Conference Keynoter Kimberly Hahn Recounts Journey of Understanding Mary on Road to Conversion

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“The V Encuentro is calling the Hispanic community to be what it is, and to begin the process of transformation and renewal in this way this year with the development and training of Hispanic community leaders recommended by their pastors.”

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“The Catholic Church in the United States is positioning itself for a paradigm shift with a vision to better respond to the presence of the Hispanic community, and to strengthen ways for Hispanic Catholics to respond to the call to serve the Church as disciples. Known as The V Encuentro (or Fifth Encounter), the process is one of reflection and action that calls all Catholics to activity, consultation, leadership, development and identification of best practices in the spirit of the New Evangelization to better serve Hispanic Catholics and call them to active involvement. The process has been proposed as a priority activity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Strategic Plan for 2017-2020, and is under the USCCB’s Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs and the Committee on Cultural Diversity. Yet, it is a process that begins at the grass-roots level, as Catholics in individual parishes, lay ecclesial movements, organizations and institutions are called to encounter Hispanic Catholics for their missionary discipleship. “The V Encuentro is calling the Hispanic community to be what it is, and to be part of the pastoral work in the United States,” said Father Luis Rodriguez, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg and co-chair – along with Jaclyn Curran – of the Diocesan Encuentro Team.

“[Mary] had the response I wanted to have: to say ‘Yes,’ no matter what the cost...”

–Kimberly Hahn

Kimberly Hahn, Catholic author and presenter and the wife of Catholic apologist Dr. Scott Hahn, delivers her keynote address at the diocese’s annual Women’s Conference Oct. 15. In her address, Mrs. Hahn spoke of her journey of understanding Mary and her entrance into the Catholic Church.

“Of all the obstacles that littered my path into the Catholic Church, none loomed larger than Mary.”

With this stunning statement to an auditorium filled with Catholic women, Kimberly Hahn began her keynote address at the diocese’s annual Women’s Conference.

Now a noted Catholic author and speaker, and the wife of renowned Catholic apologist Dr. Scott Hahn, Mrs. Hahn had grown up in a Protestant household which, she said, made no reference to Mary aside from her place in the family’s Nativity scene.

So when her husband, then an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian church, opened his heart to the Catholic Church after a course of study in the early 1980s, she was challenged to open her own heart to what the Church teaches about the Mother of God.

“To me, Mary represented diversion from true devotion to Our Lord,” Mrs. Hahn told some 850 women at this year’s conference, held Oct. 15 at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.

“I couldn’t understand how I could reconcile the love for Christ that I knew I shared with my Catholic brothers and sisters with an antagonism in my heart for Mary, his Mother,” she said.

While her husband was on his journey toward entering the Catholic Church, she felt challenged to at least examine Mary’s role in it.

“I began with the facts,” Mrs. Hahn relayed. “Who is Mary? What did she do?”

Factually, Mary was a human being, a virgin who loved God and wanted to serve him faithfully. She responded ‘Yes’ to God’s plan without counting the cost.

“I could see in her heart’s response to the Lord that she had the response I wanted to have: to say ‘Yes,’ no matter what the cost, and to immediately re...”

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“‘V Encuentro’ Calls Hispanic Community to Action in the Church”

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“We want them to be disciples who are already present to enact their gifts and be a leaven in the Church in the United States,” he told The Catholic Witness.

The four-year process for V Encuentro is underway this year with the development and training of diocesan teams. In Harrisburg, 42 people serve on the Encuentro team – separate from the Diocesan Hispanic Apostolate – and include representatives from diocesan offices and Hispanic diocesan lay leaders recommended by their pastors.

On Nov. 19, the Diocesan Encuentro Team will meet to prepare for Parish Encuentro during Lent 2017, in which they will visit parishes to begin communication on how to make the faith more accessible to Hispanic Catholics in the diocese. These efforts will lead up to a Diocesan Encuentro planned for Sept. 23, 2017, followed by a Regional Encuentro with a date to be determined.

Diocesan and regional-level celebrations will be followed by the National Encuentro Sept. 20-23, 2018, in Dallas, Texas, a gathering of lay leaders,

More ENCuenTrO, page 3

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spend to the will of God,” said Mrs. Hahn. “Yet I was still not ready at all to accept her.”

She recalled how she cried when she heard that her husband – with whom she often debated about Mary and Church – owned a Rosary.

“Sometimes Scott would walk out of the house after a debate and I knew by the jingle of those beads that he was headed out to pray the Rosary,” she said.

“I believed Mary was in heaven and I believed she was perfect, and that’s quite the contrast to go from being with your argumentative and opinionated wife to taking a walk with the most wonderful woman in the world, and I resented that,” Mrs. Hahn remarked. “I felt like there was another woman in my husband’s life, and I don’t know how you compete with the Mother of God.”

At the Easter Vigil in 1986, Scott Hahn joined the Catholic Church.

“I knelt down and I wept,” Mrs. Hahn relayed. “My heart was broken.”

“I said to Scott, ‘I want you to know that you have abandoned me,’ and he walked out the door with the jingle of those beads,” she said. “I didn’t even know how our marriage was going to survive this.”

She was now left to reconcile the antagonism she felt for Mary with her love for Mary’s Son, and she took it to prayer.

“There was something new in that prayer,” she recalled. “Instead of it feeling like it was Scott versus me, now I was actually opening up my heart to the Lord to teach me something on Mary.”

She learned that the Church teaches that Mary is a human being. That her sinlessness is due to the fact that she was saved from sin from the moment of conception. That her entire salvation was owed to the mercy of God.

“Soon the bitterness and resentment that I had in my heart began to melt away,” Mrs. Hahn said.

Though she still wasn’t ready to pray the Rosary, she did enter the RCIA process and began to study the Church in depth, with a sense that God was calling her to join the Church, four years after her husband did.

On Ash Wednesday, 1990, while asking God in prayer what she should give up for Lent, Mrs. Hahn heard the Lord say, “Why don’t you just give up.”

That Easter, she entered the Church.

And she finally picked up a Rosary to pray, because, she said, “the Lord gave me enough humility to pray it.”

Scott and Kimberly Hahn, residents of Steubenville, Ohio, recount their experiences in their co-authored book, “Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism.” Today, they both continue to witness to the faith in speaking engagements and through other books.

“I want to challenge you,” Mrs. Hahn told the women at the conference. “Learn your faith. Understand your faith. Embrace it,” she said. “Find out why you believe what you believe, because your knowledge, but also because your children and your grandchildren need to know why we believe what we believe.”

“I became a Catholic because it’s what I believed,” she said.

The Women’s Conference featured Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer; the offertory collection benefitted the Silence of Mary Home in Harrisburg, which supports the poor and disadvantaged. The day also included time for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praise and worship music by Women at the Well, and three sessions of breakout workshops.


**Special Collection for Hurricane Matthew Relief to Be Taken November 12 and 13**

Earlier this month Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 hurricane, caused massive destruction to significant parts of the Southeastern coast of the United States as well as some countries in the Caribbean, with Haiti experiencing unimaginable devastation, destruction and loss of life.

While many government and social aid agencies, like Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, have been working tirelessly to bring comfort and relief to tens of thousands affected by the hurricane, the road to restoration will be long and additional support will be needed.

In times of tragedy, the Church is always a primary source of healing and peace; however in these regions the Church itself is both an aid responder and a victim. So many of the Church’s structures have been damaged and resources depleted.

To assist in this recovery the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for an emergency collection. The funds collected through this special collection will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA as they reach out to provide humanitarian aid in the form of water, food, shelter, and medical care, as well as to their long-term efforts to restore communities after widespread destruction, and to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church in the Caribbean and the United States.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, a second collection for the people and the Church impacted by Hurricane Matthew will place the weekend of November 12/13. Parishioners are asked to put their donation in an envelope marked Hurricane Relief. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Diocese’s Annual Catechetical Conference**

*Saturday, November 12 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg*

“Jesus, I Trust in You: Catechists Leading Others to the Truth, Love and Mercy of Christ”

**Principal Celebrant and Homilist of the Mass: Bishop Ronald Gainer**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio,** noted Catholic speaker and best-selling author

