Honoring the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

In front of a congregation at St. Patrick Church in Carlisle – where Father Andrew J. Fontanella served for 27 of his 58 years as a diocesan priest – Father William C. Forrey, current pastor, said the late priest was known as a poet, philosopher, theologian, writer, musician, golfer and boater.

But the role of which Father Fontanella was most proud was pastor, Father Forrey said.

“If anyone had asked him of all the things he had done and all the things he was, what was the most important thing in his life, his answer would have been that he, Andrew J. Fontanella, poured out his life as a priest,” Father Forrey said in his homily during the funeral Mass Oct. 18 at St. Patrick's.

Father Fontanella, a retired priest of the diocese, died Oct. 11 at Alice Byrd Tawes Nursing Home in Crisfield, Md. He was 86.

Born March 30, 1928, in Patterson, N.J., he was a son of Andrew and Lucy Vuolo Fontanella. He attended St. Michael’s School in Patterson, Don Bosco High School and Don Bosco College in Newton, N.J., before entering St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, Pa. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg by Bishop George L. Loech on May 10, 1956, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.


In 1976, Father Fontanella began his 27-year pastorate at St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle, where he served until his retirement in June of 2003. He eventually moved to Crisfield, Md., where he assisted at several Eastern Shore parishes.

Father Forrey recalled the story at Father Fontanella would tell about his arrival to St. Patrick’s. “He would say, ‘There was $39 in the bank account, and I had a $5,000 payroll to meet.’”

He secured a bank loan for St. Patrick’s, and “took a parish that was broke and struggling, and in his 27 years turned this parish into a thriving community,” Father Forrey said.

Father Fontanella led the parish in the construction of its school in 1986 and its addition ten years later. He also oversaw the restoration of the parish’s shrine church, and initiated the project to build the Parish Activity Center, which was named in his honor during the dedication in the summer of 2011.

“Countless people say to me that Father Fontanella’s...
Pope Francis warned against several temptations that he said had been present during the two-week synod.

One of the temptations he cited was that of “hostile rigidity” that seeks refuge in the letter of the law, “in the certainty of what we know and not of what we must still learn and achieve.” This temptation, he said, is characteristic of the “zealous, the scrupulous, the attentionate and — today — of the so-called traditionalists and also of intellectuals.”

Another temptation for the synod fathers, the pope said, was that of “destructive do-goodism, which in the name of a misguided mercy binds up wounds without first treating and medicating them; that treats symptoms and not causes and roots. It is the temptation of do-gooders, of the timorous and also of the so-called progressives and liberals.”

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement that he was “grateful that the clarifications and deepening of scriptural and theological reflection shine consistently” through the final report. “Now the real work begins!”

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Beatifying Blessed Paul VI at the concluding Mass of the Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis praised the late pope as the “great helmsman” of the Second Vatican Council and founder of the synod, as well as a “humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his Church.”

The pope spoke during a homily in St. Peter’s Square at a Mass for more than 30,000 people, under a sunny sky on an unseasonably warm Oct. 19.

“When we look to this great pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle, we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and important: thanks,” the pope said, drawing applause from the congregation, which included retired Pope Benedict, whom Blessed Paul made a cardinal in 1977.

“Facing the advent of a secularized and hostile society, [Blessed Paul] could hold fast, with farsightedness and wisdom — and at times alone — to the helm of the barque of Peter,” Pope Francis said, in a possible allusion to “Humanae Vitae,” the late pope’s 1968 encyclical, which affirmed Catholic teaching against contraception amid widespread dissent.

The pope pronounced the rite of beatification at the start of the Mass. Then Sister Giacominetta Pedrini, a member of the Sisters of Holy Child Mary, carried up a relic: a bloodstained vest Blessed Paul was wearing during a 1970 assassination attempt in the Philippines. Sister Pedrini is the last surviving nun who attended to Blessed Paul.

In his homily, Pope Francis did not explicitly mention “Humanae Vitae,” the single achievement for which Blessed Paul is best known today. Instead, the pope highlighted his predecessor’s work presiding over most of Vatican II and establishing the synod.

The pope quoted Blessed Paul’s statement that he intended the synod to survey the “signs of the times” in order to adapt to the “growing needs of our time and the changing conditions of society.”

Looking back on the two-week family synod, Pope Francis called it a “great experience,” whose members had “felt the power of the Holy Spirit who constantly guides and renews the Church.”

The pope said the family synod demonstrated that “Christians look to the future, God’s future ... and respond courageously to whatever new challenges come our way.”

The synod, dedicated to “pastoral challenges of the family,” touched on sensitive questions of sexual and medical ethics and how to reach out to people with ways of life contrary to Catholic teaching, including divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, cohabitating couples and those in same-sex unions.

“God is not afraid of new things,” Pope Francis said. “That is why he is continually surprising us, opening our hearts and guiding us in unexpected ways. He renews us; he constantly makes us new.”
Now is a Good Time to Talk about Mental Health and Wellness

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

At some point in our lives, we experience overwhelming difficulties. From troubled marriages and rebellious children, to anxiety about the loss of a job or depression over the death of a loved one, sometimes things just become too much to bear.

Sure, we have our usual coping methods to deal with the stress – long walks, reading, yoga class, workouts at the gym, or a night out with friends. But sometimes those methods aren’t enough, and we need some professional help.

Now is a good time to talk.

Catholic Charities offers professional counseling in a wide spectrum of areas, tailored to suit each person’s need. Counseling is available for children, adolescents and adults.

At four offices located in the Diocese of Harrisburg (see the locations and contact information in the accompanying box), masters-level therapists are ready to offer individual, couple, family or parent-child counseling sessions.

Often, people can be reluctant to seek counseling. Maybe they’re unsure about telling someone their problems, or worried that “something might be wrong” with them because they need some help.

But mental health is just as important as physical health, says Kate Downes, Associate Executive Director for Catholic Charities’ Outpatient Behavioral Services.

“Mental health and wellness is the new focus. Wellness refers to the degree to which someone feels positive about themselves and life. It’s when an individual can realize his or her own abilities, cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and be able to make a contribution to his or her community,” she said.

“We talk about wellness so we can appreciate that – just like our physical wellness – we all need to pay attention to our mental health,” she said.

Catholic Charities Counseling Services offer personal and confidential office settings at their four locations, with bilingual services in Lancaster.

Their therapists are social workers, counselors, and psychologists. Psychiatrists supervise the therapists and oversee all client treatment plans. They are board certified, and licensed for adults and children.

If you want to talk about your faith during counseling sessions, the therapists can do that.

“We can help people look at their spiritual life, if they wish, as well as the issue that is troubling them,” Mrs. Downes noted. “We can take a holistic-approach to helping people balance their life.”

But if you would rather not talk about your faith, the therapists can honor that request too. They work within the framework of Catholic social teaching, and are prepared to discuss issues relating to the annulment process and the Church.

Catholic Charities Counseling Services accept:

- Medical Assistance (Medicaid). Those without insurance, and those who cannot afford their co-pays, are offered a sliding fee scale or discounts for private payment. Private insurance is not accepted.

- Keeping with Catholic Charities’ mission of serving everyone, the counseling offices are open to all people – regardless of their ability to pay. “We are able to accept clients regardless of insurance or income because of the support of the annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal, the United Way, and donations to Catholic Charities,” Mrs. Downes said.

- Most of us can use some help at some point in our life. Often, we find it in our support system of family, friends or pastors. But sometimes we need more.

“If you’ve experienced a major change in your life recently, the loss of a loved one, major job change, an illness of your own or someone you care for, you might be feeling emotional stress, and seeking professional help,” Mrs. Downes said.

Catholic Charities’ therapists can also treat children and adolescents dealing with stress, anxiety or depression.

Parents might notice a change in their child’s behavior, like withdrawal, frequent crying, outbursts of anger, or fear of going to school.

“Many kids need help dealing with school stress, a major transition, loss or illness in the family, or a traumatic event. In these situations, your child might want to discuss his or her feelings with a therapist,” Mrs. Downes advised. “Be sure to speak to caregivers and teachers who interact regularly with your child and discuss your concerns with your child’s doctor.”

“It’s important to know that people, even those with the most severe depression, can get better with treatment,” she said. “It’s also important to get help early.”

Catholic Charities therapists will work with you to help make lifestyle changes with small, short-term goals to overcome stress, anxiety, depression or other mental health issues.

Call one of their four offices, listed at left and start a conversation with one of the therapists. Now is a good time to talk.

