‘Church and Nation Need More Thomas Mores,’ Bishop Rhoades Says at Red Mass

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

St. Thomas More was a noble English lawyer and statesman, beheaded on July 6, 1535, by order of King Henry VIII for refusing to acknowledge the king’s divorce from Catherine of Aragon and his claim to be the head of the Church in England.

Standing on the scaffold after 15 months of confinement in the Tower of London, Thomas More told onlookers that he was dying as the king’s good servant — but as God’s first.

At the annual Red Mass celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Oct. 19, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said that the Church and nation need more Thomas Mores.

“We need lawyers, judges and public officials who will stand against the tyranny of relativism, stand upon the firm ground of moral truth, and not contribute to a culture that risks declining or sinking in the quicksand of relativism,” he said.

The Ninth Bishop of Harrisburg from 2004-2010 and a native son, Bishop Rhoades returned to the diocese as homilist for the Red Mass, an annual liturgy organized by the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania at which lawyers, judges, lawmakers and others in the legal profession seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the society, of which Bishop Rhoades is a charter member, having been appointed by then-Bishop William Keeler in 1990 to serve as liaison.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant of the Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Rhoades and several priests of the diocese.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades upheld the example of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, statesmen and politicians, and his relevance nearly 500 years after his death.

To those striving to live their faith in their professions, Bishop Rhoades proposed from the example of the saint that they keep their priorities in proper order: God first, family and friendship second, profession third.

“He put God before Caesar, his conscience before the state, and his ethics before politics,” he remarked.

St. Thomas More was a devoted husband and father, yet he could not heed his family’s pleas for him to spare his life by accepting King Henry’s claim as the head of the Church of England, he said.

“He sang God always came first, even to the cost of his life. His great virtues, which we so admire today, derived from his working out in his own life the implications of God’s gift of faith to him,” Bishop Rhoades said.

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Synod Report Urges ‘Accompaniment’ Tailored to Family Situations

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

While not specifically mentioning the controversial proposal of a path toward full reconciliation and Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried, members of the Synod of Bishops on the family handed Pope Francis a report emphasizing an obligation to recognize that not all Catholics in such a situation bear the same amount of blame.

The synod voted separately on each paragraph and the Vatican published those votes. The paragraph dealing specifically with leading divorced and remarried Catholics on a path of discernment passed with only one vote beyond the necessary two-thirds.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna told reporters Oct. 24 that the key word in the document’s discussion of ministry to divorced and civilly remarried people is “discernment.” I invite you all to remember there is no black or white, no simple yes or no.” The situation of each couple “must be discerned,” which is what was needed.

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More RED MASS, page 10

More SYNOD REPORT, page 13
Images of Religious Freedom Inspire and Call Us to Action

From the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg recently reminded Pennsylvania’s lawmakers to look around the magnificent “office” they walk into every session day. During his keynote speech at the 2015 legislative breakfast, hosted by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the Pennsylvania Council of the Knights of Columbus, Bishop Gainer urged the crowd not to overlook the art and architecture of the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the significant and meaningful messages portrayed.

Here are excerpts of Bishop Gainer’s speech:

Walking up the steps of the building … an inscription in the stone reminds us that “In God we trust.” That is the perfect prayer to start the day.

In the main rotunda, you’ll see a mural painted by Ed- win Austin Abbey entitled “The Spirit of Religious Lib- erty” showing William Penn’s ships coming to the New World. On those vessels were believers who fled their homeland seeking the freedom to practice their faith both publicly and privately without government interference. Another of these murals, “Spirit of Light,” shows women carrying flames against the backdrop of oil der- ricks. It is said the light of Pennsylvania depicted in these murals is not only the literal light produced by oil, but also the light that our foundational principle of religious freedom offers to the world.

Pope Francis’s visit was also full of images that will stay with us for a lifetime, like the photograph of Pope Francis embracing inmates at Curran-Fromhold Cor- rectional Facility. Pope Francis praying at Ground Zero among the ruins of their faiths, and hundreds of thousands gathered on the Ben Franklin Parkway for Mass. Through these photos, Pope Francis showed us the Great Way of love and mercy and how he could work together for the common good. This extraordinary man, with hundreds of thousands of people waiting for him, directed his driver to stop the car so that he could greet and bless a young boy in a wheelchair. That moving image of the Pontiff embracing the young man gives us a compelling image of a spiritual ideal: love. And it makes me ask, when was the last time I showed that kind of love and compassion to a stranger?

At first viewing, these images stir emotions in our heart and even inspire us to action. But over time, we may no longer be stirred to action by their inherent message. Art and imagery, which we overlook in our hurry from one meeting to another, can communicate the founding principles of our Commonwealth and our society. These images, this priceless art, make the invisible or imper- ceptible become reality before our eyes.

And what is the picture of the Church in our Common- wealth? There are over 3 million Catholics in Pennsylvania publicly living out our faith in a variety of ways. Catholic health care facilities serve over 3 million people of all faiths every year. Our Catholic charities agencies offer services to hundreds of thousands of Pennsylva- nians of all faiths or no faith each year, through food banks, emergency shelters, transitional housing and clothing drives. Our Catholic charitable outreach also helps immigrants and refugees, and our counseling ser- vices assist families, those struggling with addiction and those with mental health issues. Over 1,000 parishes across the state serve the local communi- ties and provide a spiritual home for young and old alike. Our over 950 Catho- lic schools allow more than 140,000 students, both Catholic and non- Catholic, to grow in wis- dom and grace each year. These ministries answer Jesus’ call to feed the hun- gry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the im- prisoned.

The religious freedom depicted in the art around the Capitol allows these Catholics to be active in their communities, living out their faith every day and provid- ing a benefit to all Pennsylvanians, not only those who consider themselves religious.

Christians in Pennsylvania are answering the man- date of the Gospel when they live out their faith in the public square, when they take their faith beyond the walls of the church and into the community.

In Washington, D.C., Pope Francis said, “...(Reli- gious) freedom remains one of America’s most precious possessions. And, as my brothers, the United States Bish- ops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, pre- cisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that free- dom from everything that would threaten or compromise it.”

William Penn would agree with Pope Francis’s com- ments. As some work to remove God and faith from the public square, they would remove the very inspiration and foundation of our state and our culture. Our Com- monwealth’s founding on the principle of religious lib- erty is well known, and the art that you walk by every day in the capitol reinforces that standard. The photographs from the Papal Visit showed the varied and important ways faith influences society.

I ask you, in your role as leaders of men and women, and shapers of society, to work to strengthen our foun- dation of religious freedom. I ask you to pass laws that allow for people of faith to answer the call of the Holy Father to be agents of change in society. Let us all rise to the ideal set by these images, which herald the important role of religion in the public square.

(Read the entire text of Bishop Gainer’s speech online at www.pacatholic.org, the website of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs arm of Pennsyl- vania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.)

Deacons’ Council Gets New Name, Board Members, Constitutions

The Diocese of Harrisburg's Deacons' Council ushered in a new chapter earlier this month, undergoing a name change and welcoming new board members and constitutions.

During a meeting held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on Oct. 14, the council name officially became the Deacon Community Board, as ap- pointed by Bishop Ronald Gainer. New members of the Deacon Community Board were seated, and Deacon Thomas Aumen was elected as the new chair, replacing outgoing chair, Deacon Richard Wentzel of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon. Also during the meeting, the board’s new constitutions, which have been in the works for several years, were pro-mulated.

The new constitution calls for three deacons and two wives or widows to be elected to the Deacon community board, and three deacons and one wife to be selected by the bishop. According to the National Directory of the Formation and Ministry of Permanent Deacons, the Deacon Community Board should assist the bishop in setting up retreats, educational days, days of reflection and any other tasks that would assist the bishop. The bishop or his delegate will serve as the president of the board, and the board itself will elect a chairperson and a secretary, both of whom must be deacons.

The newly-formed Deacon Community Board receives its constitutions during a meeting at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on Oct. 14. From left are Father Paul CB Schenck, Acting Director of Formation for Permanent Deacons, newly-elected chair Deacon Thomas Aumen, receiving the constitutions from Deacon Richard Wentzel, outgoing chair of the former Deacons’ Council, and Father Philip Burger, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life.

Bishop John Barnes of the Diocese of Allentown leads attendees in prayer during the legislative breakfast at the Harrisburg Hilton on Oct. 21.
Harrisburg Catholic Diocese has announced its schedule of events November 1-7.

**November 1**
- Celebrate Traditional Latin Mass, St. Andrew Fisher Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- Saint Charles Borromeo Board of Trustees Meeting, Wynnewood, Pa.
- LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.

**November 2**

**November 3**
- LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
- Saint Andrew School Board of Trustees Meeting, Waynesboro, 7 p.m.
- Celebrate 50th Anniversary Mass for St. John Neumann School, West York, 7 p.m.
- Host a Family Reunion Breakfast, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, New Holland, 7 p.m.
- Celebrate Mass for the Prison Christian Growth Group, York County Prison, York, 7 p.m.