Cost of the conference is $30 per person, and includes keynote address, workshop sessions, Mass, vendors and lunch. Registration is available online at www.hbgdiocese.org/cat_conference. For additional information, contact Jim Gontis, Diocesan Director of Religious Education, at 717-657-4804, ext. 227, or jgontis@hbgdiocese.org.
Encuentro
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bishops and members of the Diocesan
Encuentro teams. The U.S. Bishops’
Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs and
Committee on Cultural Diversity in the
Church will then develop a national pas-
toral plan for the Hispanic Community to
be implemented by 2020.
Over the past 45 years, Encuentro has
been a catalyst for developing ministries
among the Hispanic community.
The first, in 1972, led to the creation of
the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs; II
Encuentro in the mid 1970s led to region-
al offices for the secretariat. The third
Encuentro in the early 1980s resulted in
the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic
Ministry, giving dioceses and parishes
a clearer vision for ministry. Encuentro
2000 increased the Church’s appreciation
of its cultural diversity. In 2005, the first
National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth
and Young Adult Ministry opened ave-
uenues to minister to and with the Hispanic
young Church.
V Encuentro will be a paradigm shift,
said Father Rodriguez.
“In a real way, this is a call to action:”
for the Church and for the Hispanic Cath-
olic community, he said.
“The Church must engage them and
call them to action. The Church needs
to address the discipleship of the His-
panic faithful and say, ‘You belong. This
is what you are called to do. You have
a presence, you have a gift, now get in-
volved.’” Father Rodriguez remarked.
“And the Hispanic community has to
make that shift, and not just come to the
Church to care for their needs,” he con-
tinued. “The Hispanic community must
say, ‘We are the Church. We are disci-
plies, we are missionaries, we are activ-
ists, we are teachers, we are musicians,
we are lectors, we are parents, we are
priests to serve.’”
According to the USCCB’s Subcom-
nittee on Hispanic Affairs, 2011 statistics
list the U.S. Catholic population at more
than 68.2 million, representing 22.9 per-
cent of the total population of the United
States. The Hispanic population as of
2011 was 52 million, 16.7 percent of the
nation’s total population. Hispanics con-
stitute about 60 percent of all Catholics
under the age of 18 in the United States.
It’s a demographic that continues to
grow, and one that the Church must
reach, Father Rodriguez said.
“If the Church doesn’t engage and
doesn’t call them to action, the culture
will swallow them up,” he said. If the
Church doesn’t embrace their giftedness,
they’re going to fall away to something
else. The evangelizing forces of other
nomenations reach out to them very ef-
effectively.
This is why the Diocesan Encuentro
Team is reaching out to parishes and pas-
tors to strategize ways to make the faith
more accessible to Hispanic Catholics,
who are present throughout the entire
diocese.
“Hispanic Catholics are in every coun-
y of our diocese, and in every town from
Mount Carmel to Waynesboro,” Father
Rodriguez said. “For the priests, we’re
looking at a re-infusion of their desire
and call to meet all the needs of the peo-
ple of God.”
In a 2014 message looking toward V
Encuentro, Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, As-
sistant Director of the USCCB’s Subcom-
nittee on Hispanic Affairs, expressed:
“The V Encuentro has all the potential
to be another watershed experience that
provides the Church with the clarity, en-
thusiasm and means it needs to adequate-
ly respond to the Hispanic presence so
that, in turn, Hispanic/Latino Catholics
can continue to respond as members of
the Church in the United States for gen-
erations to come.”
(Learn more about Hispanic Ministry
in the Diocese of Harrisburg, and about
V Encuentro, at www.bgdiocese.org/
hispanicministry.)
God Thirsts for Us
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, I was delighted to spend some time at a local parish’s carnival. This parish event was the fund-raiser of the year as well as a moment in which the entire community celebrated its ethnic roots in the German culture. I was amazed to experience the winding lines as people waited to purchase funnel cakes and potato pancakes. In places like this, I absolutely love to “people gaze.” It was at this moment when I was completely amused by a young couple and their three-year-old boy.

Justin, the boy, without the use of words, communicated to his parents that he wanted an ice cream cone as well as a gulp of soda. I watched as his mother handed him the straw and he took a couple of sips on it, as well as when she asked the person in the ice cream booth to give them the smallest cone possible.

As Justin was handed the cone, I watched as he began to suck on the top of the ice cream. In a matter of minutes, because of the hot summer sun, the ice cream began to melt down his face, his hands and his arms. Patiently, his mom and dad showed him how to lick the sides of the cone to prevent the incurring mess. Undaunted, he just sucked on the top of the ice cream. By his body language he seemed to be saying, “You eat your ice cream cone the way that you do; I’ll eat mine like this.”

I watched as his dad, with a twinge of exasperation, bent down, grabbed the cone and licked the sides of it. Justin’s reaction was instant. He wailed at the kidnapping of his cone, quieted to receive it back and then wailed again when he discovered some of it was missing. I could not help laughing at this tiny boy’s ability to communicate his displeasure.

I thought of this as I sat down and began to write once again over the corporeal works of mercy: feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty.

Our hunger and thirst for God lies at the very root of our being. It is the way God created us; to hunger and thirst for God. We were made to long for spiritual meat and to be fed on the Scrivania of spiritual meat and potatoes found in God’s Word as well as His sacraments. Just as fast food can dull our desire for nutritious food, being filled with things that are not of God can dull our spiritual hunger and thirst.

I can see in my mind’s eye all shaking your head and whispering, “Yes!”

But, have you ever really, really thought about God’s thirsting and hungering after you? Yes, YOU, individually, as you are. God, the Creator of the entire universe, actually seeks a relationship with you.

Remember God is at the well in which Jesus asks a publically known sinner for a drink? He tells her, “If you knew the gift of God!” (John 4) As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, “...Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.” (CCC 2560)

Read that last sentence again: “God thirsts that we may thirst for him.” In my mind, this is connected to the words, “I thirst” that Jesus proclaimed from the cross. (John 19) Yes, “I thirst” was indeed a proof that in his humanity, Christ truly died. But, it also resonates when we consider God’s hunger and thirst for our redemption. He hungered and thirsted for our hearts, our entire being to once again resonate with the “heart” of Trinitarian love. He was willing to die to bring that about! What amazing love!

In the story of the little boy above, I watched as the father reached down to “fix” the mess his son made. Despite this act of love, Justin did not readily appreciate it. Don’t we do the same thing? Jesus walked the earth to not only teach us but to show us God’s love and mercy. How often do we find ourselves complaining and wanting to live life apart from total dependence on God? Just like Justin, we grunt, “I can do it MY WAY!”

It is my prayer that we experience the Father’s love for us in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Does anyone want to enjoy some ice cream with me?

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan House of Mercy.)

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Diocese of Harrisburg
Youth Protection Program

Beyond the Headlines: Healing for Sexual Abuse Survivors
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

The first response that a survivor of childhood sexual abuse receives when revealing what happened to him or her is crucial for opening the door toward healing.

“I believe you.”

“It is not your fault.”

“I am sorry that happened to you.”

The news of grand jury investigations and a renewed push to punish the Catholic Church with a retroactive removal of the civil statutes of limitations often overlooks and drown out an important message about the Church’s support and assistance for survivors and their families.

The Catholic community is committed to encouraging healing among sexual abuse survivors and their families; and offers lifelong resources, including counseling, addiction treatment, and other services. Every diocese has a survivor/victims services professional on staff to listen, learn about their suffering, and offer support and assistance for survivors and their families so they can have access counseling, addiction treatment, medica-

tions and other necessary support services.

In addition to support for survivors, the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania adhere to strict safe environment practices, including training for employees, clergy, and volunteers in identifying and responding to signs of abuse. Our dioceses enforce a zero-tolerance policy for clergy, employees, and volunteers accused of abuse. The dioceses have already reported these allegations to local district attorneys and have now they have also shared them with the Pennsylvania attorney general’s office. Credible allegations of misconduct result in permanent removal from ministry, no matter how long ago the abuse took place. Everyone who interacts with children — including clergy, employees, and volunteers — is subject to thorough background checks.

To find Catholic child protection and victim/survivor support services in Pennsylvania, visit http://www.pacatholic.org/victim-assistance-in-pennsylvania/. The Church cares very much about healing for survivors of abuse. We take responsibility for what happened in the Church and take great precautions to protect children. The emotional outcry for the Church to make things right for past victims is understandable. Survivors do not need retroactive lawsuits to get support from the Catholic Church.

(To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-237-1111.)

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline at: 1-800-626-1608 or email: Report Abuse@hbgdiocese.org

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect
Every Suicide is Tragic

Doctor-Assisted Suicide Enables Suicide

Doctor-Assisted Suicide Escalates Suicide

IN THE NETHERLANDS, REQUESTS FOR “HAasted DEATH” WERE WITHDRAWn BY 85% OF PATIENTS WHEN THEIR SYMPTOMS WERE BETTER CONTROLLED.

Legalizing Doctor-Assisted Suicide Wrongly

Communicates That Some Lives are Not Worth Living

October is Respect Life Month

Bridges of Mercy for Post-Abortion Healing

USCCB Respect Life Program

Proponents of doctor-assisted suicide try to draw a sharp distinction between those with a mental illness who want to end their lives and those with a terminal illness who express the same wish. They even insist we should not call the latter “suicide,” contrary to the plain meaning of the word. This is a tragically false distinction with far-reaching consequences.

Doctor-Assisted Suicide Enables Suicide While individuals who are at risk for suicide often contemplate and formulate suicidal plans, and some may show warning signs, they are often ambivalent about ending their lives. The actual suicide attempt is often done impulsively, in the midst of acute crisis or while intoxicated or emotionally distressed.

Doctor-Assisted Suicide Escalates Suicide Advocates of assisted suicide claim it is a private decision, an exercise in personal autonomy that does not affect others. But there is a well-studied “social contagion” aspect to the behavior that can’t be ignored.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Every Suicide is Tragic

Even at ages 85 and older, a request to die is nearly always a cry for help. This request is a distress signal indicating that something in the patient’s condition—at the medical, psychological, or social level—has not been adequately attended to.

Studies show that the desire for death by terminally ill individuals correlates with both physical pain and post social support. The desire for death by terminally ill individuals is often a cry for help, unable to articulate their suffering.

Every Suicide is Tragic: the Painful...
Bazaars and Craft Fairs

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Council of Catholic Women in Avoca will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 5, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Our Lady’s Parish Hall. Come join us for great food, chance stands, jewelry, crafts, games for the children, and a baked goods sale.

St. James Parish in Lititz is hosting its annual Christ- mas Bazaar on Friday, November 18 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, November 19 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Come, shop, eat and enjoy holiday spirit and merriment! Featured items include beautiful hand-made crafts, Christmas wreaths, floral arrangements, and knitted items. Our popular raffle includes prizes of over $1,000 cash! Bring the whole family and savor the food at St. James Cafe including homemade soups, sandwiches and pierogies. Cafe hours are Friday 4-8 p.m., Saturday 8-3:30 a.m. and launch Saturday 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Our delicious Ham and Turkey dinner is Saturday 5-7 p.m. with tickets sold at the door. Don’t miss out on this wonderful event. St. James is located at 505 Woodcrest Avenue in Lititz. For more information, call the church office at 717-626-5580.

