerism, if you do not want your love to be drowned in pornography, if you do not want to betray the weak and the victims of abuse and violence,” he wrote.

“You must know what you believe; you must know your faith with the same precision with which a specialist in information technology knows the (operating) system of a computer; you must know it as a musician knows his piece,” the foreword said.

While not specifically mentioning the clerical sex abuse crisis, the pope acknowledged the effect it has had on the faithful and said “the community of believers has been wounded in recent times by the attacks of evil” and sin in the heart of the church.

“The community of believers has been wounded in recent times by the attacks of evil” and sin in the heart of the church.

“Do not take this as a pretext to flee from God’s presence; you yourselves are the body of Christ, the church?” he told young people.

Anthony Mary Claret

1807-1870
October 24

In Italy he was a weaver like his father, Anthony became a secular priest in 1835 but hoped to join a religious order. He became a Jesuit novice in Rome, but failing health prompted his return to Spain. For 10 years he conducted missions in his native Catalonia, before founding the Congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, or Claretians, in 1849. Even when he was archbishop of Santiago, Cuba, and chaplain to Spain’s Queen Isabella II, Anthony was committed to the Claretians’ mission of evangelization, especially through publishing.

All Saints

since ninth century

November 1

The Apostles’ Creed lists “the communion of saints” among Catholic beliefs, and since at least the ninth century the church has honored everyone in heaven, including angels, formally recognized martyrs and saints, and all those who had died in God’s friendship, with a November feast. As early as 411, the Eastern church celebrated a feast of all martyrs in May. The custom gradually spread to other regions and included nonmartyrs. In England the feast formerly was known as All Hallowes, that is, made holy, which gave rise to Halloween.
Diocesan Notebook
Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

A pro-life Traditional Latin Mass will be offered every third Saturday at St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg. Father Frank Parrinello, Chaplain of the Mater Dei Latin Mass Community, will celebrate the Mass followed by prayers in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the adoration chapel. Info by email to info@clubLatinMass.com or call 717-259-9426. Free Mass in the Croatian language will be celebrated Oct. 30 and Nov. 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Prince of Peace—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, in Steelton. Father John Perdue will celebrate mass.

Bread of the Word: A Prayer Vigil Service to remember loved ones who have died will take place at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church in Dauphin. Mass will be celebrated by Father Daniel F. Power, who will lead the service. Light refreshments by the parish bereavement ministry team will follow the service in the Divine Mercy Room.

Holy Vocations: The Saint Joseph Vocations Parish in Lebanon will host a parish mission led by Father Richard Boever, a Jesuit priest. Father Boever, a Jesuit priest for 32 years, speaks of the word of God with us, proclaimed through the Scriptures and Catholic Doctrine as well as his own personal experience. The service is scheduled for October 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. To register, call Carl Roberts at 717-939-7049.

Spiritual Offerings

A Holiday Craft Fair is sponsoring a Bingo Nov. 6. Cost is $15 for 20 games of regular bingo. Vendors are needed to sell seasonal items, prizes, food and fun. Admittance is $20. For information or reservations call, Anna Marie Berry at 717-228-9000.

Events & Fund-Raisers

St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg will host a family bingo night Oct. 22. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. There will be 50/50 draw prizes, ingredients, gifts and food and fun. Call 717-761-2543 for more information.

A benefit bingo for the Melendez family will be held Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. There will be 30 games of regular bingo andr 10 games of cover-4. Ticket Nov. 5. Cost is $15 for 20 games of regular bingo. Vendors are needed to sell seasonal items, prizes, food and fun. Admittance is $20. For information or reservations call, Anna Marie Berry at 717-228-9000.

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Pope Announces ‘Year of Faith’ to Help Renew Missionary Energy

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special “Year of Faith” to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others.

Celebrating Mass Oct. 16 with participants in a Vatican conference on new evangelization, the pope said the Year of Faith would give “renewed energy to the mission of the whole church to lead men and women out of the desert they often are in and toward the place of life: friendship with Christ who gives us fullness of life.”

The pope said the observance would begin Oct. 11, 2012 — the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council — and conclude Nov. 24, 2013 — the feast of Christ the King.

“It will be a moment of grace and commitment to an ever fuller conversion to God, to reinforce our faith in him and to proclaim him with joy to the people of our time,” the pope said in his homily.

Pope Benedict explained his intention more fully in “Porta Fidei” (“The Door of Faith”), an apostolic letter released Oct. 17 to formally announce the special year.

“Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy,” the pope wrote.

He said the Catechism of the Catholic Church, first published in 1992, should serve as the handbook for helping Catholics rediscover the truths of faith and deepen their understanding of church teaching.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he said, will publish a “note” to help people live the year “in the most effective and appropriate ways at the service of belief and evangelization.”