**November 4**

**November 5**
- LARC Day of Dialogue, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
- Saint Andrew School Board of Trustees Meeting, Waynesboro, 7 p.m.
- Celebrate Mass for the Priests of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, New Holland, 6 p.m.

**November 6**

**November 7**
- Celebrate Thanksgiving Mass for the Priests of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, New Holland, 7 p.m.

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild invites all Catholic physicians, healthcare workers, medical students, residents and their families to attend their Annual White Mass Sunday, November 8 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg.

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Harrisburg, Celebrant and Homilist

Light Breakfast to follow

Please RSVP for reception to CathMedHbg@aol.com
In Memory of Father Ogden
An Evening of Organ Donation
Awareness & Education

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30-9 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Life and Education Center
420 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

Father Louis Ogden died on February 20, 2015, from a chronic liver condition. In honor of Father Ogden, who served as pastor of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown and St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, a special community organ and tissue donation education event will be held at St. Joseph’s Parish Life and Education Center.

The event will feature representatives from the Gift of Life Donor Program and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Transplant Institute, as well as transplant recipients and donor families.

RSVP by Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 717-766-9433 or office manager at sjosethem@mech.org.

Listening
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, I spent a three-day weekend with my four-year-old godson, Johnny. As I chased after him playing hide-and-seek in a park, I marveled on how wonderful it would be if we could “bottle” his four-year-old energy and give it to others who lacked it. I was also intrigued over his ability to communicate his needs to the adults that were around him.

My sister innately understood what he wanted, even without understanding some of the words he mispronounced. She reminded me of the importance of not only listening to his words, but also to his body language. The way he communicated his needs and wishes were as loud as the screams of glee he uttered as he played.

This reminded me of a recent article I came across on my LinkedIn thread: “The Most Important Leadership Skill” by Brigette Hyacinth. She tells her readers that listening is the most powerful skill a leader can master. She continues, “…What we hear is crucial to how we live. The act of listening marks the first step in communication. In Hebrew thought, the seat of wisdom or of intelligence is located not in the brain but in the ears.” She then explains that there are three levels of listening, each associated to a section of the ear.

The middle ear is connected with the head and the body, or with appreciative listening. The listener is not only listening to the words, but is physically engaged through the body language of gently nodding or even leaning towards the speaker with the sole purpose of forming opinions and making decisions.

The inner ear is associated with the heart, head, and body, also known as intuitive listening. Hyacinth notes that this level of listening is the heartbeat of all communication. “[They] listen to beyond what is being said, the hidden meaning. They read between the lines. They are genuinely attuned to the hidden meaning of all communication.”

In order for us to truly listen with the head, body and heart, we must put aside distractions, STOP multi-tasking and be truly “present” to what is going on at that very moment. By doing this, relationships develop, trust begins to grow. In our culture, in our “connected” world, I truly believe that we have forgotten the importance of intuitive listening truly calls us to become: other-orientated.

I applaud Hyacinth, who also notes that true balance between our busy work and family lives only comes from moments of stillness, silence and solitude. I would like to add to her recommendation that these three ingredients are also important for us to listen to God. How can we decide about life decisions or answer big questions without these three? Only through stillness, silence and solitude can we truly center on the tiny whispering voice of God that is always present, if we but attend to it.

The presence of God in our day-to-day decisions and interactions with people strengthens us to meet all ethical dilemmas as well as any difficulties that come our way. Listening to Him, in silence, who is our Protector and Shield (Psalm 7) as well as Fulfiller of our heart’s desires and plans (Psalm 20), allows us to overcome the alien voice of our culture. This voice can tempt us to take shortcuts that could take us away from the fulfillment of following God’s will. No matter how busy an individual gets, time spent in communion with God strengthens that individual in a profound way.

The next time things seem away and you feel as if you are going no place fast, step away from your life for a few moments and take the time to listen to Him who created you. Thank you, Johnny, for reminding me of that fact!

1https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/most-important-leadership-skill-brigette-hyacinth

(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 Diaconate Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Do you like zucchini? I absolutely do not. Yes, I have tried it. Maybe it’s the texture or the color, but I do not like zucchini. At all.

And that’s why, when my grandma mailed zucchini recipes to me, I threw them in the trash.

At a family reunion in my hometown of Lebanon in August, my grandma brought her go-to zucchini pie to share. She set a slice in front of me, and I’m sure I made a face to turn it away. It never fails; she’s known for more than 35 years that I don’t like zucchini, but she still tries to get me to eat it anyway. It’s a game we’ve always played, a family reunion tradition of sorts.

So, when she mailed zucchini recipes to me at my home, I shook my head and mumbled, “Nan, you know I’m not gonna use these.” Then, I took the recipes — scrawled on ringed notebook paper — and tossed them into the trash.

Five minutes later, my phone rang. It was Nan. Sometimes I really do believe she has a sixth sense about things. “What are you doing?” she asked.

“Getting ready to cook dinner.”

“Oh, are you using the zucchini recipes already?” she teased.

“Anyway, why did you send them to me if you know I won’t use them?”

Long pause. And then it occurred to me. She mailed the recipes — albeit to my home — for the “Feeding the Faith” series. So here they are — zucchini pie and pancakes — for fans of the summer squash to enjoy.

The purpose of the “Feeding the Faith” series is to help promote family meal time and encourage families to come back to the dinner table to strengthen their bonds and their faith.

The bonds I formed with my family in the kitchen and at the table run deep. Trying to keep up with simultaneous discussions at dinners after Sunday Mass, baking Hungarian cookies (Kiffles with walnuts) at Christmas, smothering pancakes with Nan’s homemade cake icing, fighting my uncle for the maraschino cherries in the fruit salad, breaking the wishbone with my aunt, listening to Nan’s stories as we cleaned the table and washed the dishes. They’re all memories that I can still see, hear, feel, smell and taste.

While these vignettes from my youth don’t carry much significance for anyone outside of my own family, the point is that everybody has their own mealtime memories that offer comfort and maybe even a bittersweet desire to gather friends and family around the dinner table once more.

Sure, things change. Family members have moved away. Others have passed on. My grandma’s kitchen belongs to another family now. But we work to keep the mealtime traditions alive, and I’m fortunate to welcome my family into my own home now for some holiday gatherings. It’s not the house or the kitchen or the place settings that matter — it’s the people.

Even if it means slices of Nan’s zucchini pie on my table.

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**Feeding The Faith**

**By Jen Reed**
The Catholic Witness

Do you like zucchini? I absolutely do not.

**Feeding The Faith**

**Mary Hartman Parishioner of Mary, Gate of Heaven, Myerstown**

**Zucchini Pie**

**Ingredients:**
- 4 cups of thinly sliced zucchini
- 1 small sliced onion (optional)
- 1 cup of Bisquick
- ½ cup of grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- 1/8 teaspoon of black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon of parsley flakes
- ½ cup of vegetable oil
- 4 eggs

**Directions:**
Mix the sliced zucchini and the sliced onion into a large bowl
In a second bowl, mix the Bisquick, Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper and parsley
In a third bowl, beat together the vegetable oil and eggs
Then, combine all three bowls together, and mix well

Pour final mixture into a ten-inch pie pan
Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes

**Feeding The Faith**

**Mary Hartman Parishioner of Mary, Gate of Heaven, Myerstown**

**Zucchini Pancakes**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 small zucchini, shredded
- 6.5 ounces of cornbread mix
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup of milk
- Vegetable oil

**Directions:**
Heat shredded zucchini in microwave for 2 minutes, and drain
Combine zucchini, cornbread mix, egg and milk, and let stand for 5 minutes
Heat vegetable oil in a frying pan, and drop heaping tablespoons of batter into oil
Cook each side for 2 minutes.

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**Send Us Your Holiday Recipes and Stories!**

The Catholic Witness is looking to support family meal time by sharing family recipes in upcoming editions, as well as scripture and “food for thought.” Do you have a significant holiday dish and memory to share with us? You may mail a copy of the recipe and your thoughts to 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or email it to witness@hbgdiocese.org.
Keynote at Inaugural Conference Heartens Women to Be Blessed Like the Virgin Mary

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

The keynote speaker at the inaugural Diocesan Women’s Conference issued a challenge to the crowd of more than 800 attendees: say yes to God in every moment.

“In our own lives, we hear God’s Word and put it into practice by offering little ‘Fiats’ or ‘yeses’ throughout the day,” said Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister John Sheila Galligan, Professor of Theology at Immaculata University.

But saying yes can be difficult, and sometimes we can’t even give God our Fiat from the first moment of our day, she said from the stage at Bishop McDevitt High School, where the conference was held Oct. 24.

“You must say ‘fia’ to the new day? Do you say, ‘Good morning, God,’ or do you say, ‘Good morning, God,”’ Sister John Sheila posed in her engaging, practical and often humorous keynote, “Arise and Call Her Blessed.”

“We become blessed by giving our Fiats through everyday life,” she said.

Hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg and its Department for Religious Education, the conference drew more than 800 women for a day focused on the theme, “Sanctity and Sanity: Finding God in Your Daily Life.”

As attendees gathered and filled nearly both levels of the school’s auditorium, conference committee members affirmed that this year’s event would be the first of the annual gathering, an announcement that was met with much gratitude and applause.

The day was one of rejuvenation, education and inspiration for women, and was highlighted by Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. It also included praise and worship music from the group, praise and worship music from the group,Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by her son, Father Joseph F. Chorpenning, O.S.F.S., and at Knight’s Candy Store and the office of Willow Grove Apartments in Highspire. She has been a widow since 1974.

After graduating from John Harris High School, Ethel worked at the Telegraph Press in Harrisburg, where she met Thomas Chorpenning. They were married in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Harrisburg in 1937. They had two children, Donna Marie (Notarangelo), who died in 2014 after waging a courageous battle against cancer, and Joseph Francis, who is a Roman Catholic priest in the religious order of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, for most of her married life, Ethel devoted herself to making a caring and loving home for her children and husband, and cooking wonderful food of all kinds, especially Italian. She later worked in the business office of Bowman’s Department Store in Harrisburg, and at Knight’s Candy Store and the office of Willow Grove Apartments in Highspire. She has been a widow since 1974.

Ethel has four adult grandchildren (the children of Donna and her husband Michael Notarangelo): Maria Gassner, Julie Neuman, Kathy Leontes, and Thomas Notarangelo. She has 10 great-grandchildren, ranging in age from 7 to 27.

(Submitted by Father Joseph F. Chorpenning, O.S.F.S.)
Maggie's Story: Living Like Dad

My dad's legacy of faith and courage have been a beacon for me, lighting my path as I walk through the valley of the shadow of my own death. I daily look to him for his strength and wisdom and comfort. He taught me to view this disease as a blessing in disguise.

I was nervous and uncomfortable as I drove to the hospice facility to visit my dad. Just a few weeks prior, he had suffered a severe fall that damaged his spinal cord and left him unable to move from his neck down. It took my family and me a while to accept that my dad was a paraplegic, and it was hard to come to terms with this or to imagine that I would lose my dad so young.

My formerly healthy and active father would no longer be doing much of anything for himself. His health was quickly failing due to his age and the stress the accident imposed on his system. I knew we were entering a new phase of Dad’s existence: the end of his life. I struggled with how to manage the truth of my diagnosis with a God who loved Dad and our family.

Watching anyone suffer, especially a loved one, is one of the hardest human experiences. Physical and emotional pain seep into us and affect us profoundly. For me, watching my father come to terms with his prognosis was agonizing. At first it was awkward trying to converse with a father I only knew as “Dad,” the guy who loaned me the car keys in high school and made sure I could balance my checkbook in college. But eventually, the conversation turned to life’s more significant topics. This was new, but refreshing, and soon became a time that our family cherished. I learned more about my dad in those last five months than I had ever thought was possible. One point he even remarked how great it was to have the time to just talk together.

As time progressed, his condition deteriorated, bringing dementia, and that stage led to his death. “Why doesn’t God just take him already?” my siblings and I cried. It was so hard to see him linger.

Looking back, I’m convinced that walking through those moments with Dad made both of us different and better people. God loved us enough to give him challenges—those that stretched and expected moments of suffering—in order to teach us lessons which helped us to grow spiritually and emotionally. Dad left a legacy. He taught me how to live and die with faith and dignity marked by patience and grace. He taught me that dignity can’t be diminished by pain or loss of personal control. Regardless of our circumstances and whether people acknowledge it, nothing and no one can take away our God-given dignity.

Dad taught me that Jesus was walking along with him through “the valley of the shadow of death.” He taught me that I was not alone in the Cross left him alone, in pain, and by all appearances, abandoned by his Father in heaven. Because of this, Dad knew Christ experienced and understood suffering more deeply than any of us. He also taught me that our suffering is not meaningless when we unite it with Christ’s own suffering.

I needed to know that message because my own life today is filled with chemo treatments, fatigue, and an overall loss of my physical abilities. I’ve been diagnosed with aggressive glioblastoma brain cancer. This is a terminal illness, and I’m only 51 with 3 kids and a busy husband. It pains me to watch them struggle to care for me daily. I cry out to God every night with the same questions my father had. But I am certain my God hears my cries, which are sometimes angry, sometimes frustrated, and sometimes exhilarating. I know this because Jesus also cried out to His Father in pain and showed me that God can handle our questions, our fears, and our unanswerable questions.

My dad’s legacy of faith and courage have been a beacon for me, lighting my path as I walk through the valley of the shadow of my own death. I know that in some states, I could legally seek to end my life with a lethal prescription. However, I also know that there is much more to my story, and many more people involved in it, than just myself. Assisted suicide wouldn’t end suffering; it would increase it for those left behind.

One of the central arguments against physician-assisted suicide isn’t about me or any other individual patient’s story, but about us as a social and a community of faith. We are meant to be interdependent, to serve each other in humility, and to walk together in suffering.

Assisted suicide also involves more than just the patient. It includes doctors, pharmacists, witnesses, and family. It is a sacrifice that we as a society and as a community of faith. We are meant to be interconnected, to serve each other in humility, and to walk together in suffering.

Physicians who assist suicide by giving control to the dying are acting primarily for self-preservation. It’s like looking at a stained-glass window from the outside: the colors look flat, and you can’t quite make out the figures. From the inside, however, with the sun shining through it, the effect can be brilliant. From inside I see how many families have described their loved one’s smile as a light to guide them through their darkest hour. It illuminates our lives with Christ. Mary. We see the loving presence of Jesus and the marvelous gift of the Holy Spirit that we believe is in every human life. We see the beauty of the human love that we believe illuminates our lives with Christ. Mary. We see the loving presence of Jesus and the marvelous gift of the Holy Spirit that we believe is in every human life.

In our family we have found that our hearts, rather than being weighed down, have become lighter. Caring for Charlie has given us more patience, more compassion, and more love for others—especially those on the outskirts of society, whom we believe Christ had in mind when He gave us the command to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

I have since come to understand that life does not end when we lose another important dimension of personhood: we are created to be in relationship with others. As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his encyclical Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008), no. 92.

The beauty of parenting, I tell them, is that you aren’t given a child with a disability. You are given your child with a disability. Your child enters the world in a relationship with you, and you still love him or her. You have to care for your child with a disability. You are called to love a particular person, and caring for him or her grows out of that love.

I once read an article in which a woman discussed the reasons for aborting her child with Down syndrome. The deal-breaker for her was watching a boy with Down syndrome at a restaurant with his mother and father. They had to hand-feed him a slice of pizza, she said, and wipe his face with a napkin. This hit home for me. We are now weaning our seven-year-old Charlie off a feeding tube. Although he’s making progress, we still spoon-feed him and often wipe his face afterwords. I wonder how many of us have been so quick to judge a family’s love for their child. When I meet another parent of a child with Down syndrome, I make an effort to forget my own biases and remember that people with disabilities are people with disabilities. She and her husband are the proud parents of five children.
Planned Parenthood: Setting the Record Straight

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has opposed the long-running Planned Parenthood debate. Here is a fact sheet to help set the record straight. (Download a printable version and video version at http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-dignity/abortion/plannedparenthood.html.)

In 2015, a series of undercover videos showed the dismembered body of a Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) discussing how they perform abortions and traffic in the bodies of fetuses. The officials’ matter-of-fact comments on destroying unborn human life, and on altering their bodies to obtain organs, have led to a public debate on how they perform abortions and traffic in the bodies of fetuses. The controversy has spread internationally, with PPFA officials depicted in videos discussing harvesting the bodies of aborted children.

1. PPFA is the largest abortion provider in the U.S.

In 2013, the last year reported, Planned Parenthood affiliates performed 327,653 abortions, both surgical and “medical” (using the abortion drug RU-486). PPFA’s share of the abortion “market” has expanded steadily over the years. It performed one out of every five of all abortions in the United States in 2005, but now performs about one in three.

2. Every Planned Parenthood affiliate runs abortion clinics.

In 2010, PPFA announced that by 2013 every affiliate must have one or more clinics that perform abortions on-site. A few affiliates fled PPFA rather than comply with the new abortion mandate.

3. Planned Parenthood provides 16 times more abortions than its births prevention clinics.

While PPFA says abortions make up 3% of its services, this is misleading. PPFA says it served 2.7 million patients (women and men) and performed 327,653 abortions, indicating that 12% of everyone entering a Planned Parenthood clinic receives an abortion. And PPFA provided only 16,864 “prenatal services” and 1,880 referrals for adoptions at other agencies. So 94% of its services for pregnant women are abortions, outnumbering other services 16 to 1.

4. Planned Parenthood promotes RU-486 abortions that have killed young women.

PPFA strongly supports the dangerous abortion drug RU-486, promoted its extensive use in the United States, and is promoting it again at www.40daysforlife.com. In 2015, a series of undercover videos revealed that PPFA officials were discussing harvesting the bodies of aborted children.