Annual Winter Bazaar at St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon. Something for everyone, homemade candy, variety of foods, homemade soups, baked goods, crafts and theme baskets. Join us on November 12 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Benedict the Abbot Social Hall, 1300 Lebanon Street. For more information, call Midge at 717-269-0785.

The St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 5, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school cafeteria located at 359 W. Areba Avenue in Hershey. Grandmas’ attic treasures, flea market items, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, religious items, Christmas decorations and toys. Changes will be sold to win baskets of unique gifts. Breakfast and lunch will also be available. Please join us to find some great bargains and enjoy some good food.

Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg - Holiday Craft Fair, sponsored by the Corpus Christi Council of Catholic Women, will be held on Saturday, November 5 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Parish Center, 279 North 2nd Street, Chambersburg. There are 24 vendors with a variety of unique hand sewn items, crafts, jewelry, home decor, baked goods, A&B Religious Shop and much more. Enjoy a delicious breakfast sandwich, warm lunch and a decadent dessert from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy at 717-352-7354.

St. Francis Xavier Gift Fair and Holiday Bazaar, November 12 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. Local vendors and artisans, Fair Trade goods, coffee, tea, and chocolates. Holiday gifts, baked goods, and religious articles. Cafe offering breakfast and lunch items. Door prizes, bundle raffles, 50/50 drawing and multi-stake raffle. Free admission. Call 717-334-0333 or visit www.sfxpcw.com.

St. Columbia’s 12th annual Craft and Food Festival will be held on Saturday, November 19 in the gym and school on the corner of 3rd and Iron Streets, Bloomsburg. Catch the spirit of the season as you shop a variety of craft vendors and enjoy homemade food. The popular Dollar Tree and Silent Auction are some highlights of the events. Music will delight you. Join us for a wonderful event that benefits St. Columbia School. For questions, please call church office, 570-784-0801 or school office, 570-784-5932.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 19, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish social hall. Come and enjoy a day of fun, food and yummy treats. Find unique gifts for everyone on your Christmas list!

Lancaster Catholic’s Fine and Performing Arts Department presents the musical “Godspell” on November 16, 17, 18 at 7:30 p.m. and November 19 at 2 p.m. Join as students perform a series of parables in a variety of styles. Admission is $15 for reserved seating, $13 for adult general admission and $7 for student general admission. Watch as the bible takes on life through students performing as various parables “according to St. Matthew” in a whimsical style.

Delone Catholic will “trap” their audience this year with their production of the murder mystery, “Mouse Trap.” Performances will be held on November 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and November 20 at 2:30 p.m. Witnesses of a murder hear someone whispering the nursery rhyme “Three Blind Mice” just before they heard the screams of the victim. Later, Mollie and Giles Ralston prepare for the opening of their manor (hotel), and soon find that the manor is somehow connected to the murder. The play moves you through a who-done-it style with twist and turns to keep you guessing.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel will host a Christmas fare on Saturday, November 12, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Divine Redeemer Office/S. Peter’s Church Hall located at 438 West Avenue, Mount Carmel and Divine Mercy Hall located at 400 Block West Cherry Street, Mount Carmel. Fabulous homemade foods, beverages and baked goods, crafters and vendors. New this year is a Children’s Christmas Auction for those ages 5 to 12. Join us for a fun-filled day.

St. Mary’s Women’s Societies from Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York present their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Mary’s Parish Hall, 309 S. George St. York. There is something for everyone! Loads of homemade crafts, attic treasures, Book Nook, Santa’s Shop, raffles, bake table, homemade pies, Mrs. Christmas Kitchen, a Gingerbread House Workshop. Plenty of gift ideas and stocking stuffers. All are welcome. For more information, please call the parish office at 717-845-7629.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Mercers- town will hold its Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 5 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school auditorium, 316 North Street, McSherrystown. Raffle items, silent auction, outside wood decorations, hand painted crafts, decorated wreaths, table decorations, handmade items, filled gift baskets – children’s too. A feature: Live Nativity scene held by our 8th graders and class raffle for. The Council of Catholic Women of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro will hold their 5th Annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show on Saturday, November 5 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the school hall located at 213 E Main St., Waynesboro. Come and view our Christmas display and enter our door prize for a chance to win a beautiful wreath. Enjoy the great selection of hand made items, raffle items, and plenty of silent auction items as well. There will be plenty of food for purchase, a large arts and craft display, live nativity scene presented by our 8th graders and baskets for sale. All donations can be brought to the social hall on Friday, November 18 up to 6 p.m.

The Council of Catholic Women of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in An- nville will have their Annual Holiday Bazaar Saturday at 8 a.m., November 19 in the Parish Social Hall. Available will be hand crafted items of jewelry, wooden articles, sewn, knitted, and crocheted articles of caps, scarves, mittens, slippers, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations, and other gift giving items. You can contact Dora Ritter at 717-273-0747 or Mary Keider at 717-867-1548 if you have any questions. “Our SWEET & Bake SHOPPE” under the direction of Theresa Sorrentino (717-838-0657) will have available homemade pies, cakes, cookies, candy, jam/jellies, etc. All donations can be brought to the social hall on Friday, November 18 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Council of Catholic Women of Holy Name of Jesus Church will hold a Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, November 5 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. New vendors are always welcome! The event will be held in the School Gymnasium, 6150 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg. Contact Mary Lou at 717-541-5273 or 717-541-5273 for more information.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the 750 State Drive Social Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Walnut, poppyseed and apricot strudle, plus sugar cookies, will be available. Also, homemade candies and caramels, gift baskets, jewelry and handbag boutique, cheese board, bell market items crafts and needlework, and a Christmas booth. Light lunch will be served, including a variety of soups. Come join us for a fun day and bring a friend.
Pope Chooses Youth, Vocational Discernment as Theme for Next Synod

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Following up on the Synod of Bishops on the family, a synod in 2018 will focus on accompanying young people on the path of faith and in discerning their vocations, the Vatican said.

Pope Francis chose “Young people, faith and vocational discernment” as the theme for the 15th general assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will be held in October 2018, the Vatican announced Oct. 6.

The theme of young people and their path of discernment is a continuation of “what emerged from the recent” synod on the family and the pope’s apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” on family life, a Vatican statement said.

The synod will look at the best ways to accompany young people on their path toward maturity and providing a process of discernment so “they may discover their life plan and fulfill it with joy, opening themselves to an encounter with God and with men and women, and actively participating in the building of the church and society,” the Vatican said.

Greg Burke, Vatican spokesman, told journalists Oct. 6 that the synod will focus on the transmission of faith and helping young people make their “spiritual decision” to choose marriage or religious life.

According to the statement, the pope chose the theme after consulting the bishops’ conferences, the Eastern Catholic churches and the men’s and women’s Union of Superiors General. He also consulted with bishops and cardinals who took part in the previous synod of bishops.

The council helping to prepare the next synod assembly includes two North Americans: Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops; and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia.

Chicago Priest Lands in Black Eyed Peas’ Video for Violent World in Need of Love

By Joyce Duriga
Catholic News Service

When you watch the Black Eyed Peas’ new video version of “Where Is the Love?” the first person you see after frontman will.i.am is Father Don Woznicki, a priest from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

A random phone call landed the priest in the video. On a hot July day in Los Angeles, where Father Woznicki ministers to the entertainment industry, the priest answered his phone at Christ the King Parish in Hollywood.

“It was from will.i.am’s studio, which is about three blocks away,” the priest told the Catholic New World, Chicago’s archdiocesan newspaper. “They said would you be interested in being in a Black Eyed Peas video? My initial thought was that I’m not a good dancer. But I said sure.”

In 2008, with the permission of Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, Father Woznicki moved to Los Angeles to develop a ministry to the entertainment industry. He is currently going through the incardination process for the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

The Black Eyed Peas were filming a new version of “Where Is the Love?” to raise awareness of the violence going on in the nation and world and to raise money for 16 charities around recent tragedies such as those in Dallas and Orlando, Florida. The first version of “Where Is the Love?” was released following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The video features dozens of celebrities, including Justin Timberlake, Kendall Jenner, Mary J. Blige and Jamie Foxx. It also includes other figures, like Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown and religious people such as a rabbi and Father Woznicki.

The day they called, the band’s producers asked Father Woznicki to come right over to the studio for the filming. He arrived at the studio all sweaty from the blistering heat.

They showed him clips of the video they had so far and then asked him to sit in a chair.

“I thought they were just kind of testing me out but he [the director] goes, ‘OK, let’s do a take,’” said Father Woznicki, ordained a Chicago priest in 2002.

“Something in me said I needed to go through all the legalities of this. But then again, ‘OK, let’s do a take,’” said Father Woznicki, ordained a Chicago priest in 2002.

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“We were Apostolic and I didn’t want a random image when I’m talking to my mama is because Mom brought us up with religion. ‘OK, let’s do a take,’” said Father Woznicki, ordained a Chicago priest in 2002.

“My grandmother would always pray for us. I would always call my grandma when I would get on a plane and ask my grandma for prayer,” he said. “So prayer in my family is like breathing for us. I don’t want to speak for everybody in the group. I grew up in a very spiritual family.”

His grandmother has since died, but will.i.am said he felt “the same type of anointing, the same type of guidance” around this version of the song. He considers her his “guardian that is pushing me to do this version as well.”

Father Woznicki is shown as he appears in a 2016 video of the song “Where Is the Love?” by the Black Eyed Peas. In 2008, with the permission of Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, Father Woznicki, a Chicago priest, moved out to Los Angeles to develop a ministry to those in the entertainment industry. He is currently going through the incardination process for the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Faith is important in his family and he was asking his mother why religions are fighting one another.

“And if I’m going to show an image there I’m going to show how we were raised. I don’t want to have a random person. I don’t want to have a random celebrity. That’s a personal thing for me. It’s like building blocks to how I was configured.”