Catholic Charities Counseling Services

Taking the first step is the hardest part. You can get information about resources from your primary care provider or your health insurance carrier.

Office Locations

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<th>Capital Region</th>
<th>Lancaster</th>
<th>York</th>
<th>Abbottstown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>939 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111</td>
<td>925 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602</td>
<td>253 East Market Street, York, PA 17403</td>
<td>6156 West Canal Road, Abbottstown, PA 17301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>717-233-7978</td>
<td>717-299-3659</td>
<td>717-845-2966</td>
<td>717-259-9537</td>
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Catholic Charities’ Annual “Come and See” Dinner

November 4 at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

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

All proceeds benefit the residential Homes for Healing, located in the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg.

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

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

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

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

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

Correction

A photo of Trinity High School’s girls’ volleyball in the October 10, 2014, edition, incorrectly identified Jordan Haas as Katie Goyette. Both girls are co-captains on the team.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

October 25 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Theresa Church, New Cumberland, 10 a.m.
October 26 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Andrew Church, Waynesboro, 2 p.m.
October 27 – Opening Prayer at LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
October 28 – Blessing of the Lab Learner Room at St. Theresa School, New Cumberland, 9 a.m.
October 29 – Catholic Charities Annual Luncheon and Board Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon.
October 30 – Keynote Address at York Catholic Business Professionals Dinner, York Country Club, 6 p.m.
November 1 – Celebant and Homilist at Diocesan Mass Recognizing Persons with Disabilities, St. Pius X Church, Selinsgrove, 5 p.m.
November 2 – Celebant and Homilist at St. Joseph Parish 150th Anniversary Mass, Hanover, 3 p.m.
November 3 – Sacred Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, Hanover, 7 p.m.
November 4 – Keynote Speaker at Catholic Charities’ Come and See Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.
November 5 – Celebrate Mass and visit Our Lady of Lebanon Regional School, Coal Township, 11 a.m.; Celebrate Mass at Coal Township Prison, 1:30 p.m.
November 6 – Keynote Speaker at St. Thomas More Dinner, Allenberry Playhouse, Boiling Springs, 6:30 p.m.
November 7 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lebanon, 7 p.m.
November 8 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Hope Church, Coal Township, 11 a.m.; Attend Holy Spirit Hospital Gala, Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill, 6 p.m.

LARC Day of Dialogue

October 27
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The Decree on Ecumenism at Vatican II

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s historic Decree on Ecumenism, Unitatis Redintegratio. This decree, along with the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, impacted the lives of Roman Catholics, Lutherans and Episcopalian in ways that we now take for granted.

Our 2014 LARC Day of Dialogue will be a celebration of this “golden jubilee” in the life of the Church. We are pleased to have the internationally known speaker, Dr. Massimo Faggioli, to offer his insights on the formulation of this document at Vatican II. Time will also be set aside for participants to speak to the ongoing relevance of the Vatican II decree as our communities move forward ecumenically.

Cost of the day is $30 for a single registration, $25 for two registrations from the same parish, and $20 each for three or more registrations from the same parish. Register online at www.bhdioece.org/LARC2014.
In Celebration of Black Catholic History Month

Did you know that November is Black Catholic History Month?

In July 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States voted to establish November as BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH, honoring the men and women from Africa who pioneered the faith! Many forget that Christianity did not begin in Europe. Black Catholics have had a huge impact on the history and traditions of Christianity.

They chose the month of November because there are several dates in that month that are important to Catholics of African descent, most especially the death and feast day of Saint Martin de Porres (November 3) and the birth of Saint Augustine (November 13), and the Church has been celebrating ever since.

November 1 – All Saints Day

This day provides an opportunity to review the lives of hundreds of saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the Church.

November 2 – All Souls Day

This day offers a remembrance to all those Africans lost to cruel treatment in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

November 3 – Feast of Saint Martin de Porres

He was canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 16, 1962, becoming the first black American saint. He died on November 3, 1639, and throughout his life he exemplified God’s love for all people regardless of their status or level in society.

November 13 – Commemorates the Birth of Saint Augustine of Hippo in 345 A.D.

He became the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa. His feast day is August 28. He was the son of Saint Monica of Hippo, whose feast we celebrate on August 27.

In the world today, there are 270 million people of African descent in the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world.

Worldwide Count of Black Catholics
- Africa = 141 million
- Latin America = 105.9 million
- Caribbean and North America = 21 million
- United States = 3 million

For more information about the diocesan Black Catholic Apostolate, please contact:
Gwen Summers at 717-232-6285 or gwmsumm@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE

Diocesan Mass in Celebration of African American and African Catholic Faith and Culture

January 18, 2015, at 12:15 PM, at Saint Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist.
Geisinger Health System and Holy Spirit Health System Affiliation Approved

By Lori Moran
Special to The Witness

Employees, physicians, officials and guests attended a joining ceremony Oct. 16 at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill to celebrate Holy Spirit becoming an affiliate of Geisinger Health System. The affiliation became official earlier this month following final approval from the Pennsylvania Attorney General and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The organizations announced the signing of a letter of intent in September 2013 and a definitive agreement in June, 2014.

“We are pleased to receive the necessary regulatory approvals and thank the Attorney General and Department of Health for their diligent review of this transaction,” said Geisinger Health System President and Chief Executive Officer Glenn Steele, Jr., MD.

“We welcome the Holy Spirit team into the Geisinger family and look forward to working together to benefit the people of south central Pennsylvania. Holy Spirit has a 50-year history of providing high quality, compassionate care, and we are pleased to affiliate with an organization that shares our commitment to value and doing what is right for patients and the community.”

“Our affiliation with Geisinger is tremendous news not only for Holy Spirit, but more importantly for the people in our community who will benefit from our efforts to provide innovative and collaborative medical services,” said Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC, FACHE, Holy Spirit’s Chief Administrative Officer. “We, too, thank the Attorney General and Department of Health for their review and approval.”

Holy Spirit will continue to benefit from the expertise of its local board of directors and the sponsorship of the Sisters of Christian Charity, as well as Geisinger’s nationally recognized accomplishments. Representatives from each organization will sit on the Geisinger Health System Foundation and Holy Spirit Health System boards of directors.

“It’s time to get to work on implementing evidence-based medicine programs, enhancing capabilities, facilities and clinical services, and improving population health in the Harrisburg area,” said Dr. Steele.

Geisinger and Holy Spirit are recognized for quality care, advanced technology, operational strength and extraordinary physicians and employees, all of which represent the necessary resources to create an even more accessible, efficient and effective healthcare delivery system for the region. In addition, Holy Spirit participates in the Geisinger Health Plan provider network.

The organizations share a number of awards including U.S. News and World Report Best Hospitals, Health Care’s Most Wired hospitals and health systems, Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers, American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition, “A” Hospital Safety Scores by The Leapfrog Group, Joint Commission Accreditation/Recognition, Blue Centers of Distinction for cardiac care, spine surgery, knee and hip replacement.

For more information on Geisinger Health System, visit www.geisinger.org. For more information on Holy Spirit Health System, visit www.hsh.org.

Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg ~ Spiritual Renewal

The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg is undertaking a spiritual renewal program this fall with the “Christ Renews His Parish” process.

This spiritual renewal calls together members of parish to experience personal conversion and Christian community.

It is designed to bring parishioners together in Christ, through a clear focus on the Gospel and continued growth in Christian life through Scripture study, prayer, the sacraments and fellowship. It was introduced at the Cathedral Parish by a team of members of St. Andrew Parish in Newtown, Pa., through a weekend experience for men held Oct. 11 and 12. A weekend for women will be offered to Cathedral parishioners on Nov. 8 and 9.

During the weekend experience, parishioners have an opportunity to examine how they live their Catholic commitment to Christ.

Father Thomas Rozman, pastor of the Cathedral Parish, participated in the men’s weekend, which was held at the parish with an overnight experience that began Saturday evening and concluded Sunday afternoon. Reflections, small group discussions, prayer, Scripture and liturgy fill the weekend.

“Having experienced it myself, the weekend is a wonderful way for people to take a look at how important their faith is, and where the Lord is calling them to continue to grow in their faith,” Father Rozman said.

“Christ Renews His Parish” was brought to the attention of Father Rozman and the parish pastoral council by a parishioner who had experienced it at a former parish. The renewal fit hand-in-hand with the pastoral council’s recent study of the book, “Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus” by author Sherry Weddell.