5. Planned Parenthood fights even modest laws to reduce abortions.

PPFA has opposed, and filed suit against, reasonable and widely supported measures on abortion, even those protecting wom- en’s health and informed decision making. These include:

- laws to ensure a woman’s informed consent, allow her to view an ultrasound before the abortion, or provide a 24-hour waiting period for her to consider her deci- sion
- parental notification or consent before a minor daughter’s abortion
- bans on the gruesome partial-birth abortion procedure
- • health and safety regulations for abortion facilities
- • requiring abortion practitioners to have admitting privileges at a local hospital in case of complications
- • safeties for the abortion drug RU-486

6. Planned Parenthood doesn’t believe in a “right to choose” against abortion.

“The Freedom of choice” does not apply to those who disagree with PPFA. It opposes laws recognizing conscience rights for doctors, nurses and health facilities with moral or religious objections to abortion and, dismissively referring to conscience clauses as “refusal clauses.” Planned Parenthood strongly supports U.S. funding of the U.N. Population Fund (UNPAF), and other international organizations that promote abortion and involuntary sterilization. Such coercion is recognized internationally as a crime against women. PPFA also opposes conscience rights for pharmacists who object to providing “emergency con- traception” drugs due to their abortifacient potential, and thinks even religious orders should be forced to include these in their health plans.

7. Planned Parenthood is not “choice” or abortion.

In the light of the failure of contraceptive pro- grams to reduce unintended pregnancies or abortions, Planned Parenthood has increas- ingly promoted “LARC” (long-acting reversible contraceptives) – implantables, injectables, and intrauterine devices – that can sterilize women for months or years at a time. PPFA, however, has abandoned “pro-choice” as a slogan — in- sisting that its goal is not “independent” from user motivation and adherence — that is, they disregard a woman’s own changing repro- ductive goals and cannot be halted without medical assistance. PPFA has even abandoned “pro-choice” as a slogan — in- sisting that its goal is not “independent” from user motivation and adherence — that is, they disregard a woman’s own changing repro- ductive goals and cannot be halted without medical assistance.

Planned Parenthood’s supporters cite its “cervical and breast cancer screenings” — but its heavily promoted contraceptive service over the counter, and its “contraceptive” prov- ision, is associated with an increased risk of breast and cervical cancer. Planned Par- enthood's “screening” for breast or cervical cancer is a preliminary screen that a woman can do for herself — it offers no mammograms or biopsies. PPFA emphasizes its testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases — but it heavily promotes contraceptive methods that may increase women’s risk of contracting STDs, including AIDS. Wom- en’s comprehensive health needs are much better served by community health centers and other federally qualified health centers, which serve 22 million patients in both ur- ban and rural areas.

8. Planned Parenthood’s role in serving women’s health is compromised at best, and in many instances is illegal.

Planned Parenthood’s supporters cite its “cervical and breast cancer screenings” — but its heavily promoted contraceptive service over the counter, and its “contraceptive” provision, is associated with an increased risk of breast and cervical cancer. Planned Parenthood’s “screening” for breast or cervical cancer is a preliminary screen that a woman can do for herself — it offers no mammograms or biopsies. PPFA emphasizes its testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases — but it heavily promotes contraceptive methods that may increase women’s risk of contracting STDs, including AIDS. Women’s comprehensive health needs are much better served by community health centers and other federally qualified health centers, which serve 22 million patients in both urban and rural areas.

9. “Non-Profit” Planned Parenthood reaps enormous revenues, including tax revenues.

PPFA is legally a non-profit organization but takes in enormous revenues: $1.3 billion in the year ending June 30, 2014, netting $127 million over expenses. $528.4 million, or 41% of total revenue, is from taxpayers’ dollars.

10. Planned Parenthood promotes risky “emergency contraception” to minors.

PPFA promotes over-the-counter sales of “emergency contraception” (EC) pills, even to minors below the age of 15, although lowest-dose birth control pills require a prescription due to health risks. Planned Parenthood programs boosting access to ECs would reduce un- tended pregnancies and abortions has been rebuffed by numerous studies.

11. Planned Parenthood has promoted abortions worldwide even where it is illegal.

PPFA exports its ideology to developing nations, promoting abortion as family plan- ning. As long ago as 1983, the then-current president of PPFA co-authored and signed a notorious International Planned Par- enthood Federation (IPPF) declaration urging IPPF affiliates to violate their own countries’ laws and perform illegal abortions: “Fam- ily Planning Associations and other non- governmental organizations should not use their influence to promote or support legal abortion. If these organizations are found to be in violation of an action, even in violation of it, is part of the maturation change.”

Take Action

In York, Pregnancy & Family Resource Center Has Been Promoting Sanctity of Life for 25 Years

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

When the doors of the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center in York open to a woman searching for assistance, the world of uncertainty outside yields to one of compassion and hope inside.

There’s a welcoming and warm atmosphere at the center, located at 1049 North Hartley Street, just a few blocks south of the business district of Route 30.

A serene waiting room decorated with a feminine touch, a professional medical ultrasound room, and private counseling areas that look more like family living rooms than a resource area beckons clients into a place of understanding.

Here, women who are facing unexpected pregnancy, searching for referrals or seeking items for their baby can unload their burdens and uncertainties in confidentiality with the help of staff ready to assist.

“When they enter the doors here, we want them to feel safe and welcome,” said Melinda Waterbury, the Assistant Director at the center.

She is one of 16 trained volunteer advocates and five part-paid staff at the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center, which is currently observing its 25th year of fulfilling its mission of providing alternatives to abortion that respect life and encourage the healthy development of the family.

The center offers parenting education, referrals, infant and toddler items and practical support services to anyone involved in a pregnancy or in parenting young children, regardless of their religious beliefs or life experiences.

Women can receive prenatal care, ultrasound exams, medical referrals and maternity clothing. Male advocates are available to talk to fathers seeking assistance or a compassionate ear.

When clients make an appointment at the center, or walk in during hours that offer free pregnancy tests, they are paired with an advocate who will be their go-to person for the length of services.

“One of the reasons we ask our clients to meet with an advocate is so that we can say to them, ‘We want to help you, but we can’t do that unless we know what’s going on in your world,’” Mrs. Waterbury said.

“We want to give our clients an opportunity to talk, to ask questions for conversation,” said Linda Skehan R.N., the center’s Executive Director. “Many of our clients are isolated and don’t have extended family to support them. We welcome them to talk with us, share their worries and hash out some of the challenges in their lives so we can help them to get what they need,” she said.

The specific services offered at the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center are wide ranging, and free of charge. In the spring of 2014, the center began offering obstetric ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy. This service came on the heels of a rigorous two-year process to meet medical requirements, and from the generosity of St. Patrick Parish Knights of Columbus Council #11872 and St. Rose of Lima Council #10870 who raised funds to purchase the ultrasound machine.

Ultrasounds are performed by professional sonographers who volunteer their time at the center. Following the ultrasound, the center’s staff will refer the mother for medical care.

The center also has a charming boutique filled with infant and toddler clothing, bibs, pacifiers, blankets, bottles and sippy cups, strollers and cribs.

Parents can purchase items from the boutique with “famil- dollar” that they earn from completing one of dozens of educational lessons offered at the center. The lessons – in video and book form – cover such topics as prenatal care, parenting skills, health and hygiene, and goal-setting.

A community pantry is also on-site to provide infant and toddler clothing, maternity clothing, formula, diapers and other emergency supplies. The pantry provides items donated by individuals, churches, schools and organizations.

The center offers referrals for healthcare, employment, housing, adoption and childcare, and for post-abortion healing—whatever clients might need to support themselves and their families.

“We are a pro-life ministry, and, as such, we care about all areas of a woman’s life—her physical and emotional wellbeing, her unborn child, and any children she might already have,” Mrs. Skehan said. “We want to show them that we genuinely care about them.”

Fulfilling the Pro-Life Mission

The Pregnancy & Family Resource Center opened its doors 25 years ago in York, established by the late Msgr. Thomas Brenner, then-parochial of St. Patrick Parish, and a core group led by Lynn Newcomer and Lori Mitrack. The ministry, then known as the Pregnancy Problem Center, offered confidential pro-life services from its first location on Princess Street. Lynn Newcomer still serves as President and as a client advocate. She states, “Through God’s grace, the center has made a difference in our community; many babies’ lives have been saved and mothers’ lives changed for the better from hearing the truth in love.”

In its 25 years, the center has provided 7,000 pregnancy and parenting lessons, and more than 100,000 diapers, 2,000 cans of formula, and 34,000 baby items and maternity clothes.

Three figures translate into positive outcomes. Clients form bonds with advocates, and find the support and encouragement they need for independence, wellbeing, education, employment, better parenting, and healthier, stable relationships. Support services are provided for women and families through the child’s second year of age.