“I’ve altered the lyric and it says, ‘Mama, mama, mama, tell us what the hell is going on. Why can’t we all just get along?’” the reason I wanted to put a priest right after I’m addressing my mama is because Mom brought us up with religion, Father Woznicki said.

“One minute I’m in my office kind of stressed over some things and I’m sweating. The next thing I know I’m driving back and I’ve just been in what could be a big video,” Father Woznicki said.

It was a personal choice to have a priest at the beginning of the video, said will.i.am.

“Yeah, I altered the lyric and it says, ‘Mama, mama, mama, tell us what the hell is going on. Why can’t we all just get along?’” the reason I wanted to put a priest right after I’m addressing my mama is because Mom brought us up with religion. We were Apostolic and I didn’t want a random image when I’m talking to my mom,” will.i.am told the Catholic New World.
Here are short biographical sketches of the 17 Churchmen Pope Francis announced he would induct into the College of Cardinals Oct. 9. The cardinals-designate are listed in the order in which Pope Francis announced their names Oct. 9.

Italian Cardinal-designate Mario Zenari, 70, has been bishop of Novara, Italy, since 1997. A native of Milan, he has served as archbishop of the capital city of the northern province of Turin since 2008. He has been a cardinal since 2012. Cardinal-designate Zenari learned of his appointment while he was celebrating Mass in Turin, Italy.

Bishop Zenari learned of his appointment while he was celebrating Mass in Turin, Italy. He is a member of the Latin American bishops' conference, a member of the Venezuelan bishops' conference and a member of CELAM, the Latin American bishops' council.

Belgian Cardinal-designate Jozef De Kesel said he was “surprised” when hearing news of his appointment by Pope Francis Oct. 9. A theologian, Archbishop De Kesel has authored numerous articles and books on the Church and Christian life. He served as auxiliary bishop of Malines-Brussels before his appointment as bishop of Bruges by Pope Benedict XVI. The Belgian prelate served as archbishop in Brussels after he was appointed archbishop by Pope Francis. He serves as president of the Belgian bishops’ conference.

Cardinal-designate Kevin J. Farrell, 69, prefect of the newly created Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, is a member of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Asia and the Pacific.

Cardinal-designate John Ribat of Port Moresby, 72, told local news group Globovision his appointment was “a call to hope and to overcome the crisis today” in his country. Born in Caracas, he served as a pastor and was involved with the Cursillo movement before he was named auxiliary bishop of Merida. After his appointment as archbishop of the same diocese by St. John Paul II in 1991, Archbishop Ribat served two consecutive terms as president of the Venezuelan bishops’ conference and later was a vice-president of CELAM, the Latin America bishops’ council.

Venezuelan Cardinal-designate Baltazar Porras Cardozo, 72, told local news group Globovision his appointment was “a call to hope and to overcome the crisis today” in his country. Born in Caracas, he served as a pastor and was involved with the Cursillo movement before he was named auxiliary bishop of Merida. After his appointment as archbishop of the same diocese by St. John Paul II in 1991, Archbishop Ribat served two consecutive terms as president of the Venezuelan bishops’ conference and later was a vice-president of CELAM, the Latin America bishops’ council.

Italian Cardinal-designate Anthony Soter Fernandez, retired archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, 84, will be his country’s first cardinal. Of Indian descent, he was born in Penang, Malaysia, a diocese he served as bishop for 15 years. He worked for many years in primarily religious affairs. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1961 and was ordained a priest in 1968.

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Cardinal-designate John Ribat of Port Moresby, 72, is a native of Papua New Guinea and a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1985, he served as a coadjutor archbishop of Dhaka in 2010. He became archbishop 11 months later and has served as president of the Bangladesh bishops’ conference for five years.

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Pope Canonizes Seven Saints Who ‘Fought the Good Fight of Faith’

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

The seven new saints of the Church were holy not because of their own efforts but because of “the Lord who triumphs in them and with them,” Pope Francis said.

Each one “struggled to the very end with all their strength,” which they received through perseverance and prayer, the pope said Oct. 16 at a canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square.

“They remained firm in faith, with a generous and steadfast heart. Through their example and their intercession, may God also enable us to be men and women of prayer,” the pope told the estimated 80,000 people present at the Mass.

Seven large tapestries bearing the portraits of the new saints decorated the facade of St. Peter’s Basilica, six representing specific aspects of their lives that exemplified their holiness.

Argentine “gaucho priest,” St. Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero was portrayed sitting on a donkey, his humble means of transportation when traveling thousands of miles to minister to the poor and the sick.

St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, a 14-year-old Mexican boy martyred for refusing to renounce his faith during the Cristero War of the 1920s, was depicted holding a palm branch and rosary while a trail of blood and a single bullet were at his feet.

St. Salomone Leclercq, who was killed after refusing to renounce his faith at the height of the French Revolution, was shown with his eyes fixed toward heaven as an angel carried a palm, symbolizing his martyrdom for the faith.

The French Carmelite writer and mystic, St. Elizabeth of the Holy Trinity, was depicted holding a palm branch and rosary while a trail of blood and a single bullet were at his feet.

Pope Francis enrolled the six men and one woman among the saints, that they may be invoked as such by all the Christian faithful.

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Following the singing of the Litany of the Saints, the pope declared and defined their sainthood which was met with applause from crowd, many waving banners and flags in approval.

In his homily, the pope said the central theme of the Sunday readings was prayer, an important aspect in the lives of the newly canonized saints and something that obtained for them “the goal of heaven.”

He reflected on the day’s first reading which recalled Moses raising his arms in prayer while the Israelites fought Amalek’s army. When Moses’ arms would fall from weariness, the tide would turn against Israel.

Just as Aaron and Hur held Moses arms up until the Israelites won the battle, the pope said, so should Christians “support one another” in the “commitment to prayer.”

“Weariness is inevitable,” he said. “Sometimes we simply cannot go on, yet, with the support of our brothers and sisters, our prayer can persevere until the Lord completes his work.”

Like Moses who grew weary, yet was sustained by Aaron and Hur, Christians must remember that they are not alone in the Church, the pope said.

“We are members of the body of Christ, the Church, whose arms are raised day and night to heaven, thanks to the presence of the risen Christ and his Holy Spirit. Only in the Church, and thanks to the Church’s prayer, are we able to remain steadfast in faith and witness,” he said.

Looking at the day’s Gospel reading, the pope said Jesus’ parable of the widow who persists in seeking justice reveals “the mystery of prayer” which involves crying out persistently and not losing heart.

“The prayer is not to take refuge in an ideal world, nor to escape into a false, selfish sense of calm. On the contrary, to pray is to struggle, but also to let the Holy Spirit pray within us,” the pope said.

Before the final blessing, Pope Francis led the faithful in praying the Angelus and thanked the delegations as well as the pilgrims from the various countries of the new saints for their presence. The official delegations included Argentine President Mauricio Macri and cabinet ministers from Spain, France and Italy. The official Mexican delegation was headed by Roberto Herrera Mena, adjunct for religious affairs.

Pope Francis prayed that “the example and intercession of these luminous witnesses sustain the commitment of each one in your respective areas of work and service for the good of the Church and the civil community.”

Pope Makes ‘Mercy Friday’ Visit to Home for Children

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

Continuing his monthly Year of Mercy visits to people in particularly vulnerable situations, Pope Francis spent an afternoon Oct. 14 at Rome’s SOS Children’s Village.

The village, which includes five houses, attempts to provide a home-like atmosphere for children under the age of 12 whose parents cannot care for them.

A maximum of six children and a house mother live in each of the houses at the village.

According to the Vatican press office, “The boys and girls, accompanied by staff from the center, showed the pope the village’s green space, which has a mini-soccer field and a small playground. The children showed the Holy Father their rooms and their toys, and he listened to their stories and stayed for a snack with them.”

When Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy, he said that he would try each month in private to fulfill one of the works of mercy. Since December, his Mercy Friday visits have included spending time with migrants, the aged, at a recovery works of mercy. Since December, his Mercy Friday visits have included spending time with migrants, the aged, at a recovery...
Just as the first disciples agreed to drop everything to follow Jesus, so too have the 33 men who are seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

The 8th annual “Fishers of Men” Dinner, held Oct. 21 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, drew another capacity crowd to a gathering to celebrate the diocese’s seminarians, show support for their journey, and raise funds to meet the financial expenses of their formation.

Hundreds of benefactors attended the event, where they enjoyed socializing with the seminarians, who were greeters and servers throughout the evening.

Reflecting on the dinner’s title taken from Chapter 4 of Matthew’s Gospel, in which Jesus tells the fishermen, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men,” Bishop Ronald Gainer addressed the gathering.

“When we look at our 33 seminarians, we have to ask what inspires each of them to step out of the normal societal expectations for men their age and enter seminary formation. The answer,” he said, “is an encounter with Jesus Christ.”

“The encounter is so important in their lives that they only want it to deepen,” the bishop said. “They want to develop that strong personal relationship with Christ and then bring that to others for the salvation of souls.”

The blessing of 33 seminarians for our diocese – 12 of whom are in college and 21 of whom are in theology – comes with the challenge to pay for their education.

Bishop Gainer pointed out that, this year, the average tuition for a seminarian in theology is $37,000. Adding in special programs such as Spanish immersion programs, summer spiritual programs and canonical retreats, the cost increases to $42,000. With 21 seminarians in theology, this year’s cost is $882,000.

In an effort to further help meet those financial expenses, the diocese announced during the dinner the start of a new initiative, Patrons of our Seminarians.

The program, introduced by Father Brian Wayne, Diocesan Vocations Director, invites individuals and families to “become part of the diocesan family in raising our sons” and “investing in their education, that they might become holy men for our diocese.”