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters the document would be published by the end of the year; its tone will be pastoral, rather than doctrinal, giving bishops and Catholic faithful ideas for implementing the pope’s call to deeper faith and greater missionary commitment.

In his apostolic letter, the pope said the year’s focus will be on Jesus Christ because “in him, all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment.”

Pope Benedict said that in addition to studying the catechism and gaining a greater understanding of the creed, the Year of Faith also must be accompanied with more acts of charity.

Faith helps people recognize the face of Christ in those who are suffering, and “it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life,” the pope wrote.

Pope Benedict said Catholics cannot “grow lazy in the faith.”

“What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end,” he wrote.

The papal Mass and announcement of the Year of Faith followed a daylong conference Oct. 15 sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.

Workshop for Parish Archivists
November 19 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The Diocesan Department of Catholic History and Archives will present this workshop for lay parish archivists. The workshop will include instruction in the preservation of parish heritage. Ed Wickenheiser, retired WGAL-TV News Director, and Teresa Weisser, Librarian at Millersville University, will share how they are preserving the heritage of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbus.

Parish archivists, members of archivist committees, parish secretaries and volunteers are encouraged to attend. The workshop is for both new and experienced archivists.

Cost of the workshop is $15, including snacks, lunch and materials. RSVP by Nov. 4 to the Archives Department at 717-657-4804.
Horn of Africa Risks ‘Lost Generation’ Due to Famine, Says Cardinal

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

Not only are millions of lives at risk in the Horn of Africa due to hunger and drought, those who escape the famine then risk becoming a lost generation due to a severe lack of stability, education and resources, said Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum.

“A whole generation being lost,” he said during a Vatican news conference Oct. 7.

The only way to guarantee a future after the humanitarian crisis abates, he said, is to create schools where skills, communities and futures are built.

Cardinal Sarah said a panel of speakers presenting ideas came out of a Vatican-sponsored meeting with major Catholic charitable organizations on the situation in the Horn of Africa.

Pope Benedict XVI, who appealed Oct. 5 for increased aid, wanted the meeting so Catholic agencies could review the current situation and look at ways the church is responding to the humanitarian emergency, the cardinal said.

“It’s the first time that Cor Unum has thought of gathering Caritas [agencies] to reflect and respond to the concerns of the Holy Father,” he said.

Cor Unum also invited a representative of the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury for the meeting.

Cardinal Sarah said the pope had received a letter from Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams expressing his concern over the situation unfolding in the Horn of Africa. Cor Unum was then contacted “to see what we could do with other Christian communities and use our skills in responding to the crisis,” Cardinal Sarah said.

“Faith communities have a distinctive role to play” in addressing crises because they are already a part of the local communities and help with long-term development, which in turn helps communities become more resilient to future catastrophes, Archbishop Williams wrote in a separate message to Cardinal Sarah.

The archbishop wrote that he hoped the meeting would mark the start of “new opportunities for ecumenical collaboration” as well as concrete action that would continue to positively impact vulnerable communities.

According to the United Nations, 13 million people in the Horn of Africa are in urgent need of emergency aid, particularly in Somalia, where thousands of people risk death.

Caritas Internationalis has raised 31 million euros ($41.7 million) and was expecting to raise a total of 60 million euros ($80.7 million) to provide emergency food aid, clean water, sanitation, drought-resistant seeds, and develop water conservation systems, he said.

Ken Hackett, outgoing president of the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Relief Services, said the agency’s short-term and long-term projects have made a real difference in people’s lives. Those communities that were helped in past crises are much better off than people in areas CRS was unable to reach, he said.

“Our contributions, while very significant, do not over the years, are only a small part of what needs to be done” because the scope of problem is so great, he added.

Roy called on the international community to step up donations and help Somalis with nation building since, he said, one of the root causes of the instability and hunger is the lack of a central government.

Bishop Giorgio Bertin of Djibouti, who also is apostolic administrator of Mogadishu, Somalia, said the church must also find ways to collaborate with Muslim organizations that provide aid for those affected by the food crisis.

He also supported the emphasis on building schools, saying Catholic schools “are the best combatants against terrorism” because people from diverse ethnicities, religions, nations and backgrounds come together in Catholic institutions where they learn “to live together and respect one another.”

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

The best advertisement for vocations to the priesthood, it is often said, is a happy priest.

That’s why Msgr. Robert Panke, newly elected president of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, hopes research showing that priests are happy in their lives gets wide play.

“Vocations directors already know that, but it was great to see some ammunition,” Msgr. Panke said at an Oct. 5 symposium highlighting the conclusions in Msgr. Stephen Rossetti’s new book, “Why Priests Are Happy: A Study of the Psychological and Spiritual Health of Priests.”