The center serves an average of 300 women and families each year, and is currently on track for more than 1,000 client visits this year. Most of the clients are single mothers between the ages of 20 and 29, but clients range in age from teens to women in their 40s.

An estimated 46 percent of the women who come to the center are for an abortion, obstacles that could make them feel incapable or unwilling to carry their baby to term. The center estimates that at least ninety percent of them, after receiving services, intend to choose life for the child.

“They respond to the positive messages we give them. They appreciate the care and concern they receive from our nurses and sonographers,” Mrs. Skehan said.

Most of the support for the center comes from private donations, churches, schools and organizations, who offer financial support and material items. In addition, the center is a service provider for Real Alternatives, a non-profit charitable organization that administers funds to support many Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services in Pennsylvania.

On the first Saturday of each month, volunteers serve at the center to sort donated items by size, gender and season, and to assess the condition of items. Those in need can rummage through bins to find a matching ensemble.

The Pregnancy & Family Resource Center recently expanded to open a second office at their location on Market Street. This office also offers pregnancy testing, parenting lessons, and a boutique of infant and toddler items. Its east-end location is convenient for clients who live in the cities to the north of York, and from the generosity of St. Patrick’s Knights of Columbus Council #11872 and St. Rose of Lima Council #10870 who raised funds to support many Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services in Pennsylvania.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the center launched the Life Partner Program as a new way to raise funds for its critical work. The program offers donors the opportunity to make a monthly monetary donation in the amount of their choice from their own account.

“My hope is that anyone can make on behalf of the work we do here goes a long way in caring for women, babies and families,” Mrs. Waterbury said.

In its 25 years of promoting the sanctity of life, the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center has continued to fulfill its mission of offering life-affirming and family-focused alternatives to abortion, and always ready to meet clients with compassion and care.

Mrs. Skehan sees it as one effort in the promotion of culture of life.

“Everybody has a role to play in the pro-life movement,” she states. “Some offer witness as sidewalk counselors or in prayer in front of clinics, others assist with Rachel’s Vineyard retreats to help from abortion, or raise funds for our campaign for Life and donate to pro-life efforts,” she said. “If we all do our part, we have a greater chance of addressing all sides of the pro-life cause and changing hearts and minds.”
and infirm, and practicing the Corporal home, establishing a home for the aged for the poor in inviting them to dine at his devotion to the saints, as well as his care charist, daily Mass attendance and his More for his prayer life, love for the Eu- endangered,” he said.

Bishop Rhoades went on to say that the personal integrity of lawyers, judges, poli- ticians and statesmen depends on a pro- perly formed conscience. He urged the congregation to stand upon the firm ground of moral truth, which can be found where St. Thomas More found it: on the wings of faith and reason.

“Through faith and reason, we discover the objective and universally valid moral norms without which society flound- ers, tyranny abounds, and humanity is mor- al norms without which society floun- pers, tyranny abounds, and humanity is mor-

...
Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy Continue Ministry of Foundress at Misericordia

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

The Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy can be seen throughout our diocese in different roles; some as teachers, others in a nursing or medical trade. Sister Claudia, the Director of Pastoral Care at Misericordia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in York, who has also worked in education, spoke about the deep compassion that her community’s foundress, St. Mary Joseph Rossello, had for the care of others. Sister Claudia exemplifies this call every day as she visits with residents of Misericordia and distributes the Eucharist to Catholic residents. As she walks through the halls of the nursing and rehabilitation center, she greets each resident by name but also engages with them about a book they might be reading, or reminds them of an activity they might enjoy that day.

Sister Claudia lives above the facility with Sister Damian, who has also worked in education, spoke about the deep compassion that her community’s foundress, St. Mary Joseph Rossello, had for the care of others. Sister Claudia exemplifies this call every day as she visits with residents of Misericordia and distributes the Eucharist to Catholic residents. As she walks through the halls of the nursing and rehabilitation center, she greets each resident by name but also engages with them about a book they might be reading, or reminds them of an activity they might enjoy that day.

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Columbia Celebrates 150 Years of Catholic School Education

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Since the late 1800s, the parishes in Columbia have endeavored to offer Catholic school education to the children in their care, dating back to the start of Holy Trinity School in 1856 and St. Peter School in 1871, and continuing with their consolidation into Our Lady of the Angels School in 1998. To honor 150 years of this faith-based education, the parish and school communities gathered at Holy Trinity Church on Oct. 25 to mark the monumental occasion.

Alumni, past principals and teachers, and clergy and religious who are graduates of Columbia’s Catholic schools joined current members of the Our Lady of the Angels School community for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer, and concelebrated by priests of the town’s two parishes: Holy Trinity and St. Peter.

“What a story we have to tell here, a story of sacrifice, perseverance and dedication. It’s a story of trust in God, a story of understanding the essential mission of our Church – the education of our children,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily.

“What a debt we owe to the beautiful men and women who came here to start Catholic education 150 years ago with absolute trust in God,” he said. “You, the parents, put your faith in Catholic education – an education that opens our minds and souls to our Creator.”

The roots of Catholic school education in Columbia, situated on the western edge of Lancaster County, are traced back to Father William Pieper, the second pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, who saw the need for a school in the young parish. Holy Trinity School opened on Sept. 1, 1865, in the church basement.

For 114 years it was staffed by the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, who arrived from Philadelphia in 1869. Ninth and tenth grades were soon added, and were offered for 25 and 30 years, respectively.

When the Sisters of St. Francis departed at the conclusion of the 1982-1983 academic year, Holy Trinity School received its first lay principal, Mrs. Shirley Meley. Soon, kindergarten and preschool programs were added.

From its one-room classroom in the church basement in 1865, Holy Trinity grew in its 133-year-history to accommodate the spiritual and academic needs of its students. Its highest enrollment was 486 students in 1963.

Half a mile away from Holy Trinity School, Father James Russell began Catholic-school education at St. Peter Parish in 1871, just six years after the neighboring parish and school communities gathered at Holy Trinity Church.

In 1871, just six years after the neighboring Catholic school Russell began Catholic-school education at St. Peter Parish in 1963.

Our Lady of the Angels School in Columbia welcomes students, alumni and members of the community for an Open House to celebrate 150 years of Catholic education in Columbia.

Below: Father Michael Reid, pastor of St. Peter and Holy Trinity parishes in Columbia, gives a blessing to Andrew Spencer.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Catholics in Columbia have a unique and rich history of education. The Catholic education in Columbia has been blessed with educating our parishioners’ sons and daughters over the generation span of 150 years,” said Beth Ruiz, chairperson of the 150th anniversary committee. “The other blessing bestowed to our parish school is the call by God for several of the students to serve as priests and sisters. What a magnificent tribute we can share with the religious vocation of Catholic faith in our diocese.”

Activities scheduled at Our Lady of the Angels during this historic year include efforts to complete 150 service hours and 150 random acts of kindness, and collect 150 shoeboxes for service men and women, 150 baby items for Mom’s House, 150 school supplies for the less fortunate and 150 Thanksgiving bags for the local food bank, among other charitable endeavors.

For information on Our Lady of the Angels School, visit www.ournladyoftheangels.org or call 717-584-2433.

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Synod Calls for Greater Promotion of Women’s Role in Church

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

If the Catholic Church did more to recognize and promote women’s responsibility within the Church, it could help their status in societies as well, said the cardinals and bishops on the female issues.

The Church should show “greater recognition of their responsibility in the Church,” the final report said. “This means allowing for changes in making processes, their participation in the governance of some institutions, their involvement in the formation of ordained ministers, the appointment of women as a sanctuary protecting the sacredness of human life and the Church; the heroic witness of parents who support their children’s choice of a same sex” a condition for financial assistance.

The synod’s final report, which was approved Oct. 24, addressed the pastoral needs of those who are often cast aside by society. “The synod report insisted that several bishops mentioned specifically a need to improve the text’s references to “the relationship between conscience and the moral law.”

The text refers to conscience in sections dealing with procreation and with marital situations, the Church considers irregular, particularly the situation of divorced civilly remarried Catholics. “Many thought that the Church praised greater efforts to be with couples in crisis and praised divorced Catholics, who, even in difficult situations, do not undertake a new union, remaining faithful to the sacramental bond. Such Catholics are noted, the report states, should “find in the Eucharist the nourishment that sustains them.”

Those who have remarried without an annulment of their sacramental marriage must be welcomed and included in the parish community in every way possible, the report said. “They are baptized, they are brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit gives them gifts and charisms for the good of all.”

Quoting from St. John Paul’s exhortation on the family, the report said, “For the sake of truth,” are called to discernable when assisting and counseling people who divorced and remarried, honoring and respecting those who have been unjustly abandoned, and those who through their own grave fault have destroyed a canonically valid marriage,” in the words of St. John Paul.

Priests must “accompany interested people on the path of discernment in teaching with the authority of the Church and the guidance of the bishop,” the report said.

While the report makes no explicit mention of abortion and the return to Communism, it seems to leave some possibility for such a solution by quoting St. John Paul’s exhortation that “imputability and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified” because of different justifications as the case, the report said, “also the consequences of the acts are not necessarily the same in all cases.”

In several places the text praises the teaching of “Humanae Vitae,” the document of Blessed Paul VI on married love and the transmission of life. “Conjugal love between a man and a woman and the transmission of life are ordered one to the other,” the report said.

“Responsible parenthood presupposes the formation of the conscience, which is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, there is the only occasion of justification that ‘imputability and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified.’”

“Humanity’s history is a history of migrants: this truth is inscribed in the lives of people and of families,” the report said. “We also bless these: We are all pilgrims.”

The value of families who endure the difficulties of lovingly caring for members who have disabilities or special needs also was emphasized. Those families, the report said, “give the Church and society a papal witness to faithfulness to the gift of life.”

“The family that accepts with the eyes of faith the presence of people with disabilities, its rights and its opportunities,” the report said.

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If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

The Knights of Columbus are a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and neighbor. They help meet the needs of those in the local community, provide “Coats for Kids” and “Food for Families,” support programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities, aid victims of natural disasters and other catastrophic events, local and worldwide, donate wheelchairs to people without mobility at home and abroad, and save lives through initiatives such as the “Ultrasound Program.”

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. They volunteer time to serve parishes and communities. By working together, they were able to donate more than $1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

Unity and fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The organization was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communities, protect the wellbeing of their Catholic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life’s journey. The Knights of Columbus organization offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith through living the example of charity that evangelizes and by personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

From charity for worldwide causes, to closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights make the most of their brotherhood.

Visit www.kofc.org/join, and look for Knights of Columbus in your parish during membership drives.

St. Patrick School in Carlisle played host to dogs, cats, hermit crabs and even a chicken on Friday, Oct. 9, as the preK-8th grade Cumberland County school invited students and parishioners to bring their pets to the school parking lot for a pet blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day the Church celebrated on Oct. 4.

Father Donald Bender, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish, conducted his first pet blessing to the animated group gathered on a sunny afternoon. The blessing attracted approximately 50 animals, the majority of which were dogs, although a turkey and a snake also joined in the fun.

“Seminary doesn’t really prepare you for blessing snakes, ducks and turkeys,” said Father Bender, who was ordained on June 6 of this year. He said he jokingly asked the turkey’s owner if it was going to make it past November.

Father Bender said his first experience with such an event was a positive one.

“It was nice. It was a good church, parish, school activity.”

As if a parking lot of animals wasn’t enough to get the students excited, St. Patrick kept the energy level high that afternoon with an after-school Fall Fest.

Students of all ages packed the school gym for carnival games, face-painting, apple-eating, pumpkin decorating and more. The fest was sponsored by PATS, the Parent Action Team of St. Patrick School. Many other parents and students volunteered their efforts to help make the day a success.

(Submitted by Lisa Maddux, Development Director at St. Patrick School.)
Foundation Announces $197,500 in ETIC Scholarships to Several Dauphin County Schools

From Bridge Educational Foundation

Bridge Educational Foundation announced scholarships last month totaling $197,500 to local families through Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (ETIC) program. The scholarships were made possible by the participation of the following businesses in the ETIC program: Aquia Security Insurance, Covanta, E.L.F., Inc., Malicaid, Inc., PPL, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Middletown Christian School, York Catholic, St. Margaret Mary, St. Catherine Laboure, and Bishop McDevitt in Harrisburg.

Peter Gleason, Board Chairman of the Bridge Educational Foundation, offered, “Pennsylvania’s educational tax credit programs are helping to connect businesses with their future workforce. Bridge Educational Foundation is proud to be an ambassador for these programs. To ensure the continued growth of the ETIC and OSTC it’s important to bring together the stakeholders and celebrate the success of the public-private partnerships. The over 14,000 families Bridge has helped since 2005 are just a portion of the thousands of Pennsylvania families positively impacted by Pennsylvania’s educational tax credits.”

“Without the Pennsylvania’s educational tax credit programs many families could not afford educational options,” he said. “We thank our legislative leaders for their support and expansion of the ETIC and OSTC. We look forward to helping thousands of additional Pennsylvania families with scholarships and hope that events like the one today encourage more businesses to apply for educational tax credits.”

The ETIC K-12 tuition program provides companies with a 95 percent tax credit – 90 percent for a two-year commitment – for funds distributed to approved, non-profit pre-kindergarten schools. The pre-kindergarten credits provide up to $7,500 in tax credit per student per year.

The Bridge Educational Foundation is a scholarship organization recognized as an approved 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and was established under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Visit www.bridgeedu.org for information.

York Catholic High School Honors Corporations for EITC/OSTC Scholarships

Sixth grade students at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata enjoy donning lab coats and goggles before beginning their lesson in the new Science Lab.

York Catholic High School honored local corporations with a breakfast to thank them for recognizing the value of a Catholic education and choosing to invest in their students’ future by helping York Catholic to attract and educate tomorrow’s business leaders.

These corporations supported student education with generous contributions through the ETIC (Educational Incentive Tax Credit) and OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit) programs through the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation. ETIC and OSTC contributions enable students to study at York Catholic, and offer participating companies up to 90 percent in tax credit. Businesses in attendance were Berkshire-Hathaway Homesale Realty Services Group, PeoplesBank, Rutters, Stewart & Tate, Inc., Westgate Chevrolet, Inc., York Building Products, Inc., and York Water Company. Businesses unable to attend were Maple Donuts, Precision Distribution Consulting, and Utz Quality Food, Inc. These donors collectively donated over $165,000 to support York Catholic students. Pictured are, front row, Jennifer Najdek, Rosealee Najdek, Lorenzo Paul, Annie Javitt, and Principal Katie Soufer. Back row, Dean Dominick (K&B), Alexandra Henry (Rutter’s), Art Full (SF & Company), Bob Stewart, Jr. (Stewart & Tate), Westgate Chevrolet, Inc, York Building Products Company). JYH (York Water Company), Rick Doyle (Berkshire Hathaway Homesale Realty), and Diane Baker (PeoplesBank).

In addition, Bridge Educational Foundation, along with M&T Bank, Senior Life York and Waste Management, announced a total of $25,720 in both Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) scholarships for York County families last month at York Catholic.

The Bridge Educational Foundation gathered together the business donors; Steve Smith of M&T Bank, Gina Graciano of Senior Life York and Brian Fishman of Waste Management and local elected officials, Senator Scott Wagner. Representative Kev Schreiber in Representative Stan Saylor were unable to attend the event but sent a representative from their office. All attended to show their support for the educational tax credit programs.

York Catholic thanks Bridge Educational Foundation, M&T Bank, Senior Life York, and Waste Management for their generous support of its students. The school also thanks the legislators for recognizing the importance of the EITC/OSTC programs and supporting its continuance.

(Submitted by York Catholic High School.)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School Dedicates New LabLearner Science Program

Recently, Our Mother of Perpetual Help School celebrated a ceremony to dedicate their new LabLearner science lab. LabLearner, founded by company president Dr. Keith Varner, has become the premier method for teaching science to our nation’s youth, through hands-on techniques that engage children and increase their enthusiasm for learning. The school raised the $75,000 needed to implement LabLearner in less than a year, due largely to donations made by generous benefactors, alumni, and even a current student.

We are very excited to introduce the LabLearner science program to our students,” said Principal Margaret Gardner. “Our students will be challenged in their cognitive learning by the approach science concepts, critical thinking, and problem solving in a lab environment.”

Father John McLoughlin, pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, blessed the lab and thanked the benefactors who graciously donated the funds to bring LabLearner to the school.

“Pope Francis has made it very clear, the importance of family, of all creation,” Father McLoughlin remarked. “This addition to the OMPH science program will encourage young people going forward to discover the sciences, to help all of God’s creation.”

Principal Margaret Gardner introduced Nicole Nelson, an OFM fifth-grade student, who worked to raise money over the summer and donated those earnings to the LabLearner project. When asked what she enjoyed most about the new lab, Nicole replied, “We can do cool experiments because it is hands-on.” Nicole did not hesitate to say yes when asked if she and her classmates were enjoying LabLearner. Miss Gardner then explained how the LabLearner program is not just for the older students; curriculum is “progressive,” and has been written for OMPS students in preschool through 8th grade. Also in attendance were Dr. Christine Juransinska of LabLearner, and Mrs. Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Harrisburg. Dr. Juransinska thanked the benefactors for allowing OMPS students the opportunity to join the LabLearner family. “LabLearner, let’s say, provided the soil: what you see, the labs, the equipment; but it’s really you who provided the ability to let your students and your children’s potential grow,” said Dr. Juransinska. Mrs. Riley applauded the benefactors and thanked the benefactors for commitment to Catholic education, saying, “Teachers are the most precious resources in our schools because they are the ones who lend those hands to that institution. The LabLearner program gives them (teachers) the resources.”

Mrs. Riley also explained that schools in the Diocese have implemented the STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Initiative, and the focus on science given by LabLearner enables teachers and students to progress with hands-on learning.

Following the dedication, guests were able to take a look at some of the LabLearner equipment and models, including a student健康发展 named "Money Bob" by the OMPS schoolchildren. Students in lab coats and goggles have become a familiar sight during the school day. Our younger pupils work alongside older students to measure weight and volume using special scales and equipment. Science is alive at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, thanks to LabLearner!

(Submitted by Jen Francis, Director of Public Relations at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School.)
Successful Tennis Season

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Even with an overall 12-1 season record, and the Mid Penn AA doubles champions of Alexis Welker and Maddie Young in their arsenal, the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt faced a tough task in district and state tennis play in October.

The Mid Penn Colonial leaders handled Hamburg and Wyomissing in the first two rounds of District 3-AA play before meeting top-seeded Berks Catholic in the final at the Hershey Racquet Club on Oct. 16. Here, the Crusaders came up short, 3-0, as Zoey Stapleton and Alexis Welker struggled in singles competition, and the duo of Kacie Hetrick and Christine Tully also came up short in their bid.

Diocesan High Schools Gear Up for Fall Plays

(Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg)

Please come for a fun filled evening as the McDevitt Players introduce you to the Sycamore and Kirby families in the 1938 comedy, “You Can’t Take It With You.” This comedy involves the love of Tony Kirby, Jr., the vice president of Kirby and Company, and his stenographer Alice Sycamore. The Kirby family is appalled that their well-to-do son wishes to marry a lowly secretary, but they agree to meet the Sycamore family for dinner. The mayhem ensues as the eccentric family clashes with the right, rigid well-to-do family and the dinner turns into a night that ends with much excitement! Will Alice and Tony’s love be strong enough to survive? Come join us for a fun evening. Bishop McDevitt High School, Fineesta Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 13th and 14th at 7pm and Sunday, November 15th at 7pm and 7pm.

General Admission: $8.00 Adult/$5.00 Student and Seniors

Lancaster Catholic High School

Join Lancaster Catholic High School Friday and Saturday, November 20-21 at 7:30 pm as they host their fall play sponsored by Dr. Albert J. Schreder and Company, and his stenographer Alice Sycamore. The Kirby family is appalled that their well-to-do son wishes to marry a lowly secretary, but they agree to meet the Sycamore family for dinner. The mayhem ensues as the eccentric family clashes with the right, rigid well-to-do family and the dinner turns into a night that ends with much excitement! Will Alice and Tony’s love be strong enough to survive? Come join us for a fun evening. Bishop McDevitt High School, Fineesta Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 13th and 14th at 7pm and Sunday, November 15th at 7pm and 7pm.

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Space Exploration Takes Corpus Christi Students to International Space Station

Students from Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg were able to speak live earlier this month with NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren, who is currently aboard the International Space Station. The question-and-answer session took place at the Capitol Theatre in Chambersburg, with 200 students and 200 guests on hand to witness the historical event. Eleven students from grades K-8 posed questions to Lindgren, who was orbiting some 220 miles above Earth. A live diagram of the International Space Station’s position was projected onto a large screen for the audience to see its position over the western hemisphere.

Students’ questions ranged from what Lindgren does in his free time? Come find out! Tickets are available at the door, Adults/Students - $5, Senior Citizens- $3, Children ages 5-12- $2, Family maximum-$14.

Students, teachers, parents and guests of Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg fill the Capitol Theatre Oct. 6 for an event during which students asked questions of astronaut Kjell Lindgren on board the International Space Station. The live chat was organized through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program.
7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at 2 North 8th Street, Lebanon. The group Prayer Service will be on November 11.

Robert Berger. The next date is November 8.

David L. Hall, D.Min., B.S.C.D. from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish are encouraged but are not required. The interfaith prayer service Holy Spirit’s Pastoral Care office at (717) 763-2118. Responses ond annual interfaith prayer service 802-2576 for additional information.

experience the peace and joy of time with Jesus in the Blessed Caelorum. For information, call 717-583-0240.

at 7 p.m. Father Thomas will preside.

Lebanon will take place on November 15, 16 and 17. Call the par-

More Fraternity of Secular Franciscans is sponsoring this event Date: Sunday, November 15th at 1:00 p.m. at the Church of the Clare’s spirituality is still needed and relevant in our modern world. This is an opportunity to gather in prayer as we remember our friends are invited to a Service of Prayer and Remembrance on De-

This free event will be held at St. Patrick’s Parish Activity Center, located at 81 Main Drive, Carlisle. Gifts “Night Out” is a communi-

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Gettysburg will be holding its Third Annual Noreen Netze Memorial SRK Run and Sufficiently Radical 1 mile walk on Saturday, December 12. The 5K race will begin at 9 am and the 1 mile walk will begin at 10 am. Both races will be held at the beautiful skate park at Gettysburg. Registration is $25 per person with a limited number of tickets available. The AMND committee is also looking for donations for late night items. We are advertising for the event program book. For information, contact Suzanne Wood, 717-583-7938 or 717-583-7955. For more information, call 717-273-5754.

St. Francis of Assisi Dinner/Date Fundraiser will be held November 28, 2015 at the Central Hotel, 13 East Park Drive, Hamburg, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Reception/hors d'oeuvres, buffet. Tickets are $35 for adults and $20 for children. Cash, check or credit cards accepted. For more information, call 717-722-1003.

Pottery Bottle Bingo will be held at Immaculate Conception BMV Parish in Mount Pleasant. Open at 3:30 p.m. and starts at 2:00 p.m. There will be 20 games, door prizes and raffles. Cash, cost $35 per card.

Trinity’s Athletic Association is sponsoring “An Evening with Anthony Robbins” at 7 p.m. November 11 in the school auditorium. This event is being held to raise funds for After the Show - The Art of Spiritual Camouflage. All proceeds from this evening will provide the re-

The Lebanon Catholic Performing Arts Alliance annual pnonmental “Christmas at the Castle” concert is a benefit performance that features instrumental, choral and musical theatre programs for elementary and secondary students. Join us for a festive evening of music, drama, and dance. Contact Andrea Andrews at 717-507-1485 to place an order, or on the ponnets of the Lebanon Catholic Performing Arts Alliance. For more information, call 717-921-6707. Please make your reservations by November 2.

The Council of Catholic Women of St. Theresa Parish will be hosting their annual Fall Bazaar and Sale at St. Theresa Little Flower Social Hall at 1300 Bridge Street, New Cumberland from 2-4 p.m. on November 7. Padmore Catering will provide the refreshments. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the door. Orders are due by November 15. Check deposits can be made to: The LC Performing Arts Alliance. Pick up is Saturday, December 12 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Price is $30 per box. To order call 717-925-2288.

The St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg will be hosting its annual “An Autumn Tea and Fashion Show” in the school cafeteria on the square in Littlestown every third Saturday of the month, starting with the event on November 13th. Tickets are $30 per person with a limited number of tickets available. There will be a cash bar and refreshments with heavy hors d'oeuvres, buffet, music/DJ, raffles and prizes. Tickets are $30 per person with a limited number of tickets available. To order call 717-837-9450 or email barbrenner33@yahoo.com.

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

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Donald J. Rhine, Ira Shenko.


CAMPNEAU – St. Joseph the Worker: Lawrence S. Davis.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Charles Askey, Leona Mack.

CHAMBERSBURG – Corp Christi: Robert Croman, Barbara Eline, Arthur Newman.

CONEGOW – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Dwayne T. Lawrence.

GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Howell King, Anna M. Pittman, Pedro Barona Rivera.


HARRISBURG – St. CatherineLabour: Albert Otzel, Albetta Waby; St. Margaret Mary: Daniel Howard, Helen Kettick.

HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Debor- rah Dubinsky, Mary Hrabovsly, Dr. Fred Taylor.

KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Henry D. Sgro.

LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Natalie Destefano, Francis Kirchen, Elizabeth Westcott.


MANHEIM – St. Richard: Elizabeth- steinus.

MCHESTRRTOWN – Annuncia- tion BVM: Pauline A. Masemer, Gwendolyn Strabaschw.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Estelle Bearden, Janer Cleck- nec, Robert House.


NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Cecilia Brooks, Diane F. But- ler, Phyllis Tooms.

NEW HOFF – Immaculate Conception BVM: Mae LeGore; Mil- dred Overdub.

ROHRSTERTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Patricia Grier, Helen Roth.

SELINSGROVE – St. Pius X: Yohannes Mengestab.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Jen- nifer Hanzel, Catherine Jurina.

SUNBURY – St. Monica: Dean M. Dorman.


Parish Bazaars
(Bazaars are also listed online at www.hbgdiocese.org. Submit your information via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org.)