“The seminarians are my sons in a very spiritual sense,” Father Wayne remarked. “My heart is for them. What I desire more than anything is to form these men to be good, holy priests for our people.”

“We are inviting others now to be part of this gift of forming our future priests,” he said of the Patrons pro-
Catholics on the Way

Holy Infant Makes Strides in New Church

(The Catholic Witness begins here a new series, “Catholics on the Way,” inviting pastors and principals to share information about growth, new initiatives and events. Parish and school leaders can contact us via e-mail at witness@hhbdiocese.org to share news of their community’s faith in action.)

Hello and Peace to you in Jesus Christ! My name is Father Mark Weiss, and I am pastor at Holy Infant Parish in Manchester. It has been some exciting times lately for our parish family as we moved into our new Church and its facilities back in June.

Changes in demographics and evangelization needs necessitated the move from York Haven to our current address. We welcome you to come visit and worship with us as we are located off the Strinestown Exit 28 from Route 83. As you enter the town of Strinestown, turn right onto Conewago Creek Road and arrive at our church about a mile on the right.

We envision our parish to grow as we are a vibrant parish while now having facilities that can accommodate the young and the elderly and disabled. Our parish is generous and compassionate as we serve the needs of the hungry in York, give care to those affected by cancer, and offer adult faith formation among other ministries. Our biggest asset is the faith of our parish family and their desire to be true disciples of the Lord.

As pastor, I am asking for your help in prayer that we may always belong to the Lord, as we help provide the kind of ministries that are important to God’s people. We continue to work to pay off the remaining debt of $1.2 million from the initial cost of $3.6 million. Learn more about our parish family as we seek to live the mandate of our Savior Jesus, you can either contact us at 717-266-5286 or reach us at our mailing address of Holy Infant Parish, 535 Conewago Creek Road, Manchester, PA 17345. Visit us online at http://holyinfantparish.com/. God bless!

True Christian Charity is More Than Just Making Donations, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

While donation campaigns and charitable contributions for the needy are important, true Christian charity involves a more personal touch, Pope Francis said.

“Poverty in the abstract does not challenge us. It may make us think, it may make us complain, but when you see poverty in the flesh of a man, a woman or a child; this [certainly] challenges us!” he said.

The pope was speaking to a group of pilgrims who arrived at the Vatican’s Paul VI Audience Hall Oct. 19 to participate in a canonization Mass of seven new saints.

As pastor, I am asking for your help in prayer that we may always belong to the Lord, as we help provide the kind of ministries that are important to God’s people. We continue to work to pay off the remaining debt of $1.2 million from the initial cost of $3.6 million. Learn more about our parish family as we seek to live the mandate of our Savior Jesus, you can either contact us at 717-266-5286 or reach us at our mailing address of Holy Infant Parish, 535 Conewago Creek Road, Manchester, PA 17345. Visit us online at http://holyinfantparish.com/. God bless!

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Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Anna Gondek.

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columba: Jeannette Kosakowski.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Rachel Chapat, Marie Kurtz.

CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Betty Elaine (Leach) Czarnecki, Geraldine Leona (Cool) Osterman.

COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Philip Glatfelter.

CONEWAGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Thomas P. McKim, Barbara Weaver.

DALLASTOWN – St. Joseph: Theresa Mary Barnes, Betty Breen, Marilyn Deller, Gregory Hopwood, Therese McCann.


HARRISBURG – St. Margaret Mary: Dorothy M. Cosgrove.

HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: John Adamczyk, Jo-An M. McGinness, James C. Murphy.


MCSTERREYSTOWN – Annunciacion BVM: Stella Smith.


MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: Jacqueline A. Dunham.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Frederick Dailey.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: David E. Cox, Jr., Patricia DelBiondo, Donald Poole.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: William “Dixie” Richardson.


Sister Helen Joseph Waldman

Christian Charity Sister Helen Joseph Waldman died at Holy Family Convent in Danville Oct. 1 at the age of 91. Born Mary Cecilia Waldman in Williamsport, Pa., she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Mendham, N.J., in 1943. She earned degrees from College Misericordia in 1952 and Seton Hall University in 1959. Her primary apostolate was as teacher in the high schools of the community in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She also served as a librarian in Philadelphia and as chapel sacristan at the Motherhouse in Mendham. She retired to Holy Family Convent in 2010. The funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 5 in the chapel at Holy Family Convent. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Danville.

Sister Rosalie Marx

Christian Charity Sister Rosalie Marx died at Holy Family Convent in Danville on Oct. 1 at the age of 92. Born Agnes Mathilda Marx in Scranton, Pa., she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Mendham, N.J., in 1940. Her entire religious life was dedicated to teaching in the primary grades of the community in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and New York. She retired to Holy Family Convent in 2002. The funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 6 in the chapel at Holy Family Convent. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Danville.

Knights of Columbus Council in Carlisle Receives Top International Award

Knights of Columbus Council 4057 of St. Patrick’s, Carlisle, Pennsylvania has earned the distinction of STAR Council, one of the organization’s top awards, for the 2015-2016 fraternal year. The organization’s headquarters, located in New Haven, Conn., made the announcement.

The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities. The award was presented to the membership by District Deputy David E. Kem, PGK at a special ceremony held on Oct. 23.

In announcing the local winner of the Star Council Award, Carl A. Anderson, chief executive officer of the organization said, “Please accept my sincere congratulations upon attaining this prestigious award. Your dedication to the Order is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Catholicism for the good of the Church, your community, and the Order.”

“Receiving the Star Council Award is quite an honor for us. We’re extremely proud of this accomplishment,” said Past Grand Knight and Grand Knight James Markley and John Schlussler, head of the local council.

Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Church, their communities, and young people. With more than 1.9 million members in over 15,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donates more than $175 million and 73 million hours of service to charitable causes. Visit www.kofc.org for more information.

REMEMBER OUR DECEASED CLERGY

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

Father Martin Zarkoski, 1992
Father Michael F. Barrett, 1996
Msgr. Damian McGovern, 2000
Father Thaddeus Strzeleck, 2005
Father Paul Rindos, 2011

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to Host Workshop on Dangers of Internet Pornography

A workshop on Internet protection for individuals, families and communities will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg Nov. 12 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., hosted by “Integrity Restored.” It will highlight the dangers of Internet pornography, Internet stalking, sexting, and abuse and what we can do about it. The top Catholic speakers in the country on this topic are the day’s presenters.

The workshop will provide valuable content to pastors and clergy, parents and teens, lay ministry members, DREs, parish staff and all parishioners.

The keynote presentation will be offered by Father Sean Kilcawley, Integrity Restored Theological Advisor and Director of the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Lincoln. His presentation, “Pornography: Real Answers from a Real Priest,” will incorporate real life stories, tips and techniques for clergy, lay ministers, and parishioners to help them understand and combat the problem of pornography addiction in their Church. He will use John Paul II’s Theology of the Body and Pope Benedict XVI’s Theology of Love to place the problem of pornography within the context of the Church’s teaching on love, mercy, and the theology of the body. Father Kilcawley will integrate sound theological principles with stories of hope and healing to provide tools for addressing this difficult issue with the love, compassion, and mercy that lead to conversion, long-term sobriety, and healing.

Additional presenters and their talks include Matt Fradd on “Parenting in the Internet Generation”; Dr. Peter Kleponis on “Integrity Starts Here”; and Ron Dehaas on The Barna Study, “what are the facts, just the facts…”

There will also be a panel discussion and QA/Q&A with Msgr. William King, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish; Jim O’Day, Executive Director, Integrity Restored; and William Malay, MA, CSD, Executive Director of Day Seven Ministries.

Lunch will be provided by Covenant Eyes, a leading provider of Filtering and Accountability software for individuals, families, schools and dioceses. For more information or any questions, please email: jms@integrityrestored.com.
to provide education, healing and treatment for women of all ages. Tickets are $150 and are available by calling the Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary office at 717-763-2766. “Vegas chic” or cocktail attire is preferred.

Based on a true story of St. Teresa of Calcutta, “The Letters” explores the relationship between two women, one the greatest humanitarian of all time. Join us at the Allen Theatre, 36 E. Main Street, Annville, on Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. and witness the film. The Letters opens Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Allentown campus which will donate a portion of proceeds to Unveiled Courage, which is partnering with the organization to offer “Save the Children” in Nepal. The Letters will be available for viewing for one week and can be used for fundraising by a mobile ultrasound unit to provide women with free ultrasounds and counseling. Four out of five women who one of these mobile units will receive a safe abortion. For information see: www.unveiledcourage.org or see savedtotheknots.org. Sponsored by the Fine & Performing Arts Concert & Lecture Series.

Coupon Savings Books on Sale from Lebanon Catholic Church Parish Hall, located at 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill. To contact Director of Development Lisa Lindeman for more information, contact Rose González 717-933-1101 or Connie Egen 717-222-2169 ext. 222.

Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy Holy Hour, Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on November 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on November 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on November 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on November 4 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph School in York will host a fall open house on. Pack-era music and entertainment provided by Tony Farina Entertainment Company. Tickets are $7. You can purchase them from any LC attendee or they will be sold at the door of the event.

St. Rose of Lima in York will host a Charismatic Mass prayer service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at the school gym. Military members, police and fire fighters will be provided special seating, and Principal Brenda Weis will recognize them and offer their families a special thank you. The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster invites all veterans and persons currently serving in the armed forces to join students and teachers of the school for lunch on Friday, Nov. 4 at 11:45 a.m. at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub at 7 p.m. for a discussion of “Apologetics: How To Be Most Persuasive In Bringing Others To Our Life of Faith.” Contact Director of Development Lisa Lindeman for more information, contact Rose González 717-933-1101 or Connie Egen 717-222-2169 ext. 222.