“We all strive to get to know what our faith teaches and to live according to the moral laws of the Church, and we always have to ask ourselves, ‘Do I have that personal relationship with Jesus?’” Father Rozman remarked. “We found that ‘Christ Renews His Parish’ is a wonderful way for people to examine that question.”

“Christ Renews His Parish” is a national renewal. It is introduced from one parish to another. Once licensing is purchased, it can be implemented how parishes see fit.

“I hope the renewal sparks parishioners to become intentional disciples,” Father Rozman said. “That involves day by day, hour by hour choices to follow Jesus and put his way of life into everything we do and everything we are.”
Adoption is a wonderful gift. Though sometimes portrayed in negative ways by the media, most experiences of adoption are beautiful love stories—such as the one Jenny* shares below.

My husband Bill and I have been married for six years. Having children and raising a family had always been our expectation. By the time we were married, most of our siblings and friends already had children, so of course we were excited and ready to be parents ourselves. We soon learned, however, that having children of our own might not be so easy.

We made a few trips to multiple cities to be treated by wonderful doctors who have helped so many couples conceive, but everything we tried was unsuccessful. We felt so hopeless at times. Words can’t even explain this experience of loss.

Fortunately, our marriage only grew stronger, because we were there for each other and continued to rely on God. This didn’t always come easily, but it helped that Bill has a great sense of humor, and we were able to laugh at some of the crazy situations and conversations that came with infertility.

Since we knew our chances of becoming pregnant were small, it wasn’t very long before we started talking about the possibility of adoption. However, it wasn’t an easy decision, and I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would my biological child. There were also so many other variables to consider, one of which was the expense involved, and we had already spent so much money on infertility treatments. We felt we had no control, but God reminded us again that He is always in control and of his love for us. We realize now that we could trust in Him.

We were so frustrated that we started talking about the possibility of adoption. However, it wasn’t an easy decision, and I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would my biological child. There were also so many other variables to consider, one of which was the expense involved, and we had already spent so much money on infertility treatments. We felt we had no control, but God reminded us again that He is always in control and of his love for us. We realize now that we could trust in Him.

With prayerful discernment, we decided to start the process of adopting a child from Ethiopia. After arriving, we met the birthmother, Andrew, and her birthfather, Bill. Andrew is two years old now, and it is the most surreal experience. We spent the next day and a half with Andrew and his birthmother in the hospital getting to know each other a bit. It was hard to know what to say to her, knowing she was making the hardest decision of her life, knowing the pain she must be experiencing, and feeling that I was the one causing this pain. It was such an emotion- al roller coaster to hold and look at this precious baby, wondering if I would really be his mother.

Thankfully, the birthmother decided to maintain her decision to place her child with us. Later that evening, Christmas Eve, Bill and I left the hospital with Andrew. It didn’t take long before there was no doubt in our minds that he was our son, the greatest gift from God! He really is our Christmas miracle.

Andrew is two years old now, and it is so clear to Bill and me that God picked him for us. We can’t imagine loving a child whom we conceived more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well. More and more every day we are so thankful to his birthmother for her selfless decision.

It is so hard to express in words what a unique experience adoption has been for us. It has been quite a journey facing infertility, as well as so many unknowns and acts of kindness and sacrifice—all with so many emotions—which led to the growth of our family. There were times when our faith was shaken and we weren’t sure if we could handle our cross. But adopting Andrew has made us more aware of God’s power and of his love for us. We realize that he always has a perfect plan for our lives.

Jenny and Bill (all names have been changed for privacy) would like to encourage you be open to the gift of adoption. Is God calling you to consider adopting a child or placing your child for adoption? To learn more information, contact Catholic Charities Adoption Services (717-564-7113).
Looking at the men and women gathered at the diocese’s Respect Life Conference, Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, asked for a show of hands from those who have ever offered pro-life witness at abortion clinics.

Nearly everyone in the conference room at the Cardinal Keeler Center raised their hand.

“When we go to pray outside an abortion facility, do we go there to harass people, to point fingers of condemnation?” he asked. “No, we are to go there to extend hands of mercy, of strength, of welcome, of help.”

“We go there not to take people’s rights away, but to take their despair away and replace it with hope, the hope that gives them the courage to say yes to life,” he said. “We say to them what Jesus says to us, ‘I am with you.’ We don’t go there to say, ‘I am against you.’ We say, ‘I am with you. Take my hand, and let me lift you up to hope, to strength.’”

“We must offer compassion to the women considering abortion, and those who work in the abortion industry, so that they can find healing,” Father Pavone said.

“We need to face the truth that no abortion is necessary, and that no abortion is forgivable,” he remarked.

The conference was hosted Oct. 18 by the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities, for which Father Paul CB Schenck is Director. The day began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer, and featured Father Pavone as keynote speaker. It also included workshops on sidewalk counseling, pro-life options for parents who receive a poor prenatal diagnosis, the use of technology in pro-life ministry, and end-of-life issues.

Teens Carissa Mazeika of St. Columba Parish in Bloomsburg and Jessica Resuta of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg were among the participants, and told The Catholic Witness that they were seeking to find ways to become more involved in the pro-life movement.

“Especially in these past few years, I’ve been really involved in the pro-life movement as I’ve come to learn more about it,” said Carissa, 17. “I’m here today because I want to get practical information about how I can become involved to speak for those who are defenseless.”

At one of the conference’s display tables, Jessica was talking to Carissa about the 40 Days for Life campaigns that take place in various parishes and towns throughout the diocese, typically during Lent and in October, which is Respect Life Month.

“I think our generation is becoming more of a pro-life generation, and so much of that is because of how we can reach out with the truth especially through our involvement and with social media. We have to continue in those efforts,” said Jessica. The 15-year-old, whose parents lead the pro-life ministry at her parish, said she’s looking to make a difference in promoting a culture of life.

In his keynote presentations, Father Pavone underscored that “Pro-life is not just a cause or a movement, or a task. It is a spirituality.”

“It is an aspect of discipleship. It is part of who we are as followers of Christ,” he said. “When we talk about the pro-life movement, we are talking about applying the love of God and love of neighbor to our neighbors who are still in the womb, our neighbors who are at the end of life. We love our neighbor and recognize their rights by speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves.”

People outside the Church may define Catholics as “those people who oppose abortion,” Father Pavone said. “Yes, we are against abortion, but it’s not some tangential or fringe part of what we believe. It goes to the very core of what we believe.”

That Church teaching on the sanctity of human life will not change, he said.

“People outside the Church want to argue that maybe the Church’s teachings on abortion will change. The Church’s teachings about life aren’t going to change.”

“The teaching doesn’t come from any man, including the pope,” he said.

“The teaching we propose, the teaching we believe, comes from God. He entrusts it to us.”

Father Pavone commended the efforts of those involved in promoting a culture of life through prayer, through pro-life witness, and through support of pro-life pregnancy centers. He also pointed to the ongoing efforts of Priests for Life, which works to spur the clergy to preach and teach in an effort to end abortion and euthanasia; and which connects a number of ministries that are involved in the pro-life movement. These efforts include the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, who live a pro-life spirituality; Rachel’s Vineyards retreats, which offer healing for women and men who have lost a child to abortion; and the Silent No More awareness campaign through which women and men publicly share the wounds they experienced after an abortion. Information on these and other ministries associated with Priests for Life can be found at www.priestsforlife.org.

“We dedicate ourselves to fighting the culture of death not wondering ‘if’ we will have the victory. We do it knowing that we have the victory, even now,” Father Pavone said. “There is still a war to be fought in defending life…but the outcome has already been decided, because Jesus Christ is Risen.”

“Death has been defeated, and the Kingdom of Life is victorious. As we fight this very real battle, let us proclaim, celebrate and serve the victory.”
Christanity’s most studied, tested and analyzed relic is “without a doubt” the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, two renowned scientists told about 200 people recently at a special Shroud of Turin conference at the historic Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Conewago.

“I believe the Shroud of Turin is indeed the burial and resurrection cloth of Jesus Christ,” said Dr. John Jackson, physicist and lead scientist on the 1978 Shroud of Turin Research Project and now director of the Turin Shroud Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. “We got good data and let the scientific hypothesis develop from that.”

Knights of Columbus Council 13692 of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown hosted the two-day conference presented Oct. 17 and 18 by Dr. Jackson and his wife, Rebecca. She is an ethnologist, an expert on the first century Jewish background of the Shroud and co-founder of the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado.