St. Mary's Women's Societies' Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held November 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and November 15 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 309 S. 2nd Street, Hanover. Please support this bazaar, which helps us sponsor a large number of people in our community. The bazaar will feature raffles, table, homemade candy, Mrs. Claus' Kitchen and, for the kids, a gingerbread house workshop! Plenty of great gift ideas and stocking stuffers! For information, call Lin Huber at 717-252-8535.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Christmas Bazaar will be held November 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 6084 West Canal Road, Abbottstown. Come enjoy a day of fun, food and yummy treats. Come to start or finish Christmas shopping and find unique handmade shoppe items at our Bazaar. Be sure to stop by the Bake Table, Grimy Goodies, and see the great selection of hand sewn items, crafts, home decor, baked goods, AB&B Religious Shop and much more. Enjoy a delicious breakfast sandwich in the morning, warm lunch and a decadent dessert from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, contact Kathy at 717-329-0811.

St. Aloysius Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held November 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school hall, Littlestown. Breakfast, lunch and delicious snacks. Homemade baked goods, unique crafts and raffles. For information, or to rent a table, contact Karen at 410-346-6855.

Holiday Craft Fair, sponsored by the Corpus Christi Parish Council of Catholic Women, will be held November 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Parish Center, 2415 Broadway, Chambersburg. There are 22 vendors with a variety of unique handmade items. Be sure to stop by our hand sewn items, crafts, jewelry, home décor, baked goods, AB&B Religious Shop and much more. Enjoy a delicious breakfast sandwich in the morning, warm lunch and a decadent dessert from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, contact Kathy at 717-329-0811.

Divine Redeemer Parish Christmas Faire will be held November 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Divine Redeemer Office/St. Peter’s Church Hall, 438 West Avenue, Mount Carmel, and Divine Mercy Hall, 1031 Sprenkle Rd., Spring Grove, on November 21 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Vendors, home made foods, baked goods, crafts, vendors and raffles, auction - decorated Christmas items. For more information, call Midge at 717-867-1548.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville is planning its annual Christmas Bazaar on December 12 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Parish Center, 2 North Main Street, Bonneauville. There are 22 vendors with a variety of unique handmade items to include baked goods, crafts, and jewelry for sale, holiday gifts, holiday decorations, raffle baskets and prize baskets. For more information, please call 671-334-0333 or www.sfxpccw.org.

St. Andrew the Apostle Council of Catholic Women will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar & Sale on November 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school hall, 12 N. Broad St., Waynesboro. There will be a wide assortment of handmade items to include wooden toys & children’s furniture, hand sewn items, jewelry, hair accessories, handmade Christmas home and craft decor. Lunch of homemade soup and breadsticks will be served from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Holy Family Parish are joining together for a holiday bazaar on November 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, 555 S. 25th Street, Harrisburg. If you are interested in renting a table for $20, contact Ann at 717-564-9234. The bazaar will feature hand-crafted items, homemade foods, baked goods, music and raffles.

St. Anthony’s Church will host its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church, 236 East Broadway, Lebanon. Vendors will be selling a large variety of items that include jewelry, jams/jellies, etc. “The Café” will feature grilled chicken sandwiches, homemade soups, hot fudge bowl and a raffle drawing for fabulous prizes. St. James Café will be open Friday evening with delicious menu as well as many gift items including homemade hot chocolate, cakes, cookies, sandwiches, homemade pierogies and salads at lunch and a ham/lamb/dinner in the evening. For information, call the parish office at 717-626-5550.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Council of Catholic Women is holding its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady’s Parish Hall in Lebanon. Come join us for great food, chance stands, games for the children, crafts, jewelry, and a baked goods sale.

The annual Christmas Bazaar at St. James Catholic Church, 505 Woodcrest Avenue, Lititz, will take place on November 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and November 21 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. There is no admission fee, and all proceeds benefit church improvements. There will be fun activities for people of all ages, including a white elephant sale, children’s workshop and pictures with Santa, bake sale, basket raffle, silent auction, 25 bingo, fish bowl and a raffle drawing for fabulous prizes. St. James Café will be open Friday evening with delicious menu as well as many gift items including homemade hot chocolate, cakes, cookies, sandwiches, homemade pierogies and salads at lunch and a ham/lamb/dinner in the evening. For information, call the parish office at 717-626-5550.

St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg will hold its Annual Christmas Fair on November 29. There will be 35 vendors selling a variety of items. Please plan on coming to enjoy the day of fun, food, and Christmas shopping. Find unique gifts for everyone on your list. The event will be held at the Parish Life and Education Center, 420 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg. For information, or if you are a vendor, small business owner, or crafter who would like to participate, please contact Valerie Spanger at vspar@verizon.net or call 717-790-8712.

The annual Christmas Bazaar at St. James Church, 505 Woodcrest Avenue, Lititz, will take place on November 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and November 21 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. There is no admission fee, and all proceeds benefit church improvements. There will be fun activities for people of all ages, including a white elephant sale, children’s workshop and pictures with Santa, bake sale, basket raffle, silent auction, 25 bingo, fish bowl and a raffle drawing for fabulous prizes. St. James Café will be open Friday evening with delicious menu as well as many gift items including homemade hot chocolate, cakes, cookies, sandwiches, homemade pierogies and salads at lunch and a ham/lamb/dinner in the evening. For information, call the parish office at 717-626-5550.

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

Father Martin Zarokski, 1992
Father Michael F. Barrett, 1996
Father Thaddeus Strzala, 2005
Father Paul Rindos, 2011

Remembrance of Deceased Clergy
The Peyton Walker Foundation and Pinnacle-Health CardioVascular Institute will offer free Heart Screenings for central Pennsylvania students ages 12 to 19 years old who are not currently under the care of a cardiologist.

The clinic will be held Sunday, November 22, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Bishop McDevitt High School, 1 Crusader Way, Harrisburg. Pre-registration is required and appointments are first-come, first-served.

The Heart Screening will include a vitals check and an electrocardiogram (EKG). For students whose EKGs indicate the need for additional testing, echocardiograms will also be offered that day on site, free of charge. Staff from the Pinnacle-Health CardioVascular Institute will perform the screenings.

The Peyton Walker Foundation was established in honor of Peyton Walker, a 2012 Trinity High School graduate who passed away unexpectedly from sudden cardiac arrest at the young age of 19.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is the top cause of death for student athletes, and screening for heart problems is crucial for early detection and preventing SCA.

Pre-registration is required online at http://www.peytonwalker.org/events by Friday, November 13. For more information, please visit www.peytonwalker.org or call 717-697-5511.

Facts about Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA):
• SCA is the #1 killer of student athletes.
• Every three days, a student dies from SCA.
• Some warning symptoms of SCA include dizziness, fainting, shortness of breath or chest pain.
• The first symptom of SCA is often sudden death.
• One out of every 100 students screened is found to have a previously undetected heart condition.

On November 2, 2013, Peyton Walker, age 19, suffered a fatal sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) incident related to a genetic heart condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. She was taken from us far too soon, but left an imprint on this world and a legacy that won’t soon be forgotten. Peyton was a sophomore at King’s College in Wilkes Barre, Pa., studying to be a Physician’s Assistant. She was a 2012 graduate of Trinity High School, located in Camp Hill.

Peyton never allowed her heart condition to limit her lifestyle or define who she was. She lived life in a manner that most would envy – full of energy and passion, never missing an opportunity to share a laugh or give a hug to someone who needed it. Peyton was fully dedicated and looking forward to working in the healthcare field upon completion of her PA studies at King’s College.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a genetic heart condition. HCM is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in the young, including young athletes and other apparently healthy people. It is the most common of all genetic heart conditions affecting more than 1 in 500 people in the general population and usually has no symptoms.

(Submitted by Linda Schneider, Coordinator of the Peyton Walker Foundation.)
Peace of Mind

Planning your final arrangements can be difficult to think about, but when confronted with grief, your family may find it even more challenging.

At Harrisburg Diocesan Cemeteries, we encourage families to consider pre-arrangement of their cemetery needs. Just as preparing a will is a kind and responsible act, arranging for your final resting place is equally wise and compassionate.

For your consideration during this process, the Diocesan Cemeteries is pleased to announce the construction of additional niche and crypt buildings at our following locations:

The First Above Ground Burial Option
Holy Cross Cemetery, Lebanon
Patrick Eichelberger, (717) 273-7541
peichelberger@hbgdiocese.org

New Crypt
All Saints Cemetery, Elysburg
Kevin Shervinskie, (570) 672-2872
kshervinskie@hbgdiocese.org

New Niche Buildings
Holy Cross Cemetery, Harrisburg
Tom Brlansky, (717) 545-4205
tbrlansky@hbgdiocese.org

St. Joseph Cemetery, Lancaster
Patrick Eichelberger, (717) 394-2231
peichelberger@hbgdiocese.org

Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Mechanicsburg
Joe Brlansky, (717) 697-0206
jbrlansky@hbgdiocese.org

PRECONSTRUCTION DISCOUNTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

FOR MORE DETAILS
VISIT WWW.HBGDIOCESE.ORG/CEMETERIES