Sponsored by the Fine & Performing Arts Concert & Lecture Series.

Extra credit for your holiday shopping? Check out Good Shepherd Parish Church, located at 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill. To reserve your spot go to www.gspchurch.org/bingo.htm or call 717-647-9124, 717-647-2287 or any member of the parish CCW.

Catholics in Ashburn, Virginia, can participate in the annual Spaghetti Dinner. Homemade meatballs and sauce will be served at the Lebanon Catholic Cafeteria Nov. 5 from 4-7 p.m. Come and enjoy your dinner while supporting your local home to the family. Also, there is a bake sale that this year will be raising a larger variety of items. There will be a silent auction donated by a local business. For more information, call 717-647-9124, 717-647-2287 or any member of the parish CCW.

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You have reserved your spot to provide education, healing and treatment for women of all ages. Tickets are $150 and are available by calling the Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary office at 717-763-2766. “Vegas chic” or cocktail attire is preferred.

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Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Williamsport will hold an Election Day Social at 5 p.m. on November 8 at the church. There will be pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce, rolls, beverage, coffee, hot chocolate, and dessert. Tickets are $8 in advance for your admission pack. You may also stop by the parish to provide education, healing and treatment for women of all ages. Tickets are $150 and are available by calling the Holy Spirit Hospital Auxiliary office at 717-763-2766. “Vegas chic” or cocktail attire is preferred.

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The Catholic Witness presents here a Voters’ Guide in anticipation of the November 8 General Election.
Across the next several pages, you will find candidates’ responses to questions developed by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC), the public affairs agency of the Pennsylvania Catholic bishops.
The Voters’ Guide includes responses from candidates for Attorney General, Auditor General, Treasurer, Senate, House of Representatives and Congress. There is also information on the positions of candidates for United States Senate and United States President.
The PCC surveyed candidates for Attorney General, Auditor General, Treasurer and United States Senate, and compiled information on the policies, public statements and campaign resources of the candidates for president.

Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas. But being ‘right’ in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the ‘rightness’ of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’ -- the living house of God -- then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house’s foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person’s most fundamental right – the right to life.

– From Living the Gospel of Life, No. 22 with original emphasis
(Pastoral Statement, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998)

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates’ promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world. You can find material that aims to educate and inform, along with resources to help voters prepare for the election, at:

http://www.hbgdiocese.org/voter-resources/

Here, you will find links to the U.S. Bishops’ document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” video resources, prayers, information on Catholic social teaching, and Church documents. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference also offers resources on its Web site:

www.pacatholic.org

For information about polling place locations, visit:
www.votespa.com

Election Day is November 8

Voters’ Guide
Candidates for Attorney General, Auditor General, Treasurer State Senate and State House of Representatives

State Attorney General Candidates
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Joshua D. Shapiro (D), John C. Rafferty, Jr. (R)

State Auditor General Candidates
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Eugene A. DePasquale (D)
John A. Brown (R)

State Treasurer Candidates
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Joseph M. Tonella (D)
Otto W. Vuit, III (R)

State Senate Candidates
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Greg Paulson (D-13), Scott Martin (R-13), Rob Teplitz (D-15), John DiSanto (R-15), John Bosh (D-31), Mike Regan (R-31), Kenneth Gehosky (I-31)

State House of Representatives Candidates
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Nancy Dean (D-13), John Lawrence (R-13), Nick Selch (D-41), Brett Miller (R-41), Steve Elliott (R-43), Keith Greiner (R-43), Rick Rogers (D-81), Rich Ivvin (R-81), Jim Massey (D-87), Greg Rothman (D-87), Christopher Cowan (R-88), Sheryl Delozier (R-88), Christine Tolbert (D-89), Rob Kauffman (R-89), Denise Weldon-Sivy (D-91), Dan Moul (R-91), Dawn Wetzel Keever (R-92), Kate McGraw (I-92), Kevin Schreitz (D-95), Joel Sears (R-95), Mike Sturla (D-96), Robert Bigley (R-97), Charlie Klein (D-97), Steve Mentzer (R-97), Duane Groff (D-99), David Zimmerman (R-99), Dale Hamby (D-100), Bryan Cutler (R-100), Lorraine Scudder (D-101), Frank Ryan (R-101), Jake Long (D-102), Russ Diamond (R-102), Jody Rebarachak (D-104), Susan Helm (R-104), Michael Krakowski (D-107), Kurt Masser (R-107), John Deppen (D-108), Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-108), Edward Sanders (D-109), David Millard (R-109), Denise Bedio (I-109), Kate Klunk (R-109), Robert Marcoccio (NA-169), Melody Fleck (D-171), Kerry Bennionghoff (R-171), DeniseVan Essen (D-193), Will Tallman (R-193), Jill Bartoli (D-199), Stephen Bloom (R-199)

Question 1.
What is your position on increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC) where the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Shapiro (D): Support.
Rafferty (R): Support. This is a terrific program and I have always supported.

AUDITOR GENERAL
Brown (R): Support. I support this program because I believe that families deserve this support to pursue a religious education.

STATE TREASURER
Voit (R): Support. I believe that families deserve this support so they can take advantage of opportunities presented by religious schools.

STATE SENATE
Martin (R-13): Support. Having attended and graduated from Catholic schools (St. Anne’s Elementary and Lancaster Catholic High School), this program is very important to me as well as fighting for school choice in PA.
Gehosky (I-31): Support. Tax credits such as those described above can supplement school funding but should not be seen as a substitute for properly funding public schools.

STATE HOUSE
Miller (R-41): Support. I voted to increase the EITC and OSTC tax credits.
Elliott (D-43): Support. With state support barely covering these programs, these tax incentives can provide additional funds to provide innovative and enriching programs for students with ever increasing needs. It’s a win-win proposition.
Greiner (R-43): Support. I have strongly supported this while working as a certified public accountant, and as a legislator.
Wetzel Keever (R-92): Support. I believe PA already spends enough on education. I support choice including EITC and OSTC.

McGraw (I-92): Oppose. The preservation of our public school system, and restoration of funding levels before prior budget cuts, are priorities for my campaign. A strong public school system that is properly funded and equitable for all is the bedrock to strong communities, and a promise made to constituents by the Pennsylvania Constitution.
Klein (D-97): I support! My children attend Catholic school at St. Anne’s in Lancaster. My wife and I sacrifice to pay tuition even though we live in Manheimp Township which is known for providing an excellent public education. I do not truly consider it a sacrifice but an investment in my child. My parents invested in me and my sisters so it is imperative to me to invest in my children. On the days that I am off, I try to take my children to school and stay for the morning prayer service, Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic song. That is how they start their school day and on days I am off I am happy and excited to start the day off the same way! For those Catholics that cannot afford Catholic school and for those people that live in an area in which the public school system does not provide “a thorough and efficient education” as is promised in Pennsylvania’s state constitution, I believe the EITC and OSTC are essential tools to provide access to not only a Catholic education, but a thorough and efficient education as promised by our state constitution.
Scudder (D-101): Support. If it benefits lower middle income children with a better education, I’ll support it.
Ryan (R-101): Support. I am in favor of school choice. The last part of the question concerns me regarding public school funding.
Diamond (R-102): Support.
Krankowski (D-107): Support. I will always support increased funding for education under any circumstances.
Masser (R-107): Support.
Deppen (D-108): My daughter attends a nonpublic Christian school. I am aware that her education in such a setting is a blessing unavailable to many Pennsylvanians who are economically disadvantaged. We need to find ways to both strengthen our public schools while increasing opportunities for people to explore nonpublic educational settings.
Marcoccio (NA-169): Oppose. I have been proposing to end the school tax and place school funding on a royalty based funding system. This system I developed 8 years ago is stable and cost effective and will not jeopardize programs, teacher jobs or close schools.
Tallman (R-193): Support.
Bloom (R-199): Support. I strongly support the EITC and OSTC programs. I have been a consistent supporter and advocate for these important initiatives in the state legislature.

Question 2.
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.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Shapiro (D): a.
Rafferty (R): c.

AUDITOR GENERAL
Brown (R): c.

STATE TREASURER
Voit (R): c.

STATE SENATE
Martin (R-13): c.
DiSanto (R-15): c.
Gehosky (I-31): a. I support legalized abortion in limited circumstances. Protecting legal abortions is the surest way to one day live in a world where no abortions are performed. Efforts should be directed at improving access to healthcare and education rather than persecuting women.

STATE HOUSE
Miller (R-41): c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger.
Elliott (D-43): a. I personally accept the Church’s position on abortion, but as a representative for all, I cannot insert my personal beliefs into a discussion that should remain between a woman and her spouse or a woman and her doctor.
Greiner (R-43): c.
Wetzel Keever (R-92): c.
McGraw (I-92): a. I support policies that reduce abortion rates. Increased access to contraception results in fewer abortions. Safe, legal abortion protects the health of women. Legislators and hospital administrators are not qualified to decide whether a pregnant woman’s life is at risk. That determination needs to reside privately between doctor and patient.

Klein (D-97): Being Catholic and a Knight of Columbus I am pro-life. I want to reduce abortions by preventing unwanted pregnancy. Abstinence is not realistic. I would provide better access to contraception and family planning and increased funding for preventing teen pregnancy. We need to provide pre/post-natal and pediatric care, child care assistance, domestic violence prevention, and increased adoption services. There are safe, legal and fair options for women. The only choice for me is protecting all life from conception to death. All life is precious. At the end of the day, I support a woman’s right to choose her path.

Scudder (D-101): a. This matter is a decision between a woman and her physician. Government and religion should have no say in this.

Ryan (R-101): b. Life begins at conception and must be protected. I am a Knight of Malta.

Diamond (R-102): b. I believe in the goal of this initiative. As Senator, however, I would be opposed to the use of taxpayer dollars for undocumented immigrants. I do not believe we should force our already over-stretched resources to pay for the basic health care of any undocumented immigrants.

McGraw (I-92): a. Every citizen must have equal protection to their right to live freely and without fear of persecution, hate crimes or increased suicide risk. I side with Pope Francis, in extending freedoms to all people.

McGrav (I-92): a. I believe that CHIP is essential and should receive priority funding through properly secured channels without raising taxes.

Klein (D-97): Support. Pennsylvania’s children deserve to lead healthy, successful lives. Access to healthcare is essential. Simply put, having insurance improves the health outcomes of children. Insurance also provides access to primary care physician. Families with coverage are less likely to use costly emergency room services for common childhood ailments. Good healthcare also may provide a pathway to academic success as well.

Scudder (D-101): Support. Every child deserves to have the best medical care available to them.

Ryan (R-101): Oppose. I believe my faith and Church should provide this safety net.

Diamond (R-102): Oppose. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on illegals.

Kranowski (D-107): Support. Children are children. I don’t care if they are documented or undocumented, it’s our duty as Christians to provide health insurance to all children!!!

Masser (R-107): Oppose.

Deppen (D-108): My own child benefitted from CHIP, and I was grateful that my wife and I were able to access the program. As Christians, our duty is to share our abundance, especially with our most vulnerable neighbors. Jesus asked no one for their papers before He healed or fed them.


Klunk (R-169): I believe that all children should be covered by health insurance. However, I do have concerns regarding the cost to provide free health insurance to undocumented immigrants when we as a state and a nation are struggling to afford the costs to provide free health insurance to American children.

Mareccoccio (NA-169): Oppose. We have a 19 trillion dollar deficit and cannot include a mandate increase for illegal immigrants. If there is an emergency situation the hospitals must give aid but to sustain illegals with taxpayers’ money is unacceptable.

Ballman (R-193): Undocumented persons are here illegally. Therefore except for EMS they should not receive these benefits.

Bloom (R-199): Oppose. While I am fully supportive of charitable efforts and ministries of mercy to serve the medical needs of children of undocumented immigrants, I do not believe we should force our already over-extended taxpayers to bear this burden.

Question 3.
What is your position on expanding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide health insurance to children in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Shapiro (D): Support.
Rafferty (R): Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars, but this is where charities need to step in.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Brown (R): Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.

STATE TREASURER

Voit (R): Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars for undocumented immigrants, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.

STATE SENATE

Martin (R-13): I am a lifelong Catholic and believe deeply in the principle of helping those in need, especially our children, which is why I believe in the goal of this initiative. As Senator, however, I would be obligated to look at this in light of the economic limitations of the state, as well as how the people of the 13th Senate District would want me to vote. There are also concerns about providing taxpayer-funded benefits to non-citizens and what implications that may have for other services.

DiSanto (R-15): Oppose. I do not support requiring Pennsylvania residents to pay for the basic health care of any undocumented immigrants.

Gehosky (I-31): Support. No civil society can long endure which does not provide pre/post-natal and pediatric care, child care assistance, domestic violence prevention, and improved adoption services. There are legal and fair options for women. The only choice for me is protecting all life from conception to death. All life is precious. At the end of the day, I support a woman’s right to choose her path.

STATE HOUSE

Miller (R-41): Since financial resources are being stretched in order to adequately cover the children of Pennsylvanians who are here legally, everything must be directed toward ensuring that Pennsylvanians’ legal citizens are covered prior to giving this coverage to those who are here illegally.

Elliott (D-43): Support. We have an obligation to care for those who cannot care for themselves and this includes children, all children, regardless of the status of their parents.

Greiner (R-43): The Commonwealth has many financial challenges, yet I am compassionate to the needs of children. Many of my residents have concerns and I would have to review at a wholistic level.

Wetzell Keefer (R-92): Oppose. I support assisting the child and their parents in returning to their native land to legally get services they need.

McGrav (I-92): Support. It is moral and right to ensure all children who reside in Pennsylvania have trouble-free and ready access to health care, regardless of their immigration status or status of their parents. I believe CHIP is essential and should receive priority funding through proper and secured channels without raising taxes.

Klein (D-97): Support. Pennsylvania’s children deserve to lead healthy, successful lives. Access to healthcare is essential. Simply put, having insurance improves the health outcomes of children. Insurance also provides access to primary care physician. Families with coverage are less likely to use costly emergency room services for common childhood ailments. Good healthcare also may provide a pathway to academic success as well.

Scudder (D-101): Support. Every child deserves to have the best medical care available to them.

Ryan (R-101): Oppose. I believe my faith and Church should provide this safety net.

Diamond (R-102): Oppose. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on illegals.

Kranowski (D-107): Support. Children are children. I don’t care if they are documented or undocumented, it’s our duty as Christians to provide health insurance to all children!!!

Masser (R-107): Oppose.

Deppen (D-108): My own child benefitted from CHIP, and I was grateful that my wife and I were able to access the program. As Christians, our duty is to share our abundance, especially with our most vulnerable neighbors. Jesus asked no one for their papers before He healed or fed them.


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Ballman (R-193): Undocumented persons are here illegally. Therefore except for EMS they should not receive these benefits.

Bloom (R-199): Oppose. While I am fully supportive of charitable efforts and ministries of mercy to serve the medical needs of children of undocumented immigrants, I do not believe we should force our already over-extended taxpayers to bear this burden.

Question 4.
What is your position on amending Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation to include sexual orientation?

a. They should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.

b. They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.

c. No change is necessary.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Shapiro (D): a.
Rafferty (R): c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Brown (R): c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

STATE TREASURER

Voit (R): c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

STATE SENATE

Martin (R-13): b.
DiSanto (R-15): b. I oppose discrimination and believe we need to have religious protections for people of faith and conscience.

Gehosky (I-31): b. Religious institutions have legitimate and reasonable expectations of exceptions to some provisions of public accommodation.

STATE HOUSE

Miller (R-41): b.
Elliott (D-43): a. While churches may be exempted based on church doctrine, in the business and public sector, religious liberty cannot be a shield for discrimination, bigotry and hate.

Greiner (R-43): c.
Wetzell Keefer (R-92): c. We have freedom of religion. We need to band together – all churches – and challenge the current violations against our constitutional rights. The US accommodates every other religion except the Catholic Church.

McGrav (I-92): a. Every citizen must have equal protection to their right to live freely and without fear of persecution, hate crimes or increased suicide risk. I side with Pope Francis, in extending freedoms to all individuals regardless of sexual orientation, to ensure the preservation of individual dignity, and health of our families.
Klein (D-97): They should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions. Our federal law already protects employers and religious institutions. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious organizations are completely exempt from anti-discrimination laws in employment decisions about persons holding such positions. I believe this anti-discrimination law would be more about providing equal access to government institutions. Access to housing, employment and public accommodation needs to be available to people regardless of their gender identity in the spirit of inclusion and affirming equal opportunity and access for all people.

Scudder (D-101): a. Everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. There should be absolutely no discrimination allowed against any one sector of our population.

Ryan (R-101): b.

Diamond (R-102): b.

Krankowski (D-107): b. Religious liberties of religious institutions should always be protected under any circumstance.

Masser (R-107): b.

Deppe (D-108): Segregationists and white supremacists used the Bible to justify their prejudices during the civil rights movement. Religious liberty cannot be a masquerade for bigotry. Let Galatians 5:14 guide us, “For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Millard (R-109): b.

Klunk (R-169): b.

Marcoccio (NA-169): c. Does protecting gender identity and sexual orientation include pedophilia and encourage the exhibition of those gender and sexual preferences at work? Work is for work and not for the political advancement of personal liberties.

Tallman (R-193): b.

Bloom (R-199): c.

Question 5. What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Shapiro (D): Support.

Rafferty (R): Support. Health care professionals deserve a fair reimbursement and the poor deserve care.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Brown (R): Support. The poor deserve care and I believe that health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated.

STATE TREASURER

Volit (R): Support. Health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated for caring for the less fortunate and I believe our society has an obligation to help those who can’t help themselves.

STATE SENATE

Martin (R-13): Support. Though I believe that paying closer to the true cost of care is crucial to improved access to care and the prevention of cost-shifting onto those on private plans, there needs to be reforms, as other states have done, to gain efficiencies in the program to improve healthcare outcomes, reduce misdiagnosis rates (pegged at over 50% by auditing firms, resulting in much wasteful spending) and reduce unnecessary costs. This is an issue I have a great passion for.

DiSanto (R-15): I would support increased reimbursement rates only if the budget allowed it. Our top issue is to get our fiscal house in order. We need to find ways to reduce costs of care to start, so that we can determine if Medicaid reimbursement rates provide adequate access and coverage. It has to be looked at in a wholistic manner.

candidates for Congress

BOLD denotes response received

Joshua Burkholder (D-4), Scott Perry (R-4), Mike Parrish (D-6), Ryan Costello (R-6), Mary Ellen Balchunis (D-7), Patrick Meehan (R-7), Art Halvorsen (D-9), Bill Shuster (R-9), Michael Molesevich (D-10), Tom Marino (R-10), Mike Marsicano (D-11), Lou Barletta (R-11), Rick Daugherty (D-15), Charles Dent (R-15), Paul Rizzo (L-15), Christina Hartman (D-16), Lloyd Smucker (R-16), Shawn House (L-16)

Question 1.

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?

Perry (R-4): Support.

Costello (R-6): Support.

Gehosky (I-31): Support. It is to be understood that increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates will increase overall state spending.

STATE HOUSE

Miller (R-41): The causes of skyrocketing health care costs that underlie this issue need to be addressed while simultaneously looking at ways to incentivize health care providers to take Medicaid patients.

Elliott (D-43): Support. I believe that we have an obligation to protect and care for those who need it most and expanding access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals supports that belief.

Greiner (R-43): We need to find ways to reduce costs of care to start, so that we can determine if Medicaid reimbursement rates provide adequate access and coverage. It has to be looked at in a wholistic manner.

Wetzel Keefe (R-92): Oppose. Government has proven time and again that they are not good stewards of our money. I’m not willing to give them more to waste on more bureaucracy and administrative over-head.

McGraw (I-99): Support. Access to quality healthcare for the elderly and economically disadvantaged is vital to a compassionate society. The health and safety of our communities is at risk when those in need are denied healthcare. I propose swift review of costs, and to budget accordingly to meet the needs of the people.

Klein (D-97): I support. It is imperitive to a person’s healthcare that they have access to a good primary physician. It would be less expensive to all for a person to seek routine checkups at a physician’s office rather than go to an emergency room when sick. As a pharmacist I see the importance of relationships built around healthcare. I know the patients that allow me to fill their prescriptions. I know their doctors and physician face employees as well. When a patient has a built a relationship with their providers their comfort allows them to ask any question that may come up. It leads to better healthcare and better outcomes. All people deserve access to good, affordable healthcare.

Scudder (D-101): Support. Doctors are refusing to see Medicaid patients due to the low reimbursement rates. Many of the people on Medicaid are our veterans, the elderly or children. These are the people we should be taking care of.

Ryan (R-101): Support. Medicaid rates are too low and reduce access to care. The ACA does not provide health care.

Diamond (R-102): Oppose. We can’t afford it at this time.

Krankowski (D-107): Support.

Masser (R-107): Oppose. I would oppose this measure until the budget allowed for it. Then I would consider.

Deppe (D-108): Since 2011, I watched my parents end up on Medicare Assistance due to overwhelming health care costs. They each died in nursing homes, with nothing left but the clothes in their closets. We are a nation of abundance, and that abundance should include health care for every stage of life.


Klunk (R-169): I agree that increasing reimbursement rates would provide greater access to care for individuals who are covered by Medicaid and that this is a good thing to ensure that our citizens are receiving needed health care services. However, I do have concerns regarding the costs associated with increasing the reimbursement rates and I believe that the costs should not be passed on to our taxpayers.

Marcoccio (NA-169): Oppose. Reimbursements to the facility or the individual? I do know that Affordable Health care is bankrupting EMS as Medicaid and Medicare have cut the payment for services to these vital organizations. I think we need to focus on maintaining an effective ambulance service before we make an emergency call and no one is there to respond.

Tallman (R-193): If the budget allows, yes, however, Medicaid in PA is one of our bigger fraud agencies.

Bloom (R-199): Oppose. We need to focus on reforms that improve the efficiency of Medicaid, for the benefit of both covered individuals and the taxpayers who are taxed to pay for these services.

Shuster (R-9): Support.

Barletta (R-11): Support.


Smucker (R-16): Support.

Question 2.

What 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.

Perry (R-4): c.

Costello (R-6): c.

Shuster (R-9): c. I am 100% pro-life and a proud member of the Congressional pro-life caucus.
Barletta (R-11): c. Smucker (R-16): c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger.

Question 3. What is your position on 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?

Perry (R-4): Oppose. We must secure the border first. Secondly, we are a nation of laws. While I empathize with the intent of this question, my oath is to uphold and defend the laws of this country and its citizens, and I feel for these illegal immigrants, let us please not forget they are here illegally. After we secure our borders, we can work on rights to earning citizenship.

Costello (R-6): The U.S. is the most generous and compassionate nation on the face of the Earth. I believe we need to continue to show respect and compassion to our fellow citizens. However, we must also deal with the reality that there are people in this world who wish to do us harm and there are entities out there who seek to exploit other humans for profit or political gain. We must secure our borders and recognize those who respected our immigration process while simultaneously working with those who broke the law in a humane and realistic manner.

Shuster (R-9): Oppose. I am opposed to any legislation that grants amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

Daugherty (D-15): Support. Legal status but not citizenship for adults and substantial fines.

Smucker (R-16): (Did not respond)

Pennsylvania’s U.S. Senate Candidates

In an effort to educate voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference gave the statewide candidates the opportunity to make their positions known on key specific issues important to Catholics.

Incumbent Senator Pat Toomey (R) completed a written questionnaire, and those complete responses are available online at www.pacatholic.org. Candidate Katie McGinty (D) did not respond to the candidate questionnaire. Information about her views was therefore compiled from her campaign Web site and public statements.

On Life and Dignity of the Human Person

McGinty is endorsed by EMILY’S List, a political action committee with a mission to “elect pro-choice Democratic women to office.” They describe McGinty as “pro-choice, and supports women’s reproductive rights.” (www.emilyslist.org)

Toomey opposes legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. (PCC survey)

On Immigration

McGinty denounced federal legislation that would deny Community Development Block Grant funds to cities that in effect shelter or give sanctuary to illegal immigrants. At the same time, she wrote a letter to Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney requesting him to reconsider the city’s immigration policy and open the dialogue with federal officials “so that those who pose a threat don’t fall through any crack in local and federal jurisdiction.” (katie mcginty.com)

Toomey describes our immigration system as “fundamentally broken.” He has “supported efforts to strengthen border security, ensure that our immigration laws are enforced, and stop the outrageous practice of sanctuary cities that undermine our laws.” (PCC survey)

On Tax Credits for School Choice

McGinty has not made public statements about funding tax credits for education at the federal level. She is endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association (www.psea.org) as a “pro-public education candidate.” PSEA has traditionally been opposed to school choice.

Toomey believes “we should empower parents to choose the best school for their kids whether they are public or private, religious or non-religious.” He says he could support a federal education tax credit “as long as it was offset with a corresponding spending reduction.” (PCC survey)

On Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Religious Liberty

McGinty has not commented specifically about religious exemptions in non-discrimination legislation. However, she says she will fight to expand anti-discrimination protections, “No one should be denied access to housing, healthcare or employment because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.” (katie mcginty.com)

Toomey supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. However, he “introduced and forced a vote on an amendment specifically about religious expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.).”

On Access to Health Care for the Poor

In a press release, McGinty said that she was “proud to work with Governor Wolf to expand Medicaid that provides health care to more than 600,000 Pennsylvanians” during her time as his chief-of-staff. (katie mcginty.com)

Toomey believes that Medicaid is a valuable program but that its “flawed financing structure encourages states to further expand their Medicaid programs while shifting growing costs to the federal government.” He supports giving states more flexibility to encourage efficiency. He does not support further federal mandates. (PCC survey)

(See the material on this page was published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania’s Catholic Bishops. September 2016.)

Learn more about the candidates

Toomey for U.S. Senate
www.toomeyforSenate.com
Katie McGinty – Democrat for Senate
www.katiemcginty.com

For information about polling place locations, visit:
www.votespa.com
These comments, policies and statements are snapshots from each candidate's public career, campaigns and websites as of August 2016. For the issues appear here for informational purposes only and do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

**Educational Choice**

- **Clinton**
  - Call it competition—"the American way."
  - "I don't see how you would implement them without having a lot of people get vouchers for schools that would be teaching things antithetical to American values."

- **Trump**
  - "I would say the same thing. We don't need that. We're better..."
Former NBA Player Speaks at York Catholic about Substance Abuse and Recovery

Submitted by York Catholic High School

Former NBA player, Chris Herren, spoke to students at York Catholic about his tale of descent into addiction, his miraculous recovery, and his new life mission: to share his story with audiences in the hopes of reaching at least one person and making a difference in their life.

Herren was an All-American basketball player, broke scoring records, was recruited by top colleges, featured in Sports Illustrated and became the focus of an acclaimed book, Fall River Dreams. He realized his lifelong dream of playing in the NBA when he was drafted by the Denver Nuggets in 1999 and was traded to the Boston Celtics after his rookie season, but lost it all due to substance abuse.

Alcohol and drug-free since August 1, 2008, he has re-focused his life to put his sobriety and family above all else. He shares his harrowing story of abuse and recovery in his memoir, Basketball Junkie, as well as in numerous interviews throughout the Emmy-nominated ESPN Films documentary Unguarded, of which he is the subject.

At York Catholic, Herren encouraged students to be open and honest about their challenges and to be mindful and helpful to family and friends who may be struggling. He met with students after the assembly and attended a balloon release organized by SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) that symbolized substance abuse awareness. Counselors were available the remainder of the day to help students process the message on a personal level.

The presentation was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Dennis & Mrs. Rosie Johnson & Family in memory of Spencer Kubala of York Catholic’s class of 2012.

Former NBA player Chris Herren, spoke to students at York Catholic about his tale of descent into addiction, his miraculous recovery, and his new life mission: to share his story with audiences in the hopes of reaching at least one person and making a difference in their life. At York Catholic, he made a difference in the lives of many.

Lancaster Catholic High School’s girls’ tennis team was the second-seeded contestant for the District 3 Class AA tennis championships played against top-seeded Wyomissing on Thursday October 20 at the Hershey Racquet Club, and Lancaster Catholic’s Crusaders finished with the silver medal after a 3-0 loss. Lancaster Catholic’s number one doubles team, Isabel Midcap and Riley Smith, came in third place at the District finals over Delone Catholic’s Alyssa Neudecker and Ellie Neudecker. The Crusaders qualify for team play at the PIAA state tournament, as does Trinity’s top seeded singles player, Katherine Long, who came in second in District 3 AA singles against Alexandra Jadic of Wyomissing. The State Championships will be played on October 29 for team and November 5 for singles at the Hershey Racquet Club.