The Shroud of Turin, a linen cloth measuring 14 feet, 3 inches by 3 feet 7 inches, bears the image of a man who appears to have suffered physical trauma consistent with crucifixion. Millions believe it is the burial cloth which wrapped Jesus’ body after his crucifixion and death.

The Shroud is preserved in an underground vault in the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Turin, Italy. Dr. Jackson’s fascination with the Shroud began when he was a teenager. In 1974, he began seriously studying the Shroud. Four years later, he led a 40-person team of international scientists in a week-long examination of the Shroud.

He noted that Scripture describes how St. Peter and St. John ran to Jesus’ tomb after learning that the entrance stone had been moved and Jesus’ body was missing. There, they saw the burial cloth.

“John said that he saw the burial cloth and believed that Christ had risen,” Dr. Jackson said. “Saying he believed was an act of faith. Science and religion come together at the tomb of Christ.”

Dr. Jackson said that based on consensus that later evolved in the Christian Church, the Shroud could have been a tablecloth used at the Last Supper Jesus shared with the Twelve Apostles. He said that the practice of placing a linen cloth under the Eucharist may symbolize that tablecloth used at the Last Supper.

Rebecca Jackson said that the Shroud is a first century Jewish cloth that “without a doubt” was Jesus’ burial cloth.

Some researchers have said that radiocarbon dating ties the Shroud’s origin to the 14th century. Other scientists refute that, saying that the radiocarbon test samples were from a corner of the linen repaired centuries later, or that contamination from atmospheric carbon monoxide rendered the radiocarbon test findings inaccurate.

Dr. Jackson and other researchers from the Shroud Center of Colorado have a theory called the “radiation fall-through hypothesis.”

They have suggested that the body wrapped in the Shroud became radiant and mechanically transparent with no resistance to the Shroud, which allowed the cloth to collapse and fall through the radiant body space due to gravity. The then-irradiated Shroud aged and the image of the man developed later.

“People love the Shroud of Turin,” said Dr. Jackson, adding that he and his wife are Catholic. “Not just Catholics love it, but other Christians too.”

Luz Socrates of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, local conference coordinator, said that some people are “Shroud enthusiasts” with a serious interest and knowledge about the Shroud. She said others are devoted to “the holy face of Jesus and would like to know more.”

Still others, she said, gained their Shroud knowledge from documentaries and reading and want to learn about it from the experts.

The attendees are mostly Catholic, most from parishes outside Hanover,” she said. “There are some Protestants too.”

The Jacksons founded the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado, where he continues researching the Shroud, publishing his findings, and educating the public on scientific data and forensic evidence about the cloth.

Over the years, they have given their faith-based Shroud of Turin program from Italy to Israel, from Chili to Cuba and in many other nations. They recently returned from Norway, where they presented the conference to more than 200 people.

Both Jacksons are graduates of the four-year Catholic Biblical School and the two-year Catholic Catechetical School, both in the Archdiocese of Denver. In 2007, both were invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

(Mary Klaus is a freelance reporter for The Catholic Witness.)
Lancaster Catholic Nets Berths in State Tennis

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Elizabeth “Lil” Veronis is a textbook example of progression.

In District 3 AA singles tennis competition, the Lancaster Catholic standout finished third as a sophomore, earned silver as a junior, and finished her championship ladder climb to capture gold here in her senior year.

Veronis won the singles title Oct. 13 at Hershey Racquet Club, topping Berks Catholic’s Lin Robertson 6-4, 2-6, and 6-4. She will enter the PIAA state tennis singles tournament when it begins its two-day event on Oct. 31.

Three days after earning district gold for herself, Veronis joined her fellow Crusaders on the courts for a match-up against AA tennis powerhouse Wyomissing. Last year, the Crusaders won the school’s first team title in district tennis, but this year, Wyomissing returned to its championship status, topping Lancaster Catholic 3-2 in the finals on Oct. 16.

Scoring was tight between the two teams, with the Crusaders winning singles matches by Veronis and senior classmate Rachel Fazzini. But the top-seeded Spartans dominated doubles play, and clinched points in the number three singles match to eventually take district gold.

At press time on Oct. 21, Lancaster Catholic was heading to the first round of state team tennis competition, with a match against the Lehigh Valley’s Moravian Academy, the number one seed from District 11.

Lourdes Student-Athlete Exels in the Classroom and in Sports

From Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School

Selina Albert, a freshman student at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township, excels in the classroom and in athletic competition.

She is a member of the Saint Bernadette Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Our Lady of Lourdes, and is active in many community projects while maintaining academic excellence. She is a committed and dedicated practicing Catholic, and a young lady who lives her faith, demonstrates her dedication to the Catholic Church and its teachings, and who, at a young age, believes in service to others and unselfishly shares of her time and talents for honorable and worthy endeavors.

Selina is a role model for others, whether playing sports or participating in noble activities such as SADD, Respect Life, or Girls Action League. Academically, she excels in her assigned studies, and serves on the staff of the school yearbook.

This year, Selina is participating in soccer, the previous season, averaging 11.3 points per game as a seventh grader, and 11.8 points per game as an eighth grader, also leading the team with 21 three-pointers. Selina will be a candidate for the perennial power of District IV Basketball Class A as a guard or forward.

She is also an accomplished athlete. She placed second in golf in the Schuylkill League Girls’ Championship. The Schuylkill League is comprised of 22 public and private schools representing Schuylkill, Carbon and Northumberland Counties. Her season average in golf was 98.6. Selina qualified for the District IV individual championship and advanced to the second round of District IV playoffs, narrowly missing an advance to the Eastern Regional by just one stroke.

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In soccer, Selina led the team with 12 goals, playing center forward. She played junior high basketball the previous season, averaging 11.3 points per game as a seventh grader, and 11.8 points per game as an eighth grader, also leading the team with 21 three-pointers. Selina will be a candidate for the perennial power of District IV Basketball Class A as a guard or forward.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Albert of Shamokin. Her younger sister, Alessandra Albert, also attends Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School.

Confirmation is Not Graduation

Catechists Plant Seeds for Life

Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

I have a very clear memory of my CCD class (now more commonly referred to as Religious Education) when I was in eighth grade. I remember the teacher asking us to bring in a song about Jesus. The song I chose was “Spirit in the Sky” by Norman Greenbaum. I remember the instructor’s face when my song began to play—some confusion first, and then a bit of humor once he recognized the song. I’m sure now that my instructor probably meant something different with his request. The song was actually written by a Jewish man who wanted to sell Gospel music.

So what does this have to do with Religious Education? For me, it points out how much the catechesis of youth has changed! The youth today are given many incredible ways to bring Christ into their lives. Now, when I attend youth events and hear them singing along with amazing music about God, I actually get a little jealous. And upon visiting Richard Groff, the Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, and a classroom there, I see how much has changed since my time of continuing Catholic education.

Mr. Groff has been involved in religious education in one form or another for more than 30 years. He continues to share his time with the youth program at Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia, where he grew up and grew in his own faith.

He has taught at different colleges, but always felt a pull toward religious education. “I would spend more time preparing for my religious education lessons, for which I was a volunteer. I had a passion for this,” he told The Catholic Witness “My faith is so important to me. It’s been a gift given to me from my parents and grandparents, and to be able to share it with other people is truly a blessing.”

Though he credits a strong Catholic upbringing in the faith, he also reflects about the influence of Sister Anna Cosgrave, OSF, from Holy Trinity. “She has been a great inspiration to my spiritual life, just seeing her vocation and how she so beautifully reflects Christ to everyone she comes into contact with,” he said. “She’s a very special person and certainly that has a great impact on me and my on my spiritual life, too.”

Catechists play an important role in the lives of the children they meet, just as Sister Anna did for Mr. Groff. As she has been able to share a special part of her vocation with the youth around her, Mr. Groff also plays an important role as a male catechist. So often these roles are filled or even sometimes assumed as one for women. Mr. Groff encourages males to be involved as catechists. He expressed that it is important for young people to see men who are enthusiastic about their faith and share it; that it is not just limited to clergy.

There are married couples who serve together as catechists, too. At Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Mount Joy, Bob and Mary Jakielski have been working together as religious educators since the 1990s.

They see parish life as a way to connect parishioners as a family, and work in their efforts as catechists to bring that full circle. “As any director of religious education will tell you, this isn’t just about the kids, it’s about the family,” Mrs. Jakielski said.

Mr. and Mrs. Jakielski even encourage students who study at a Catholic school to still attend religious education because they feel it unites the church as a community. Mrs. Jakielski noted, “It’s much easier for [Catholic school students] to be involved with the parish because a lot of times all their activities are at the school and they forget to be involved at the parish. And, it helps with the adults because kids bring the adults.”

Mr. Jakielski said religious education is life changing. “It’s a life choice if you’re going to be a disciple or not. It’s not a class, it’s not something you get an A, B, or C for. It’s something you assimilate and you take into your life.”

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation does not equate to graduation from a religious education program, the catechists point out. “The standard attitude is that after Confirmation, young people don’t have to come back to the church. That’s not so. We try to plant as many seeds as we can” to help them continue to grow in the faith, Mr. Jakielski said.

Mr. Groff remarked, “I always tell the children this is a lifelong process, especially our eighth graders. Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation. We are just beginning with our Catholic faith.”

“We wouldn’t stop at eighth grade in any other subject matter to function in society,” he said. “Today we advance to many other degrees. Why not with our faith?”
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Reveals Spiritual Artwork during Mass

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

On the feast day of St. Luke, Oct. 18, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg revealed beautiful portraits of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph with the Christ Child.

In his homily during the celebration of Mass to bless the artwork, Bishop Ronald Gainer said that he found it to be a fitting day to celebrate a commissioned artist, Father Peter Gray, S.S. who created the two portraits.

St. Luke is known as the first painter of icons, and it is said that he created the first portraits of Mary and Joseph. Making it more fitting, the parish revealed the paintings—a portrait of the Blessed Mother holding a Rosary and another of Joseph and the Christ Child—that same day.

Father Gray is a full time artist whose work of Saints John XXIII and John Paul II are on display at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Another grand accomplishment includes a portrait of Pope Francis displayed in the Hall of Popes at the Nunciature [Vatican Embassy] located in Washington. These are just samples of his résumé, and so it is a great privilege for Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish to display his artwork.

The lifelike portraits of the Blessed Mother and of St. Joseph and Christ are prominent in the narthex of the church. Just after the Communion Prayer, Bishop Gainer, Father Alfred P. Sceski, pastor, Father Gray, Father Raymond Orloski, and Father William Havi-land, a priest in residence at the parish, walked to the narthex for a blessing of the paintings. Parishioners watched from their seats as Bishop Gainer prayed over the paintings and incensed them.

“The paintings are exactly what I had hoped for,’’ said Father Sceski, who had several e-mail and phone conversations about the portrait of Mary with the artist.

“This was an act of faith,’’ said Father Gray, who explained that the only specific information he was given was that Father Sceski wanted Mary to have a silver crown. The rest was left up to the artist. “The portrait had to be unique, appropriate and tradition-
The Supreme Court’s decision to allow for same-sex marriage licenses does not mean that the work is done. As Cortez Kmeit, the President of the National Rifle Association, said, “The work is just beginning.” While the decision may be seen as a victory by some, it is important to remember that there are still many challenges ahead.

The medical community has been quick to respond. The American Medical Association issued a statement emphasizing the importance of continued education and training for medical professionals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also released guidelines for healthcare workers on how to safely care for patients with Ebola.

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The decision to allow for same-sex marriage licenses is a significant step forward. However, it is important to remember that there are still many challenges ahead. As Cortez Kmeit, the President of the National Rifle Association, said, “The work is just beginning.” The medical community has been quick to respond. The American Medical Association issued a statement emphasizing the importance of continued education and training for medical professionals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also released guidelines for healthcare workers on how to safely care for patients with Ebola.
Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg will hold its Holiday Craft Fair, sponsored by the Parish Council of Catholic Women, on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish center. There are 22 vendors with a variety of unique handmade items, crafts, jewelry, home decor,高压锅, gift cards, goods, holy cards and much more. En\vjoy lunch and dessert from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy at 717-532-7354.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Mary’s Parish Center. Handmade items, gifts, baskets, jewelry and breakfast and luncheon menu.

St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women’s annual Christmas Bazaar will be held Nov. 1 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joan of Arc School in Harris\vberg. Grandma’s attic treasures, fleamarket, baked goods, jewelry, craft items, baked goods and toys. Changes will be won to win baskets of unique gifts. Breakfast and lunch will also be available.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg will hold its Holiday Craft Show on Nov. 1 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school gym. The show will feature vendors and home made items to purchase for Christmas gifts. The kitchen will be open.

Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish in Myerstown will hold a vendor and craft show on Nov. 1 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free admission.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in McSherrystown will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 1 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with breakfast and lunch served by Peg Staub and crew. Fall decorations, Christmas crafts, stuffed animals, silent auction, outdoor decorations, vendors and handmade furniture.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar, “All That Glitters,” on Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Nov. 8 from 9 a.m.-noon. Hand crafted items, aprons, baby blankets and totes, Christmas decorations, ornaments, angels, Santas, snow people, floral decorations and a chance tree. The kitchen will be open Friday or breakfast, lunch and dinner. For information, call the church at 717-569-8531.

St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar the weekend of Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Theme baskets raffle, pierogies, halushka, halupki, homemade soups, fried rice, egg rolls, empanadas, ta\fas, nut rolls, cookies, cakes, pies and the homemade candy selection, raisin clusters, peanut butter balls, white chocolate with peppermint or pretzels and more. Something for everyone at our craft table and white elephant table.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster will host its 29th annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the cafeteria at Resurrection Catholic School. The theme is “Making Memories.” The Christmas Ba\zara is unique among the other parishes selling crafts. All items for sale are either made or donated by parishioners or local businesses. Food, crafts, holiday decorations, gifts, wreaths, jewelry and sweets and more. There is also a Children’s Shopping Room to provide small children the opportunity to shop by themselves for family members. Items include themed gift baskets, photographs, tickets to a local dinner theater, gift certificates to local businesses and restaurants. Attendees do not need to be present to win. Musical entertainment by accordionist, Cody McSherry.

St. Joseph Parish in Hanover will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be available. Vendors include: Cookie Man, Panpered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Granny’s attic and much, much more.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg will hold its 54th annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Xavier Center. Local vendors and artisans on hand. Browse Fair Trade gifts, coffees, teas, and chocolate. We also have a “Handmade Holiday” with all baked goods, and religious articles. Visit our Cafe offering breakfast items and lunch. Enter our raffles to win a fantastic gift basket. For more information, call 717-334-8331 or visit www.sfxcpcw.org.

St. Mary’s Women’s Societies’ annual holiday bazaar will be held Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Nov. 9 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Divine Mercy Hall. The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York. Homemade crafts, attic treasures, book bazar, Santa’s Shop, raffles, baked table, homemade crafts, Mrs. Claus’ Kitchen and more. From the kids, a Gingerbread house workshop. For more information, call the parish office at 717-845-7629.

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar & Craft Show on Nov. 8 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the parish hall, located on the corner of Broad and Main streets. All handmade and unique items to help with your Christmas shopping. Homemade soup and bread lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Holy Family Parish in Harrisburg are joining together for a holiday ba\zara Nov. 8 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Holy Family Parish. Handmade crafts and gift items: baked goods, pies, fruitcakes, candy, raisin clusters, peanut butter balls, and much more. Enter for a chance to win our baskets of unique gifts. Admission is free.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville will host its 44th annual Bazaar and Craft Show on Nov. 15 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Handmade crafts of decorating and gift giving, as well as a Sweet & Bake Shoppe offering homemade cookies, candies, pies, cakes and more.

The Sacred Heart Home and School Association in Hanover will hold the annual Sacred Heart School Christmas Craft Show & Bazaar on Nov. 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the grounds of the basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Conewango. Handmade baked goods, raffles, a silent auction, lunch and much more; and for the little ones and the young at heart, Santa Claus will be on hand. For more information, contact the school office at 717-632-8715. All proceeds benefit the children of Sacred Heart School.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel will hold its Christmas Fair on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in Divine Redeemer Office/St. Peter’s Church and in Divine Mercy Hall. Homemade foods, beverages, baked goods, crafters and vendors, and raffles and an auction for decorated Christmas trees.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove will hold its Christmas bazaar, “Advent Avenue,” on Nov. 22 in the parish center. Breakfast with Santa at 8 a.m. features breakfast prepared by Father Thomas Hoke. Pizza and under the bazaar tent, vendors held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring Gingerbread houses, Advent wreaths, cards for our homebound parishioners. Browse our Secret Santa Shop and the participating vendors, bid on a decorated Christmas tree, raffles, face painting, homemade soup and pies. Entry and parking are free. Families must register for supplies for Gingerbread houses and Advent wreaths. For more information, call the parish office at 717-352-7354.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown will hold its Holiday Bazaar Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase. For information, call Alice at 717-590-9601.

St. Aloysius Parish in Littlestown will hold its Holiday Bazaar Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish hall. Breakfast, lunch, delicious snacks, homemade baked goods, unique crafts and raffles. Vendors include: Stampin’ Up, Tastefully Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl and many more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6885 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

St. Columba School in Bloomsburg will host its Winterfest Craft and Food Festival on Nov. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school cafeteria and gym. Eat in or take out delicious homemade lunch selections and baked goods, beverages, baked goods, unique crafts and raffles. Vendors include: Stampin’ Up, Tastefully Simple, Thirty-One, Tupperware, Origami Owl and many more. For more information, or to rent a table for $20, contact Karen at 410-346-6885 or e-mail jklproctor@verizon.net.

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Harristown Parishioners Elected in Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem

Giovanni and Maria DiSanto, members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harristown, were recently elevated in rank in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem during the annual investiture at St. Patrick Catholic Church in New York.

Mr. DiSanto was elevated to Knight Commander with Star. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem originated in 1099, when St. Godfrey de Bouillon, a leader of the First Crusade, Harristown, took forth knights to guard the Tomb of Christ, which had been liberated from the Turks. Pope Adrian IV formally confirmed the Order in 1113. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem serves as one of the highest papal awards conferred on those who have done meritorious work for the Church. Today, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem serves as a means of preserving and spreading the faith in the Holy Land and providing support to its parishes, schools and other projects.

We women are acknowledged by their parishes:
- St. Patrick: Margaret Noll
- St. Monica: Martha Share-A-Thon a Success
- St. Catherine of Immaculate Heart in Moscow, Pa. The Holy Family Radio recent Share-A-Thon was a tremendous success.
- St. Catherine: Siena of Robert Paulson.
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DeSales Secular Institute Celebrates Jubilee

The DeSales Secular Institute received a first class relic of St. Francis de Sales and brought with her a congratulatory Papal Blessing from Pope Francis. In addition, a Directress General, Angela Haucke from Cologne, Germany. She was elevated to Lady Commander with Star and Knight Commander with Star, respectively, last year.

For more information about secular institutes or about the upcoming Year of Consecrated Life, visit the United States Conference of Secular Institutes at www.secularinstitutes.org.
Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland by Father Francis Aguma, parochial vicar of Praise and Life in the Spirit prayer groups. For information, call 717-414-4144.

Cathedral at St. John of Arc Church in Hershey will be held Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. Father Plus Michael Tukura will preside on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Social and Eucharistic Adoration. A reception will be held immediately following the Cathedral. For more information, call 717-264-2828.

An interfaith prayer service for Holy Spirit Health System Providers and their families will be held Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill. RSVP to 717-673-2118.

St. Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville will host an afternoon of reflection for men and women on several first Fridays, and offer time for “Reflective Adoration” in deep, relaxing, quiet, in the setting of the Villa Mansion Chapel. Receive the gift of serenity and before leaving, enjoy a cup of tea and conversation. The next afternoon of reflection will be Nov. 7 from 1-4:30 p.m. Father Joseph Skotch will be the presenter. For information, call St. Cyril Spiritual Center at 717-373-5959.

The Rosary for America and the World is prayed every second Saturday of the month on the square in New Oxford on foot. For more information, contact St. Cyril Spiritual Center at 717-373-5959.

The Cumberland-Perry Parish Council of Catholic Women will host a 25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Dr. Michael & Mrs. Mary Ficca of Harrisburg Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs event room. Dr. Ficca’s conversation is part of the parish’s “Grace of Praise and Life in the Spirit prayer groups. For information, contact Marcella at 717-243-5441 or Patty Dowling at 717-386-1074.

The Presbyterian Church USA in Lebanon will host a trip Dec. 2 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J. Price of $95 per person includes lunch, motorcoach transportation from Harrisburg to New York JFK, round trip flight to and from New York JFK, Director, 9 nights accommodation in 4-star and superior hotels, all meals, transportation by private deluxe motorcoach, roundtrip domestic motorcoach transportation from Harrisburg to New York JFK, roundtrip flights to and from New York JFK. Tickets are on sale through August 1. For more information, contact Karen Hurley at 717-519-1686, or k.m.hurley1@gmail.com.

Marty Gira of York Catholic High School School Council will host a trip Dec. 6 to New York City. Open at 7 a.m. and returns at approximately 6 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Hurley at 717-519-1686, or k.m.hurley1@gmail.com.

St. Vincent’s “Autumn Breeze” dance featureing “Bingo” will be held Nov. 7 at the Good Shepherd Playhouse in Hanover. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the dance takes place from 7-11 p.m. Tickets are $15 and include food, drink, beverage and a “Reflective Adoration” in deep, relaxing, quiet, in the setting of the Villa Mansion Chapel. Receive the gift of serenity and before leaving, enjoy a cup of tea and conversation. The next afternoon of reflection will be Nov. 7 from 1-4:30 p.m. Father Joseph Skotch will be the presenter. For information, call St. Cyril Spiritual Center at 717-373-5959, ext. 327, or e-mail k.m.hurley1@gmail.com.

Retreats & Pilgrimages

Join Father Kenneth Smith on a Pilgrimage to Ireland May 11-21, 2015. Tour includes: Daily Mass, professional guide, all tips, 7 nights accommodations, 3-star hotels (3 nights in Dublin, 1 night in Cork, 2 nights in Killarney, 1 night in Galway, 1 night in Knock) in single or double rooms, all meals except 2 dinners, travel insurance, airport transportation by private deluxe motorcoach, roundtrip domestic motorcoach transportation from Harrisburg to New York JFK, roundtrip flights to and from New York JFK. Tickets are on sale through June 1. For more information, contact Karen Hurley at 717-519-1686, or k.m.hurley1@gmail.com.

Bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to Wine, Whiskey and Song.”

Trinity High School in Camp Hill will host an annual trip to the “Autumn Breeze” dance featuring “Bingo” will be held Nov. 7 at the Good Shepherd Playhouse in Hanover. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the dance takes place from 7-11 p.m. Tickets are $15 and include food, drink, beverage and a “Reflective Adoration” in deep, relaxing, quiet, in the setting of the Villa Mansion Chapel. Receive the gift of serenity and before leaving, enjoy a cup of tea and conversation. The next afternoon of reflection will be Nov. 7 from 1-4:30 p.m. Father Joseph Skotch will be the presenter. For information, call St. Cyril Spiritual Center at 717-373-5959, ext. 327, or e-mail k.m.hurley1@gmail.com.


The St. Francis Xavier Parish Adult Education Program is presenting a five-week series on Marian Theology and Marian Spirituality on Wednesday evenings through Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for St. John. Dr. Barbara Lower, STD, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the西岸在该国。Altogether, the couples in the Cumberland-Perry Parish District parishes who were married in 1988 are invited to attend this celebration. The couples will share their journey in marriage from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg. Contact John Knowles, Adult Education Coordinator, at 717-877-4422.

The Council of Catholic Women of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Camp Hill will hold a trip to Williamsburg, Va. Oct. 25, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish social hall. Pasta with meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert. Cost is $8 for adults, $4 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6.

Dr. Bunson’s conversation is part of the parish’s “Grace of Praise and Life in the Spirit prayer groups. For information, contact John Knowles, Adult Education Coordinator, at 717-877-4422.

Dr. Matthew Bunson, author of the first English-language biography of Pope Francis, will be in Harrisburg Oct. 12 to present “What Makes Pope Francis Tick?” at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Bunson is a noted speaker and author of numerous books in the “Uncorked” series, which provides a casual social setting for discussions of a variety of topics and series of talks. All presentations are free.


The Pennsylvania Conference of Catholic Women of the USA is once again hosting its An-
Voters’ Guide

**Meet the 2014 Candidates for Governor**

**By The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference**

There are many issues on the minds of Catholic voters in this election. On November 4, Election Day in the Commonwealth, we have important political choices to make.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference invited both candidates for Pennsylvania governor to share their views. Incumbent Governor Tom Corbett (Republican) sat down for an in-person interview and completed a written questionnaire (the complete interview transcript and survey responses are available at www.pacatholic.org). Democratic candidate Tom Wolf declined the PCC’s interview invitation and did not respond to the candidate questionnaire. Information about his views was therefore compiled from his campaign website and public statements.

**On Life and the Dignity of the Human Person**

Corbett opposes legalized abortion except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. He said in his interview, “I have always been there for the unborn.” He cites the increased safety standards for abortion facilities and the law prohibiting coverage of elective abortions in the health insurance exchanges as the best examples of what he has done to protect life.

Corbett supports the death penalty and says, “It is needed as a deterrent and penalty for heinous crimes.”

Wolff says he has “always been a strong advocate on issues important to women” including “standing up for women’s reproductive rights.” He told the Jewish Exponent that he would repeal the Pennsylvania law that “does not allow women who signed up for health insurance from the Affordable Care Act exchange to purchase abortion coverage,” and “in addition to repealing this law, (he) will fight any legislation that places unnecessary restrictions on women’s health choices.”

Concerning the death penalty, Harrisburg’s PennLive reports that Wolf agrees that “a moratorium on the death penalty is in order while studying its value.”

**On Education**

Corbett supports school choice. His administration increased funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program and established the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program “to promote greater access to educational options.”

He also indicates that he would support increased funding for textbooks and instructional materials for nonpublic students if money is available in the state budget.

When asked about Pennsylvania’s educational tax credit programs, early in the campaign Wolf told the Jewish Exponent, “I do not think that public tax dollars should be diverted from our public schools to create a back-door voucher system.” Later, his campaign sent a revised statement to the Exponent, “The EITC program has been an effective tool to invest in education and support student learning in a multitude of educational settings. While Tom will not interfere with the EITC program, ensuring that every student has access to a high quality public school will be his top priority as governor.”

**On Covering the Uninsured**

Corbett believes Pennsylvania should use the additional federal funds under the Affordable Care Act to allow more people, including the working poor, to access the private insurance market. He says his Healthy PA program will “leverage federal dollars to improve access, quality and affordability of health insurance” for qualified individuals and families who currently are uninsured. His plan was approved by the federal government as an alternative to simply expanding Medicaid.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports that Wolf “welcomed the prospect of expanded access to health care for many Pennsylvanians under the compromise between the Corbett and Obama administrations.” He went on to say, “if elected, he would consider a more straightforward extension of Medicaid.”

**On Faith**

Corbett is a practicing Catholic and was educated in Catholic schools. He says his faith is part of who he is and his “decision making is certainly grounded in my personal faith, nor does his campaign website indicate his religion.

As Catholic citizens, we have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. The PCC offers resources serve to educate voters about the issues and allow us to inform our consciences about which candidate will act in the best interest of the common good. Learn more about the election and other important issues at www.pacatholic.org. Be sure to vote on November 4, 2014!
STATE GOVERNOR
(Bold denotes response received)

Tom Corbett (R)
Tom Wolf (D)

STATE SENATE
(Bold denotes response received)

Linda Small (D-28), Scott Wagner (R-28), John Eichelberger (R-30), Jacob Corman (R-34), Ryan Aument (R-36), Gary Schreckengost (D-36), Michael Folmer (R-48)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(Bold denotes response received)

John Lawrence (R-13), Ann Schott (D-13), Melinda Fee (R-37), Brian Kresge (D-37), Brett Miller (R-41), Alice Yoder (D-41), Keith Greiner (R-43), Keith Gillespie (R-47), Jesse Topper (R-78), Michael Fleck (R-81), C. Adam Harris (R-82), Garth Everett (R-84), Kristen Hayes (D-84), Frederic Keller (R-85), Mark Keller (R-86), Glen Grell (R-87), Sheryl Delozier (R-88), Robert Kasuffman (R-89), Paul Schlemel (R-90), Daniel Moulier (R-91), Michael Regan (R-92), Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-93), David Colen (D-94), Stanley Sayler (R-94), Kevin Schreiber (D-95), Michael Sturla (D-96), Charles Hample (R-97), Steven Mentzer (R-97), Anthony Crocano (D-98), David Hickenrell (R-98), Bryan Sanguinito (D-99), David Zimmerman (R-99), Bryan Cutler (R-100), Maureen Gingrich (R-101), Patricia Stephens (D-101), Russell Diamond (R-102), Patty Kim (R-103), Susan Helm (R-104), Eugene Stilp (D-104), Ronald Marsico (R-105), Kelly McEntee (D-105), John Payne (R-106), Kurt Masser (R-107), Lynna Schlegel Culver (R-108), David Millard (R-109), Michael Tobash (R-125), Mark Gillen (R-128), James Cox (R-129), Kate Knick (R-169), Kerry Benninghoff (R-171), Will Tallman (R-193), Seth Grove (R-196), Jill Bartoli (D-199), Stephen Bloom (R-199)

What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including non-public schools?

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): Support. My administration increased funding for the EITC program and established the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit to promote greater access to educational options.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): Support. I have been a leader in the fight for school choice.
Schreckengost (D-36): Oppose, as it’s unconstitutional. I am, however, for drastically lowering property taxes and shifting more of the tax burden to sales and income taxes, as well as a gas severance tax.

STATE HOUSE

Everett (R-84): Support.
Schemel (R-90): Support. While we have a Christian obligation to care for the poor, Pennsylvania cannot sustain the expense of extending welfare programs to undocumented immigrants.
Hickernell (R-98): Support.
Sanguinito (D-99): Support. The United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions grant rights only to our citizens. All immigrants must follow the law, just as our ancestors needed to do.
Stilp (D-104): Follow existing laws.
Marsico (R-105): Support.
Payne (R-106): Support.
Tallman (R-193): Support.
Bloom (R-199): Support. We must prioritize limited government services to benefit law-abiding persons.

What is your position on legalizing same-sex marriage?

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): Oppose.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): Oppose. I have sponsored the Marriage Protection Amendment and spoken on this issue state-wide.
Schreckengost (D-36): It’s already legal; it’s a mute point. If you’re against it, then don’t practice it.

STATE HOUSE

Everett (R-84): Oppose.
Schemel (R-90): Support.
Hickernell (R-98): Support.
Sanguinito (R-99): Support. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Civil law must recognize this. It’s the tradition of our ancestors and the will of God.
Stilp (D-104): Oppose.
Marsico (R-105): Oppose.
Payne (R-106): Oppose.
Knick (R-169): Oppose.
Tallman (R-193): Oppose.
Bloom (R-199): Oppose. I support traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

A. I support legalized abortion.
B. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
C. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): C.
Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

A. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.

B. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, but should contain exceptions in narrow circumstances to protect religious conscience for business owners.

C. Pennsylvania should not amend its anti-discrimination laws to add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes at this time.

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A. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.

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C. Pennsylvania should not amend its anti-discrimination laws to add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes at this time.

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): B. As the former Attorney General, I was responsible for a civil rights unit tasked with defending Pennsylvanians from discrimination. Pennsylvanians should not be denied housing or employment on this basis.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): D.
Schreckengost (D-36): C. I am for equality for all, but understand that certain religions, Catholic, Lutheran, Mormon, Jewish, Satanists, Islamists have certain codes. I simply don’t want those religions to affect people who aren’t a part of their particular denomination, as there is no “Universal” or “State Church” in this country. (Thank God).

STATE HOUSE

Everett (R-84): D.
Schemel (R-90): D.
Phillips-Hill (R-93): D.
Hickernell (R-98): D.
Sanguinito (R-99): A. Our Constitution guarantees all citizens equal rights under the law, no exceptions. We must honor the Constitution.

Stilp (D-104): B.
Marsico (R-105): D.
Payne (R-106): D.
Klunk (R-169): D.
Tallman (R-193): D.
Bloom (R-199): D. I oppose House Bill 300 and similar proposals that will lead to discrimination against those who exercise rights of religious conscience.

Assuming there is money in the state budget, what is your position on increasing funding for textbooks and instructional materials for non-public school students at the same rate as increases in subsidies for public school students?

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): Support. I would support increased funding for textbooks and instructional materials if money is available in the state budget.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): Support. The money should follow the student.
Schreckengost (D-36): None; it’s unconstitutional. I took an oath to defend the Constitution of the US when I was a soldier and I still live by it. Would you want public $ used to buy books for a Satanic school? An Islamic school? How about religious childcare and pre-kindergarten programs and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

A. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.

B. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith traditions.

C. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): B. My HealthyPI proposal is designed to leverage federal dollars to improve access, quality and affordability of health insurance available on the private market.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): C.
Schreckengost (D-36): B.

STATE HOUSE

Everett (R-84): B.
Schemel (R-90): B.
Phillips-Hill (R-93): B.
Hickernell (R-98): B.
Sanguinito (R-99): A. We should never allow political ideology to interfere with giving sick people the help they need.
Stilp (D-104): A.
Marsico (R-105): B.
Payne (R-106): B. The governor is making this federal mandate choice currently without legislation.
Klunk (R-169): B.
Tallman (R-193): B.
Bloom (R-199): B. Medicaid is a severely flawed program under which patients, doctors and taxpayers all suffer. It should not be expanded, it should be reformed.

What is your position on the death penalty?

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): Support. It is needed as a deterrent and penalty for heinous crimes.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): Oppose.
Schreckengost (D-36): Support; but only in limited instances. The state has a license to kill – either with police defending themselves or the Army destroying an enemy. Our society still wants a death penalty, but as a soldier who survived 222 days in combat, I know full well what killing/death does to one’s spirit/soul.

STATE HOUSE

Everett (R-84): Oppose.
Schemel (R-90): Oppose. Although the death penalty is just, I believe that in our current society, life sentences without parole better reinforce a culture of life.
Phillips-Hill (R-93): Support. I only support the death penalty in the most heinous cases.
Hickernell (R-98): Support.
Sanguinito (R-99): Support. With proof from DNA evidence, confessions and/or video surveillance, some crimes, such as raping and murdering children, merit the severest of punishments.
Stilp (D-104): Oppose. The Church does not have an except to the Commandment, Thou Shall Not Kill. Life imprisonment is the direction of the Church theologians.
Marsico (R-105): Support.
Payne (R-106): Support.
Tallman (R-193): Support.
Bloom (R-199): Support. It is appropriate for certain heinous crimes.

STATE GOVERNOR

Corbett (R): B.

STATE SENATE

Eichelberger (R-30): C. I could support standards for health and safety if the government would be objective.
Schreckengost (D-36): B.
STATE HOUSE

Everett (R-84): B.
Schemel (R-90): B.
Phillips-Hill (R-93): B.
Hickernell (R-98): B.
Sanguinito (R-99): B. As long as children are provided safe places to learn, religious schools not receiving state funds can teach whatever they want.
Stilp (D-104): B.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

(Bold denotes response received)

Scott Perry (R-4), Linda Thompson (D-4), Ryan Costello (R-6), Manan Trivedi (D-6), Mary Ellen Balchunis (D-7), Patrick Meehan (R-7), Alanna Hartzok (D-9), Joseph Pitts (R-16), Bill Shuster (R-9), Mary Ellen Balchunis (D-7), Patrick Meehan (R-7), Alanna Hartzok (D-9), Joseph Pitts (R-16)

Do you support or oppose legislation to continue and expand current federal laws that provide educational benefits to students and teachers in private and religious schools on an equitable basis in comparison to the benefits received by public school students and teachers?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. While private and religious schools play an important role in our education systems, I believe that limited taxpayer dollars are best put toward the public education system.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
Ostrowski (D-11): Support. As a proud product of parochial schooling, I believe we need to support these institutions as part of the fabric of our educational system.
Pitts (R-16): Support.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?
A. I support legalized abortion.
B. I oppose legalization in all circumstances.
C. I oppose legalization, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Shuster (R-9): C. I am proud of my long record of supporting the right to life and of my endorsement from the National Right to Life Committee.
Barletta (R-11): C.
Ostrowski (D-11): My views are much more complex than this survey permits. I stand strongly behind life-affirming policies. Please see my website for my full statement.
Pitts (R-16): C.

Do you support or oppose legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. The first step in immigration reform is border security. We must enforce our laws, then we can begin the conversation of reforming our immigration system.
Barletta (R-11): Oppose.
Ostrowski (D-11): Support. I believe proposals to “send them back” are against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate

Shuster (R-9): Support. I am proud of my long record of supporting the Hyde Amendment.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
Ostrowski (D-11): This question is awkward. The government should have no role in the health care choices of individuals, and should not mandate provision of specific services.
Pitts (R-16): Support.

What is your position on legalizing same-sex marriage?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. I believe marriage is between a man and a woman.
Barletta (R-11): Oppose.
Ostrowski (D-11): This is an awkward question. The cases have been properly decided under the law. I support the Catholic Church’s softened tone on this issue.
Pitts (R-16): Oppose.

Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care professionals, providers and institutions?

Shuster (R-9): Support. I have consistently supported legislation in the past on this issue.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
Ostrowski (D-11): The government should have no role in the health care choices of individuals, and should not mandate provision of specific services.
Pitts (R-16): Support.

Do you support or oppose efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to existing protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose.
Barletta (R-11): Oppose.
Ostrowski (D-11): Support. If our laws were fairly administered, such an amendment would not be necessary. Every person is entitled to equal treatment under the law.
Pitts (R-16): Oppose.

Do you support or oppose robust funding for poverty-focused assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed in foreign aid?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. While foreign aid has to play a role in international affairs, we should reduce spending in order to reduce our national debt.
Barletta (R-11): Depends on program and percentage of GDP.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Ostrowski (D-11): Support. As Christians, we have an absolute responsibility to care for the poor, and should promote all life-affirming policies. The role of government in these matters is debatable.
Pitts (R-16): Oppose.

Do you support or oppose robust levels of aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad and to provide adequate funding for the U.S. refugee admissions and resettlement programs?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. While foreign aid has to play a role in international affairs, we should reduce spending in order to reduce our national debt.
Barletta (R-11): Depends on how you define “robust.”
Ostrowski (D-11): Support.
Pitts (R-16): Support.

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

Shuster (R-9): Support. I am proud of my long record of supporting the Hyde Amendment.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
Ostrowski (D-11): This question is awkward. The government should have no role in the health care choices of individuals, and should not mandate provision of specific services.
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Shuster (R-9): Oppose. While foreign aid has to play a role in international affairs, we should reduce spending in order to reduce our national debt.
Barletta (R-11): Depends on program and percentage of GDP.

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. While private and religious schools play an important role in our education systems, I believe that limited taxpayer dollars are best put toward the public education system.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
Ostrowski (D-11): Support. I believe proposals to “send them back” are against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

Shuster (R-9): Support. I am proud of my long record of supporting the Hyde Amendment.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
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Pitts (R-16): Oppose.

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Shuster (R-9): Support. I have consistently supported legislation in the past on this issue.
Barletta (R-11): Support.
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Beautiful Rosary Garden Blessed at St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Now gracing the entrance to St. Joseph’s Parish and Life Center in Mechanicsburg are four beautiful granite stones strikingly etched with detailed depictions of Christ’s life in chronological order through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. The stones are handcrafted and stand more than five feet tall as part of a prayer garden that was designed and conceptualized by Haylee Boswell – a 2010 graduate of the school, a 2014 Trinity High School graduate, and now a freshman nursing student at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.

Ms. Boswell began the project under the tenure of Father Chester Snyder, who was the pastor until 2012 when Father Louis Ogden began his pastoral ministry there.

On the Feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Oct. 7, more than 500 students, faculty and parish faithful gathered outside the school for a blessing ceremony officiated by Father Ogden, who was joined by Father Jose Mera-Vallejos, parochial vicar, and Deacon Jack Paruso, who both also sprinkled the stones with Holy Water.

In addition to the blessing, the student choirs – vocal and instrumental – rendered a number of devotional musical pieces to honor the Blessed Mother.

Ms. Boswell was not able to attend the ceremony, given she is attending college, but Father Ogden spoke of her dedication to the school and parish as a lifelong member. Ms. Boswell, a Girl Scout for 12 years, has received her Bronze, Silver Religious and Gold Awards in scouting, and she initiated the project as a Girl Scout Gold Award, making it her mission to design, plan and create the Rosary Garden for the parish.

“Throughout the completion of my Girl Scout Gold Award, I was taught how to devise plans, find ways that the project can be properly executed, make connections and finish a goal,” she said. “I am very appreciative for the opportunity that I have had working with Father Ogden and parish manager Mr. John Durhle in order to form a tool which will teach classes how to pray the Holy Rosary.”

Members of the school choir offer spiritual selections during the blessing ceremony.

The Mysteries of the Rosary on granite stones grace St. Joseph School as students head to class. The project was the effort of St. Joseph and Trinity High School graduate Haylee Boswell.