“Now we have to get the news out,” he added. “Too many people think the priest-hood is a sad, lonely life.”

Director of the Office of Priest Formation and Vocations in the Archdiocese of Washington for the past nine years, Msgr. Panke was named last year as rector of the archdiocese’s new Blessed John Paul College Seminary, which is to be formally dedicated Oct. 22.

He was the closing speaker at the day-long symposium, held on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Msgr. Panke said one of the biggest obstacles to his vocation work is the opposition of parents.

“They believe the lie that priests are not happy, and they want their children to be happy,” he said.

Bishops “would be wise to encourage every one of their priests to look at himself as a recruiter,” he said, noting that although 80 percent of seminarians say a priest’s encouragement was a primary factor in their decision to become a priest, only 30 percent of priests say they have given such encouragement.

Msgr. Panke also discussed the state of screening and formation of seminarians, saying that the U.S. Catholic Church is “doing a much better job in a rapidly changing culture.”

When Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, recruited Peter, Andrew, James and John “fishers of men,” as recounted in the fourth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, there was “no interview, no battery of tests, no psychological interview,” Msgr. Panke said.

“Jesus can do that; we need to do a little more work,” he added.

But he said vocations directors and bishops also need to know when to turn down a candidate for the priesthood who is not ready.

“There is a lot of brokenness out there, and we have seen the world of harm that a lack of screening can do,” he said.

Msgr. Panke emphasized Msgr. Rossetti’s conclusions about the importance of personal prayer in the life of every priest.

“Prayer is key to happy and healthy priests,” he said. A priest who prays at least 30 minutes a day “is less likely to be emotionally exhausted because Christ is feeding him,” he added.

The Washington priest said he was personally buoyed by Msgr. Rossetti’s findings that retired priests are the happiest of all.

“That gives me great hope that it just gets better and better and better,” he said.

Truth about Happy Priests Will Aid Vocations Promotion, Priest Says

By the Catholic News Service

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Anthony Dill
Ordained to Diaconate

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Anthony Dill, a seminarian of the Diocese of Harrisburg, was one of 35 seminarians of the Pontifical North American College in Rome to be ordained to the diaconate Oct. 6. William Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, celebrated the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Altar of the Chair.

Deacon Dill, 26, is a native of Holy Infant Parish in York Haven. Father Edward Malesic, pastor of Holy Infant, was the vesting clergy for Deacon Dill during the ordination.

“It was so cool to be ordained with 34 other men who have become really good friends over the last couple years,” Deacon Dill told The Catholic Witness via e-mail. “It was also an honor to be vested by my pastor, Father Malesic. I was overjoyed to have so much family and friends come from the USA to share such a special moment with me.”

Deacon Dill will have an additional year of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood. Deacon Dill said his ministry will include serving as deacon and preaching a few times a month at St. Susanna, the American parish in Rome. He will also serve in liturgies and teach third- and fourth-grade religious education classes.

Deacon Dill is the son of James and Virginia Dill. He is a graduate of Kent Land High School in Lewisberry, and Messiah College in Grantham, and attended St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., prior to entering the Pontifical North American College.

“I think it’s so cool, so empowering and relieving, to have finally made solid and definitive promises to define how I will live my life,” Deacon Dill said.

Anthony Dill Ordained to Diaconate

Above: Deacon Anthony Dill receives the chalice and prepares to distribute Communion during Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at which he was ordained a deacon.

Right: Deacon Anthony Dill, far right, recesses from St. Peter’s Basilica with 34 other seminarians from the Pontifical North American College who were ordained deacons in Rome Oct. 6.

Remembering Loved Ones ~ All Saints and All Souls

The Church’s upcoming observance of All Saints Day on November 1 and All Souls Day on November 2 offer an opportunity to remember our deceased loved ones and to ponder God’s promise of eternal life.

All Saints Day celebrates all those who are in heaven, and All Souls Day focuses on the holy souls in purgatory who are preparing to enter heaven. This time of year prompts the faithful to pray for the dead, and to visit the graves of beloved family and friends.

Cemeteries are sacred grounds, places to remember, to heal, to pray and to build faith. They provide perspective and meaning to life and death, and to life everlasting.

As Catholics visit the graves of their loved ones, they can draw hope in God’s promise of eternal life.

Diocesan Cemeteries

HARRISBURG
Holy Cross, 4075 Derry Street
Mount Calvary, 500 South 13th Street
Resurrection, 116 South Oak Grove Road
717-545-4205

LYON
Holy Cross, 1810 Jay Street
717-273-7541

MCCONNELLSBURG
Gate of Heaven, 1333 York Street
717-697-0206

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS