‘God Has Given You a Mission,’ Archbishop Tells State Legislators in Harrisburg

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

As the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Sept. 27 to concelebrate Mass for those who serve in public office, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia told Catholic elected officials that God has given them a mission.

“To be a politician is to have a mission. It’s a noble vocation to be a leader in the community, to help draw the community into a deep commitment to the dignity of every individual and profound respect for the common good of everyone,” he said in his homily.

“That’s the vocation God gave you, and there’s no excuse for not being holy,” the archbishop remarked. “It’s an office that’s full of grace, and if God calls you to this, he’s going to give you the strength and the grace to accomplish his call.”

The Bishops of the Province of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) and the State Council of the Knights of Columbus organized the Mass, which took place in conjunction with the PCC’s Board of Governors’ meeting. The following morning, the bishops gathered with state legislators for a breakfast sponsored by the Knights and the PCC.

In his homily, Archbishop Chaput, who was installed as Archbishop of Philadelphia Sept. 8, pointed to the day’s Scripture Readings and the messages they offer to those involved in government.

Reflecting on the First Reading (Zechariah 8:20-23), he spoke of the Gentiles’ being attracted to God by the ways of the Jewish people.

“The question we need to ask ourselves – whether we’re bishops or priests, politicians, Knights of Co-
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lumbus or lay faithful – is, ‘Are we leading the kind of Christian life that would inspire other people who are not Christians to follow us to God?’” Archbishop Chaput asked. At this Mass, “we ask the Lord to give us a fresh start so that we might truly be a people that draws others to the Lord.”

He then spoke on the Gospel Reading (Luke 9:51-56) in which the disciples ask Jesus if they should call down fire upon those who would not welcome him.

“The disciples were angry, typical. But to be a disciple of Jesus is not to be typical. It’s to be different. It’s to be holy,” Archbishop Chaput said.

“What does this say to our lives? Some of us are committed to important issues of the Church, whether it be the life issues, whether it be immigration, whether it be the meaning of marriage, or school choice. We sometimes find ourselves in disagreement with the rest of society,” he said. “And sometimes those of us who are serious Christians get haughty, and we think we’re better than the rest.”

“Jesus is telling all of us gathered here today that no matter where we stand in his truth, it’s important that we stand firm in charity. Even when we encounter people who fight with us, who disagree with us, or even hate us, the proper response of a disciple of Jesus is to love. We stand firm where we stand. We stand clearly where we stand. We always stand with Jesus where we stand, and do so in love…. I think if we can do that, we’ll be much more successful and victorious in the task that he gives us.”

— Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia

For me, it’s always wonderful to be with my brother bishops and especially to have the opportunity to gather and be able to discuss our leadership of our people,” he told The Catholic Witness. “We work together in communion so that we can be effective witnesses throughout the state of Pennsylvania and speak with one voice.”

The bishop’s gatherings with the legislators were taking place as both chambers of the General Assembly returned to Harrisburg to find pro-life legislation and school choice among the forefront of several issues. Archbishop Chaput said he was eager to address elected officials on those topics.

“We think those bills that protect human life and provide educational opportunities are good for everyone, not just for the Catholic Church. The Church, in terms of its political policy, is about two things: it’s about the dignity of every individual and the common good of the community. Life certainly is at the heart of our dignity as individuals, but the protection of life is something that we have to do together as a community. It’s for the common good, not just the individual good.

“The same thing is true about school choice,” he added, referring to its application to both private and public — which he defined as “government” — schools. “Parents should have a choice and be helped by tax money to send their kids to school, especially those who for some reason or another aren’t comfortable with the government school. They should have a choice to consider private education as well as government education.

Archbishop Chaput also stressed the obligation that Catholics have to participate in political life, whether as elected officials or as voters.

“Our citizenship is informed or guided by what we believe. We carry the faith of Christ into the marketplace, into the political arena,” he said. “The Church isn’t called to be present, the people of the Church are. The role of the bishops and pastors is to encourage the people to become politicians, to vote and to be engaged in political issues and to transform society through that engagement. We do believe in separation of Church and state, but we don’t believe in the separation of faith from the individual.”

Left: Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia delivers a homily during a Mass that the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania concelebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg for state legislators. In his homily, he remarked that “to be a disciple of Jesus is not to be typical. It’s to be different. It’s to be holy.”

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput and Harrisburg Bishop Joseph P. McFadden concelebrate Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Sept 27. The state’s Catholic Bishops concelebrated the Mass for state legislators. The liturgy was organized by the bishops, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the State Council of the Knights of Columbus.
Editor’s Note

Father Campion is Remembered

Photographing distressing images and listening to parishioners’ painful expressions of the fire that destroyed Our Lady of Refuge Church in Doylestown was a heartrending experience. While reporting the news of the tragic fire in the Sept. 23 edition, we endeavored to do so through the eyes of those suffering the loss of their 158-year-old church.

Even as I interviewed parishioners and wrote the story, I thought often of the late Father John Campion, who faithfully served Our Lady of Refuge and its people from the time of his assignment there in 1989 until his health failed. He died on May 1, 2010, a few days before his 87th birthday.

For years he lived at Our Lady of Refuge, caring for its flock, strengthening relationships between the people of different faiths in Doylestown. His message in parish bulletins were heartfelt and honest – some chronicled history central to the Franklin County parish and its people, others accounted his upcoming weekend of pastoral duties.

Regrettably, somehow I neglected to make mention of him and his dedication to Our Lady’s in the article I wrote about the fire.

In the days after the Sept. 23 edition was delivered, parishioners of Our Lady of Refuge wrote me about their beloved late priest. Father Campion, they said, “for years lovingly devoted himself to care for our church (the only Catholic church in Path Valley) and its parishioners until his death last year at age 86. He was well known throughout the valley. The loss of Father Campion and now our beloved church is difficult for all of us. While we are hopeful the church church, its history, and sad destruction.”

He is remembered. He is not forgotten.

State officials of the Knights of Columbus recently presented two generous contributions for diocesan efforts. During a meeting with Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, they presented $5,500 for retired religious, and $1,200 to the Office of Vocations. Shown from left in the photo are Wayne Freet, Past State Deputy Bishop McFadden; James Balton, Master of the Fourth Degree; Michael Arcin, Supes and Director of the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus; Scott Harper, Central Pennsylvania Membership Director; and Egbert Langendijk, Diocesan Coordinator of the Fourth Degree. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society dedicated to the Church and to charitable efforts. Membership information is available via the annual Board of Governors meeting of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. They also affirmed their opposition to a federal contraceptives mandate.

The Bishops believe school choice is “a defining social justice issue of our society. Legislation currently being considered in Harrisburg could herald a new, more just era for education in Pennsylvania – an era in which we focus on the ideal educational environment for each student, not on a mandatory system in which students are assigned to a school based solely on geographic location. The current treatment of these children, particularly children from low-income families, is unjust and inequitable.”

The Bishops encourage “Catholic and private schools already participate in the marketplace of education. We must meet the high expectations of parents, for they have the freedom to withdraw their students and choose a different school if they feel it will better meet their needs. Current school choice legislation places all educational institutions into this marketplace and recognizes the moral obligation of educating each and every child to their potential. The public schools of the state of Pennsylvania and the fine teachers and administrators who labor there are our collaborators in fulfilling this obligation.”

As the largest provider of non-public education in the Commonwealth, Pennsylvanians’ efforts to create a school voucher program and increase the already successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.
Difficult Decisions at Life’s End

By Father Paul CB Schenck

Recently a man asked me to visit his mother in nursing care. He said she was dying, and requested the Sacraments. I told him it was a privilege to do that, and left within the hour. I arrived at her mother’s room shortly before he did. I was surprised to find a woman who was animated and responsive. I had the impression she was unconscious and near to death. I introduced myself and prayed for her. When her son arrived, I spoke with him in the hallway. He told me that he and his siblings had decided to begin a morphine drip. I asked if there was a diagnosis. “Well,” he said, “she has so many things wrong with her. She’s seventy-five, and she’s tired. We talked to the doctor and we think it’s her time. Besides, that’s not the mother we’ve known.”

I told him he must not do anything, or neglect to do something, that would intentionally hasten or bring about her death. I told him it would be immoral to deliberately cause her to die — or to cause her to die sooner than she naturally would. While morphine may be appropriate to control pain associated with disease, it cannot morally be used “to ease her toward death.” I explained that our lives are a gift from God given to us, we do not own them and we cannot dispose of them when or how we think it best. And he added, “By the way, your mom’s the very same one who married your dad, diapered your bottom, walked you into school and cried at your wedding.”

Our conference shares this goal and welcomes the opportunity to help accomplish it.”

Two bills were the main focus of the event: Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 732. Senate Bill 3 proposes increasing the abortion waiting period from 24-48 hours to 72 hours and House Bill 732 would hold freestanding abortion clinics to the same fire and safety standards, personnel and equipment requirements and quality assurance procedures as other freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities.

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Press Conference Highlights Pro-Life Call to Action

By Joelle Shea

A press conference was held Sept. 26 at the Capitol in Harrisburg in support of pro-life legislation. In attendance were over 35 legislators as well as various leaders of pro-life constituencies.

Francis Viglietta, Director of Social Concerns for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, said, “the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference applauds the many House and Senate pro-life legislators from both parties who are committed to advancing legislation to provide additional protections for women and unborn children. Our conference shares this goal and welcomes the opportunity to help accomplish it.”

Two bills were the main focus of the event: Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 574/Senate Bill 732. Senate Bill 3 proposes increasing the abortion waiting period from 24-48 hours to 72 hours and House Bill 732 would hold freestanding abortion clinics to the same fire and safety standards, personnel and equipment requirements and quality assurance procedures as other freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities. Currently, the state’s abortion industry is exempt from commensurate safety standards that apply to other surgery centers.

Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair County), Chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus in the House of Representatives, said, “This is not an isolated occurrence and that these facilities need to have a set of licensing standards in place. Whether you are pro-life or not, I can’t imagine anyone would want their wife, daugh-
ter or sister getting their teeth cleaned in one of these facilities, much less having an operation or other surgical procedure performed. Abortion facilities should not be exempt from adhering to the same safety and quality assurance standards as other health care facilities – bottom line.”

Sen. Jane Orie (R-Allegheny/Butler), Chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus in the Senate, said, “While this is not an issue created by the pro-life community, we cannot stand idly by and ignore these issues.”

“The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference urges a quick passage of these significant pro-life proposals,” Viglietta said. To send a message to your legislator on support of pro-life or pro-family bills, log on to www.pacatholic.org and become a member of the Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network. (Shea is the Director of Outreach for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.)
Faith and Life

Diocese begins Six-Week Focused Preparation for Revised Translation

October 6-November 13 marks a six-week intensive period of preparation for the new translation of the Roman Missal. Parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg are setting this period of time aside for catechesis and reflection on the upcoming changes. Parishioners are urged to pay attention for pre-Mass catechesis at the place of worship, and to use bulletin announcements and online resources to prepare for the new translation. Information is available on the diocese’s Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org/missal.

Below is a listing of many of the Mass prayers and responses, followed by questions that can be used for reflection through the six-week preparation for the revised translation of the Roman Missal. Text in bold represents wording that has changed in the Roman Missal.

GREETING

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.

Week One (October 9): “And With Your Spirit”

How do I encounter the presence of Christ during the celebration of the Mass? In the gathering of the faithful, in the presence of the priest, in the proclama-
tion of the Gospel, and in the Holy Eucharist?

PENITENTIAL ACT, FORM A (CONFEITEOR)

I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault, therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

We believe in one God, the Father al-
mighty Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who came into the world.

Week Two (October 16): “I Confess” & “Glory to God”

How can I improve the way in which I use the Penitential Act and the singing of the Gloria to better prepare myself to hear Christ in the Scriptures and to meet Him in the Holy Eucharist?

NICEA CREED

I believe in one God, the Father al-
mighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who came into the world.

Week Three (October 23): “I Believe”

When I recite the Creed at Mass, am I challenged to renew my baptismal promises and to grow in my understanding and love of God?

SANCTUS (PREFACE ACCLAMATION)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Week Four (October 30): “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Does the singing of the Sanctus help me to set aside the distractions of my day in order to enter into the celebration of the Eucharist with an open mind and heart?

Eucharistic Prayer I (Roman Canon) INSTITUTION NARRATIVE

On the day before he was to suffer he took bread in his holy and vener-
able hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and eat of it: for this is my Body which will be given up for you. In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and drink from it: for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant; which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

Week Five (November 6): “For You and For Many”

Do I allow myself to truly listen to and pray the words of consecration, believing that the Holy Spirit enters into our worship to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?

ECCE AGNUS DEI (INVITATION TO COMMUNION)

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, be-
hold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Week Six (November 13): “Behold the Lamb of God”

Am I fully aware that my body and soul became the dwelling place of God in Baptism and is renewed in an inti-
mate way with the worthiness of Holy Communion?

The highly acclaimed “Holy Words for Holy People” informational and edu-
cational seminar being held in parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg is now available on DVD. The presentation, done by Father Joshua Brommer, Diocesan Liturgical Coordinator, introduces the upcoming word changes at Mass to the Catholic in the pew. All parts of the Mass are addressed in terms of what will be changing as well as the historical context and the spiritual richness of the words. The material answers the questions: What is changing? Why is it changing? And, How can I reap the most spiritual benefits from the changes? The DVD is available for order for $10 online at www.hbgdiocese.org.

A page proof from the new edition of the Roman Missal is pictured at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washing-
ton. It shows a change in the people’s response during the dismissal at Mass. After the priest says, “The Lord be with you,” the people now respond, “And with your spirit.” The new Roman Missal will go into use in the United States Nov. 27.
Seminarians Forge Relationships with Faithful at Annual Dinner

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Ryan Fischer stood at the entrance to the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Sept. 23, eagerly awaiting the benefactors arriving for the annual Fishers of Men Dinner.

He was there to welcome attendees and introduce himself as one of the diocese’s 31 seminarians. Moreover, he was there to personally express his gratitude for their support of the dinner, which raised money for the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Fund.

“It’s beyond the level of an honor to serve the people of the diocese here tonight,” said Mr. Fischer, a native of Sacred Heart Scholarship Fund.

Fischer personally expressed his gratitude for their support of the dinner, arriving for the annual Fishers of Men Dinner. Center in Harrisburg Sept. 23, eagerly awaiting the benefactors

“Their concern for us is tremendous, and I think that’s one reason why we have so many men stepping up to the plate and entering seminary,” Mr. Fischer said. “There is so much familial support. They really take that seriously here in the diocese.”

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The Fishers of Men Dinner reflects the passage from the Gospel of Matthew in which the Lord tells his first disciples that he will make them fishers of men. The disciples leave their nets behind to follow Jesus.

With 31 seminarians aspiring to follow Jesus, support of the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Fund is pivotal to the support of these men in their formation.

The dinner, Bishop McFadden said in remarks during the evening, “is a celebration of God’s call to young men to be able to follow his son Jesus in being the shepherds of his people.”

Acknowledging the seminarians and the priests they seek to model, Bishop McFadden said, “I guarantee you there are no better models of priesthood throughout the world than the priests of Harrisburg.”

Throughout the evening, seminarians served the faithful as greeters and servers, all the while building relationships.

Juanita Mason-Fegley, a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg, said support for seminarians — whether financially or prayerfully — is an investment in the future of the Church.

“The life of a seminarian is so important to the life of the Church that they need to know they are appreciated, and this dinner helps them to realize that,” she said. “Meeting the seminarians is always a positive experience. It’s a joy to know that they are so enthused about serving God.”

Marveling at the sea of people who filled the Cardinal Keeler Center in support of seminarians, Francis Rice said he is eager to return that care and concern.

“There are so many people who pray for us everyday by name that I’ve been eager to meet them so I can pray for them by name as well,” said Mr. Rice, a native of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lancaster in College I at St. Charles Borromeo in Overbrook.

“I see the beauty in how the people want to support us every time I talk to people and mention that I’m a seminarian,” he said. “I want to discern to see if I am called to serve these wonderful people in return.”

Support the Seminarians

The Diocesan Office of Vocations has a wealth of information on its Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org/vocations in support of seminarians. Visit the site to learn more about the seminarians, religious vocations and the Fishers of Men Dinner. For information on how you can help financially support the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Seminary Scholarship Fund, contact the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804.
Life Matters: Persons with Disabilities

From the USCCB Respect Life Program

It says a lot about a society when a group of obstetricians-gynecologists needs to be told by an 11-year-old girl that her life is worth living. According to The New York Times, “Sarah” told a roomful of medical specialists that she: “likes to read. . . Math used to be hard, but it is getting easier. She plays clarinet in her school band. She is a junior girl scout and an aunt, and she likes to organize, so her room is very clean. Last year she won three medals in the Special Olympics. “I am so lucky. I get to do so many things,” she concluded. “I just want you to know; even though I have Down syndrome, it is O.K.”

Why would such a gathering be necessary? Because many of these specialists—like so many others in our society—have begun to think of babies as material goods, as products adults create to enhance their lives. And if the “product” is flawed and beyond the power of medicine to correct, we simply send it back. Tragically, the advantage such vulnerable persons have in the marketplace has been substantialized. This must change.

But the threat to the lives of people with disabilities does not end at birth. Parents of special needs children, and adults with disabilities who are able to seek their own medical care, often have to fight for medical treatment that routinely would be given to someone without an overt disability. It is as if those with disabilities bear the burden of proving to medical personnel that they are better off alive than dead.

And of course, millions of Americans who are confined to beds and wheelchairs, and whose disabilities are not apparent, may view the socialization that has made considerable progress in recognizing, accepting, and promoting the equality of people with disabilities. Likewise, medical science has found cures for, or at least ways to alleviate, some handicaps, so persons with disabilities can live out their lives as fully as possible while making extraordinary contributions to society.

The measure of civilization, a universal and permanent measure which includes all cultures, is its relationship with life. A civilization which rejected the defenseless would deserve to be called a barbarian civilization, even though it fabricates the field of economics, technology, art and science.

Not every person with a disability can make a concrete, methodological contribution to society. Many will simply require our care and service. But in meeting this need, we discover a great truth: Persons with disabilities challenge us to be more fully human and compassionate, to recognize the presence of God in each human being. This requires us to sacrifice, to recognize the presence of God in each human being. This requires us to gradually become more like Christ, which is after all the goal of every Christian life.

Paradoxically, in some respects our society has made considerable progress in recognizing, accepting, and promoting the equality of persons with disabilities. Likewise, medical science has found cures for, or at least ways to alleviate, some handicaps, so persons with disabilities can live out their lives as fully as possible while making extraordinary contributions to society.

But there are many worrisome trends today that reflect a fear and an inability to embrace persons with disabilities as brothers and sisters. We are becoming more utilitarian, less compassionate, and less generous in making the sacrifices needed to treat all persons with dignity and respect. Often those with disabilities, the very ill, and the elderly are spoken about as burdens, and their care is evaluated by a crude cost/benefit analysis that ignores their equal and inherent dignity.

Consider the celebrated English pundit, Virginia Ironside, who announced on air to the stunned moderator of a television talk show: “If I were the mother of a suffering child I would be the first to want to put a pillow over its face.” She added that any “loving mother” would feel that way. And if she were to smother her child, claiming to have acted out of compassion, she might well get away with murder, as another Englishwoman did in 2010. Although the facts were clear, a jury acquitted the mother of assisting in the suicide of her 31-year-old daughter, a beautiful young woman who had chronic fatigue syndrome. The trial judge applauded the verdict as showing “that common sense, decency and humanity which makes jury trials so important in a case of this kind.” To condemn a mother’s role in her daughter’s death with terms like decency and humanity is to strip these words of all meaning.

The trend toward doing away with these lives reflects a fear of embracing those who pose a challenge to our love and generosity, who upset our comfort levels. And it is a measure of our emotional immaturity as a people that we permit and welcome such a challenge, as Blessed John Paul II has explained.

But in meeting this need, we discover a great truth: Persons with disabilities challenge us to be more fully human and compassionate, to recognize the presence of God in each human being. This requires us to sacrifice, to recognize the presence of God in each human being. This requires us to gradually become more like Christ, which is after all the goal of every Christian life.

Our secular culture’s blindness to the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities led Blessed John Paul II to say: “The starting point for every reflection on disability is rooted in the fundamental convictions of Christian anthropology: even when disabled persons are mentally impaired or when their sensory or intellectual capacity is damaged, they are fully human beings and possess the sacred and inalienable rights that belong to every human creature. Indeed, human beings, independently of the conditions in which they live or of what they are able to express, have a unique dignity and a special value from the very beginning of their life until the moment of natural death. . . In fact, . . . it is in the more difficult and disturbing situations that the dignity and grandeur of the human being emerges. The wounded humanity of the disabled challenges us to recognize, accept and promote in each one of these brothers and sisters of ours the incomparable value of the human being created by God.”

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If you are suffering from the pain and hurt of an abortion experience, we invite you to attend this healing weekend. If you are the mother, father, grandparent, sibling or medical personnel involved with this experience, this weekend is for you. There is no judgment, only love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness as we journey together to a place that begins with the darkness of choice and ends in the healing arms of our Lord Jesus. All inquiries are totally confidential.

Register early, as there are three spaces open at this time. Call Joy at 717-788-4959 or e-mail RVpamd@gmail.com or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown ushered in a new academic year with the unveiling of a renovated math, science and computer wing as part of its Diamond Decade Initiative. On Sept. 21, students, faculty, administrators and other members of the school community filled the halls of the refurbished area as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden dedicated and blessed the wing. The revamped 1963 wing houses state-of-the-art equipment and technology that affords students and faculty with an environment conducive to 21st century learning.

“The students and teachers love the new facilities,” said Dr. Maureen Thiec, principal. “We have to be in the 21st century and prepare all the students as they ready for college, and it’s important that their education is filled with the faith. We want them to see the connectivity between science and faith. That’s an educational component that we can’t forget.”

Delone’s Diamond Decade Initiative, taking place in the decade surrounding the school’s 75th anniversary in 2015, is a multi-phase capital campaign. Work on the renovated wing began in earnest in May. The wing is equipped with biology, chemistry, physics and physical science laboratories, as well as new heating and air-conditioning units, windows, floors, ceilings, lighting, lockers and electrical and Internet wiring.

Benefactors contributed more than $2 million to the Phase I campaign, originally set at $1.75 million. Future projects of the initiative are planned, Dr. Thiec noted, including possible heating and air-conditioning upgrades to the 1940 wing, which houses religion and social studies classes and administrative offices.

Dr. Thiec expressed her deep gratitude to the members of the school’s first-ever capital campaign, and to those who contributed to it.

“To have so many step forward as benefactors and pledge and give is deeply touching,” she said. “There is a love for this school that goes back to the 1940s when it opened, and we have been touched by that love.”

Information about Delone Catholic High School and the Diamond Decade Initiative can be found at www.delonecatholic.org or by calling 717-637-5969.

Beginning Experience weekends are an approved Roman Catholic Program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. Weekends are led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and who are trained facilitators.

Visit www.beginningexperience.org or www.hbgdiocese.org and click on “Family Ministries.” For more information, or to talk to someone about attending, contact harrisburgbe@gmail.com or call Larry Coleman at 717-512-2716 or Paula Smeigh at 717-492-1858.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Delone Catholic Renovations Upgrade Facilities for Math, Science, Computers

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Addressing those gathered for the dedication of the renovated math, science and computer wing at Delone Catholic High School, Dr. Maureen Thiec, principal, expresses gratitude to the generous benefactors who contributed to the school’s project.
The Mission of St. Francis Xavier School hangs by a classroom doorway as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden blesses the facility Sept. 25.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Michaela and Brianna Blevins traipsed merrily down the halls of Xavier Center in Gettysburg, their parents in tow. Skipping past the brightly-lit school library and fully equipped computer lab, they were eager to show off the new classrooms and lockers they call their own.

“I was so excited to come here when school started,” third-grader Brianna told The Catholic Witness following the Sept. 25 dedication of Xavier Center.

The spacious facility on Table Rock Road, which opened at the start of the academic year, is home to St. Francis Xavier School and offers room for adult education and parish programs.

Brianna and Michaela proudly led family members through the center, a project that has further strengthened parish community and education.

“My favorite thing about this place is that it gives us a bigger school, and I like the new gym and bigger classrooms,” sixth-grader Michaela said.

The Blevins’ were among hundreds of parishioners, clergy and religious who filled the center’s multipurpose room as Bishop Joseph P. McFadden dedicated and blessed the facility.

In his remarks during the ceremony, the bishop said Xavier Center represents “the heart of the family of God gathered here.”

More than bricks, mortar and walls, “This building is to house God’s family, it is to bring us together,” he said.

He remarked that one of the most important dynamics of Xavier Center is the education of young people. “The education here must be permeated by the knowledge of Jesus Christ,” he said.

The vision for the parish life and education center began more than a decade ago, with Father Joseph Hilbert, former pastor of St. Francis Xavier. Today, that vision stands in the form of the Cross of Christ that looks into the apple orchards of Adams County, said Father Bernardo Pistone, pastor.

“Already, Xavier Center is giving back to the parish,” he said. Adult religious education programs are underway. An afterschool program for the children of migrant workers, and English- and Spanish-language classes are on the near horizon.

For Anglo and Latino communities of St. Francis Xavier Parish, building the center has been a labor of love, involving contributions to a capital campaign and a variety of fund-raising efforts. Those endeavors drew the parish community closer together along the way.

“Writing checks and raising money was essential, but this project also helped to build community,” said Loretta Cleveland, chair of the capital campaign.

The parishioners were so generous. Looking at the people gathered today, I didn’t see one face that hadn’t participated in some way. It truly became a parish event,” she said.

Father Pistone noted that the sense of ownership the people have for their parish is the reason behind the success of the $6.7 million Xavier Center.

“It’s empowering people to say, ‘This is our church.’ Here, everyone pulls the cart together,” he said. One parishioner donated $30,000 from an estate to the project. Another sacrificed several hundred dollars to contribute. Still others assisted by organizing or attending fund-raisers.

“That kind of attitude has very much dominated the parish here, and it has brought everyone closer together in community,” Father Pistone said.

That strong community is one in which Maria Nimmon and her husband will raise their young family.

The Nimmons attended the dedication with their three children – twin six-month-old girls and a 19-month-old boy. The family will grow along with Xavier Center, and Mrs. Nimmon is excited to see what it will offer.

“I really like the place. It’s beautiful,” she said as she gazed around the multipurpose room. “I’m eager to see what it’s going to be all about.”

A few hallways away, Rebecca Blevins was also eager to see what the future holds at Xavier Center, especially for her daughters.

“I’m an alumna of St. Francis School, so it’s great having my children learn here too,” she said. It’s opening new doors for them.”
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord Jesus, before returning to the Father, announced the gift of the Holy Spirit and charged His followers with being His witnesses “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

We are familiar with this fundamental duty of all Catholics. Each year, we renew this baptismal call, especially during our Easter celebration. And in October, as the entire Church celebrates World Mission Sunday, we have a chance to fulfill this duty in a special way. Through prayer and sacrifice we are able to support those missionaries who bring the “Good News” of Jesus to faraway places. In doing so, we are renewing our own vocation as missionaries. The Church is, after all, missionary at her heart.

Thankfully, there are many organizations – some Catholic – that extend the treasure and talent of Americans to those parts of the world where people are struggling to get enough to eat or the medical care they need. However, the Church’s missionary activity begins with the proclamation of faith: “Jesus is Lord!” He is our common hope – a hope that not only clothes and heals, but also saves. On World Mission Sunday, October 23, I invite you to “celebrate the hope that saves” through prayer and participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the World Mission Sunday collection.

Your vital contribution to the Pontifical Mission Societies will support those 1,150 young mission dioceses and communities who await the “Good News” of Jesus as their saving hope. As we pray and respond there in the United States, we join with every parish and chapel around the world to renew ourselves and our Church.

May God bless you and our diocese.

Sincerely yours in Jesus,

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Bishop of Harrisburg

For more information, please contact:
Pontifical Mission Societies
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-657-4804, ext. 240
www.onefamilyinmission.org
I have always wanted to travel to Africa. To take the long journey around the world, to feel the dry African desert sand on my feet, to see a tall giraffe in the wild walk up to an acacia tree as the sun sets, to hear the African desert sand on my feet, to see a tall giraffe in the wild walk up to an acacia tree as the sun sets, to hear the Swahili being sung aloud while dancing to the beat of the drum, to taste the fresh water as the heavy rains fall.

For me, the day was a missionary experience. I was there, sweating and thirsty, but I didn’t mind. It is amazing how our ‘Thirst for Christ’ can be filled without an ounce of water. Cardinal John Njue celebrated Mass. Beside him was Monsignor John Kozar, former National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, and several other priests from the United States and Kenya. Each spoke to us with guiding words, but it was the actions of the children that really captured my heart. These children, ranging in age from 6 to 14, showed no sense of discomfort or impatience. Instead they danced, they sang, they bowed their heads to pray, they gave whatever they could afford in the offertory procession, they sat up proud and smiled when the Cardinal told them that they are the adults of tomorrow, and they gently shook hands with each other at the Sign of Peace. They are children of God.

After Mass, as the children shyly approached us eager to know who we were (and what my hair felt like), one of the Sisters accompanying them spoke with us about the children’s missionary spirit. Though poor themselves, these children visit even less fortunate children in their homes or in orphanages in the area around their small village. They provide what little they can; and when one of these less fortunate children dies, they even participate in their funeral. As one young person said the Pontifical Mission Childhood, “It is children teaching children. We are taught, and we go and we teach. We spread the Good News” by setting up catechetical schools to teach the faith, to ensure proper seminarian formation, to encourage evangelization, and to provide reading material for adults and children that promote Christian values and respect for all life. Africans are a very generous people; they are willing to give a lot of time to God.

When we visited the seminarians, they told us to thank our fellow Christians in the United States for their prayerful support. “Pray for me as I pray for you,” they said as we gently shook hands to depart from visiting. I fell in love with this verbal expression. It is prayer that binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world. From that bond, we gain the strength we need to persevere even if our own cross seems too heavy to bear. Just as Jesus received a moment of relief when Simon the Cyrene helped to carry His cross, we too receive a moment of relief when a brother or sister reaches out to us. The story of Pentecost reminds all of us to reach out beyond ourselves, beyond our comfort zones, to share the love of Christ each day with others, to pray for people around the world, to give generously to those suffering or in need; above all, to fulfill our call to be missionaries…with contagiously big smiles!!

“Pray for me, as I pray for you.” May we all pray for each other.

(Heather Lupinacci is the secretary for the Pontifical Missions Office in the Diocese of Harrisburg. She will soon be relocating to Colorado Springs with her husband.)
Lebanon Catholic Students Stand as Beacon of Light during Bishop’s Visit

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Students and educators at Lebanon Catholic School welcomed Bishop Joseph P. McFadden and several priests from surrounding parishes as they concelebrated a Mass for the school community Sept. 30.

Prior to Mass, Bishop McFadden walked through the school with Principal Mrs. Rose Kury, and Diocesan Secretary for Education, Father Edward J. Quinlan. The bishop spoke to students in various K-12 classrooms, and the students asked questions of their diocesan shepherd. Excitement came from every classroom as students saw the bishop approach.

During Mass, priests from the Lebanon community concelebrated in a sign of pastoral care for the children and teachers.

Lebanon Catholic School offers a spiritual learning environment for students in grades K-12, encouraging students to become lifelong disciples and learners. For information about the spiritual, educational and extra-curricular opportunities offered there, visit www.lebanoncatholicschool.org.

Local Church News

Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:
ABBOTTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Mary Jane Anastasio, Ruthanna Herchelroth.
CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Mary Lou Stewart, Marianne Simpson.
HARRISBURG – Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Joseph Henry; Holy Name of Jesus: Patricia Clark, Genevieve Novotny, Peter St. Joseph: Michael Basta.
KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Patricia Pipp.
Lancaster – St. Anne: Catherine Lombardo.
LEBANON – Assumption BVM: Jacqueline Arnold, William Simone.
MECHANICSBURG – St. Joseph: Renate Herchelroth.
MILLERSBURG – St. Philip the Apostle: Edward P. Hungel.
NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Karl Schneider.
PALMYRA – Holy Spirit: Josephine Cagnoli, Mary Catherine, Charles E. Lippert.
QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Siena: Barbara Burke, Charles Eckman.

Remembered Deceased Clergy

Please pray for the following clergy who died in October during the past 25 years:
Deacon Leo Beaston, 1989
Msgr. Francis McCallough, 1990
Father Walter Halabala, 2000
Father Edward J. Barrett, 2001
Father John Sukacze, 2004
Father Bernard O'donnell, 2006
Deacon Edwin Fitzpatrick, 2008

Catholic Perspective

Radio

October 9: This week on Catholic Perspective, we air a special program dedicated to World Youth Day 2011. The worldwide celebration was held in Madrid, Spain, in August. The Diocese of Harrisburg was well represented, sending 224 local pilgrims from 31 parishes. Bishop Joseph P. McFadden along with 12 priests from the diocese also attended. The highlight of World Youth Day is the always the attendance of the Pope. Bishop McFadden has been one of the largest diocesan groups in attendance at World Youth Day this year. Other large diocesan groups were from Brooklyn, New York (636 pilgrims), New York City (1,270), Pittsburgh and Altoona, PA, and Diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org.

In this special program, listeners will hear comments from Bishop McFadden as well as from many of the pilgrims. They will recount their touching personal experiences and encounters while on this nearly two-week long religious journey. Bishop McFadden, along with select local pilgrims, also shared their experiences while at World Youth Day via social media sites that the diocese arranged. They shared their personal experiences of their spiritual journey via the diocese's Facebook and YouTube pages, and via a blog. The correspondents posted photos, articles and videos of their experiences while in Spain for people to follow. This is available via the Diocese’s Facebook and YouTube pages, while in Spain for people to follow. This is available via the Diocese’s Facebook and YouTube pages, while in Spain for people to follow. This is available via the Diocese’s Facebook and YouTube pages, while in Spain for people to follow. This is available via the Diocese’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

Pope John Paul II Biographer to Speak in Lancaster

George Weigel, the personal biographer of Pope John Paul II, will be appearing at Liberty Place on Oct. 26 as part of “The Defense of the Faith” series presented by the Lancaster Region of the Order of Malta.

Mr. Weigel, an American writer and theologian will address a crowd of over 500 attendees about his reflections of Pope John Paul II, and his impact on the Catholic Church and the world.

The purpose of the Defense of the Faith series is to spread the Good News of Catholic teachings by celebrating Eucharist and hearing witness to Catholic doctrine.

The event will begin with Mass at 6 p.m., followed by Mr. Weigel's presentation at 7 p.m. For information, visit www.orderofmalta lancaster.com.

Pro-Life Leader to Speak at St. Paul’s in Annville

Eric Scheidler, Executive Director of the Pro-Life Action League, will give a talk on “Planned Parenthood’s Malicious Agenda - Why and How They Need to Be Put Out-of-Business,” Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Annville.

The event is free and open to the public. At 6 p.m., the Knights of Columbus will serve dinner for those attending the Scheidler talk. Those wishing to attend must RSVP to Sandra Pavlig @ SandraPavlig@verizon.net or call 717-838-5243.

Eric Scheidler is frequent speaker on marriage, the family, and pro-life activism, both in the U.S. and abroad. He also is the leader of Fox Valley Families Against Planned Parenthood (fvapp.org) in his home town of Aurora, Illinois. The group, organized in 2007, is a grassroots organization of a non-aborter nation’s largest abortion provider in their community. The coalition engages in protests and other activities in an effort to close the facility, which is the largest abortion provider in the Midwest.

Eric Scheidler is editor of Action News, the newspaper published by the Pro-Life Action League (ProdlifeAction.org), which has been involved in the anti-abortion battle since 1980. The League sponsors Face the Truth tours and many other pro-life activities in the Chicago area. The speaking tour in the greater Baltimore/DC area also includes talks in northern Virginia. Eliot's Commonwealth, MD, in addition to Annville. The tour, sponsored by Defend Life (DefendLife.org), a regional pro-life group, is co-sponsored by the Fitzgerald Griffin Foundation (fgbBooks.com).

Hanover Kicks off 40 Days for Life Campaign

“The ground breaking 40 Days for Life Campaign in the Hanover area began with a kick-off rally at Kids’ Kingdom Park on Sept. 24 as the pro-life community prepared to pray and fast for an end to abortion,” said Judy Minkew, spokesperson for the Hanover, PA, 40 Days for Life campaign.

“We want to draw members of the community together to share the vision of 40 Days for Life and to pray for God’s blessings on this effort. It is time to focus attention on the harm abortion has done to our community and Annie Killen’s,” said Judy Minkew.

Through Nov. 6, local Christians are taking part in 40 Days for Life -- an innovative pro-life project that includes 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history where God brought about world-changing transformation in 40-day periods.

“The prayer vigil will take place outside the Planned Parenthood facility downtown Hanover. “We look forward to seeing what kind of transformation God will bring about in our city,” said Judy Minkew.

To learn more about 40 Days for Life, visit www.40daysforlife.com. For information about the Hanover campaign, visit: www.40daysforlifecampaign.com. For assistance or for more information, please contact Judy Minkew at jmilne8k@gmail.com.

Annual Cookie Sale Aims to Break Cycle of Hunger

Imagine if by eating cookies you could also be providing life-sustaining nourishment to children in Haiti who, due to poverty, battle hunger and starvation each and everyday. That’s the driving force behind the 14th Annual Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger.

This simple sale gives children in Haiti a chance to not only nourish their bodies but also their minds since the hunger relief programs are affiliated with schools. The proceeds from the Cookie Sale helps meet their basic needs and gives them the chance at a better life,” said Lisa Lands of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lancaster, which participated in last year’s sale.

In 2010, close to 40 churches and organizations in the Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon, York areas teamed up to sell over 17,000 pounds of cookies. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger went to Cross Catholic Ministry World wide.

Churches in the Harrisburg Diocese are invited to join The Cookie Sale ranks in 2011.

October 7 is World Opportunity Day and the kick-off of the 14th Annual Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger. The Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg is participating in the project. This year’s goal is to match or exceed the $1,142,000 meals that were provided in 2010.

“With your support, we can feed at least 40,000 children and families with your purchase of one cookie. A special thank you to all who have given in previous years.”

For more information, please contact Jennifer at jmilne8k@gmail.com or call 717-394-2664.

For more information on the 14th Annual Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger, visit www.40daysforlife.com/Hanover. For assistance or for more information, please contact Judy Minkew at jmilne8k@gmail.com.
**Basketball Coaching Great Visits York Catholic**

By Chris Heisey
*The Catholic Witness*

One of the rewarding aspects of covering the sports world is having the opportunity to meet great coaches who know what they’re doing and inspire young people to follow. After all, it’s truly a craft and the great coaches know it.

Meet Coach Bob Hurley of Saint Anthony High School – a Catholic high school in Jersey City, New Jersey, which is just a stone’s throw away from the Big Apple. The coach visited York Catholic High School – a school with its own impressive résumé of state championship caliber basketball – a couple of weeks ago as the keynote speaker at the school’s annual fund-raising dinner.

Coach Hurley is a no-nonsense kind of coach who has led the Friars to 29 state championships and several national championship tournament wins. He’s within striking distance of catching the legendary Morgan Wooten, who won more than 1,200 games while coaching and several national championship-winning distance of catching the legend’s résumé of state titles. He has led the Friars to 29 state championships and several national championship tournament wins.

Hurley’s critics will say he has no ambition. That’s a mistaken belief, since caring about players’ present and future takes great ambition and work. Keeping a dying parish afloat becomes his way around until you question him – then things get testy. None of that sorry stuff comes from this coach. He’s direct and honest, looks you in the eye and answers any question you pose with authentic poise. So many big-time sports coaches and players these days have no time for pesky reporters asking questions that they feel are beneath their beings. Same goes for our politicians it seems, who never seem to seek out a media outlet that is not friendly to their cause. It’s more softball than hardball these days and our sports and politics world suffers equally for it.

With Coach Hurley you don’t get any ducking and weaving. Why? Good question. The clue is that he has stayed for nearly 40 years at a struggling inner city parish to coach basketball at the highest youth level. In 39 years of coaching, he has only had two kids who didn’t go on to college. Mostly those two Anthony graduates go on to play Division I basketball – but not all – and some play Division III and still pull in scholarship money to make the finances work.

“It’s my job to find them the right fit,” Coach Hurley said. “If a kid is not a right fit, he will not succeed. It’s my job.”

“I would not be where I am at if it were not for my Catholic education. Catholic education is the foundation for everything that I am.” From grammar school all the way to college Hurley has had Catholic foundations center his life. “It taught me to be able to give back,” said Coach Hurley, who charms and quips looking me straight in the eye.

He’s had offers to coach at every other level in the college game. He’s literally shunned at every other level in the college game. He’s literally shunned dollars for the same gig he’s had since the early 70s. Son of a beat cop in Jersey City, the coach speaks of his hometown with reserved nostalgia where he grew up playing ball on macadam courts in old Chuck Taylor Converse sneakers.

Kids today don’t know what it’s like to defend a court – I mean, you lose, you don’t play. When I was a kid, we played all day and losing the court was unthinkable. Today kids play AAU ball and summer leagues and they have no idea of playing in the community where you shoveled snow off the court and battled with your friends.”

Saint Anthony High School Coach Bob Hurley

Jersey City has always been a city where tough kids learned life on mean streets. But today, the family structure is just completely amiss in kid’s lives in medium size cities where manufacturing jobs left decades ago. Hurley’s critics will say he has no ambition. That’s a mistaken belief, since caring about players’ present and future takes great ambition and work. Keeping a dying parish afloat by incredible fund raising activities is ambitious. He has a wonderful working relationship with the Felician nuns who help run the school nestled on Eighth Street.

A few years ago a superb book (The Miracle of St. Anthony) was written by Adrian Wojnarowski, a Newark based journalist who followed the team for a year. It is revealing and riveting at times, and it paints a Coach Hurley as unflinchingly uncompromising and profane. But, yet, he always makes sure that his players know that he loves them – all he demands is to play together, play smart, play hard. The smart part he forgives since “after all, I am dealing with adolescents.”

“What I have here is a formula to get kids out of Jersey City,” Coach Hurley said. He commands every part of their life and according to Wojnarowski, he begins it right away by putting his “foot on their throats.”

Would Coach Hurley get away with the verbal lashings and controlling tactics at a public school? No way today, he says. Parents would scream. But at St. Anthony’s, where he wins championships and sends them off to college all expenses paid, the parents are grateful for the tough love. And the recent media attention (60 Minutes and PBS) that comes his way is all channeled into helping the school. His speaking honorariums help the school.

The coach wants to continue on for a few more years because he honestly feels that he can do more for the school, and he would love to catch his idol retired, Dematha Coach Wooten, to become the all-time wins leader. Who said he’s not ambitious.

One of his proudest accomplishments has been the coaching of his two sons back in the late 80s when St. Anthony’s went 81-2 and won a couple of state tournaments and a national tournament. Now Danny and Bobby coach at Staten Island’s Wagner College, where they are both building an upcoming program in the Northeast Conference.

He’s proud of them, they are their “own men” and coach their own way. A great coach wouldn’t want it any other way after all these years of practicing the craft of coaching.
Dioecesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg invites all individuals with ASO and their families to a special Mass that will be woven into the Holy Souls Mass on Sunday, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. in the Church. The Mass will be followed by a celebration of life on the second floor of the church. A free-will donation is appreciated. For more information, call Fr. Tim O'Connell at 717-222-5414.

A reflection day, "Following Peter and Paul through Acts," will take place from noon-1 p.m. in the St. Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville. A continental breakfast will be provided. The event is free, but registration is required. For information and to register, call Peg Link at 717-816-9163 or ABV@menre dredgetrean@gmail.com.


St. Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Lebanon will hold an Oktoberfest at the parish center Oct. 23 from 6-10 p.m. The event features traditional German food, beer, music, and a 50/50 raffle. Admission is $5. For more information, call 717-222-0282.

St. Joseph Church Parish in Lancaster Oct. 22. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity High School. Tickets are $5 for adults and $2 for children at the door or visit http://www.collettevacations.com/group-tour-extension-option. (For more information, call 717-761-2228 or slazar@trinityhs.k12.pa.us.

The CCW of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Ortanna will host its annual Apple Festival Family Breakfast Oct. 23 from 8-11 a.m. in the Church Hall. Admission is $5 per adult; $3 for kids ages 5-12; and children under 5 are free. Free babysitting for potty-trained children. Call 717-767-0603 or ccw@stignatiusortanna.org for more information.

The CCW of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Thomasville will offer a Shadow Week, Oct. 17-21. Have your child come and "shadow" a day at our school for the purpose of Fall Open House. For more information, call 717-702-0898 or visit www.strossedelpa.org.

The CCW of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Oman will host its annual Fall Festival Oct. 22. Admission is $3 for adults and $1 for children ages 5-11. The event features an outdoor Mass, Halloween costume parade, food, games, and raffles. For more information, call 717-767-0603 or ccw@stignatiusortanna.org.

The CCW of St. Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Lebanon will host its annual Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct. 8. The event features a Fall Festival Mass, pumpkin hold, silent auction Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Gettysburg Hilton. Dinner at table decorated representing different countries of the world. Silent auction will take place in the atrium and benefit the organization seeking to eliminate poverty in our community. For tickets ($30/person) contact Terri Cabala at 717-677-9474.

St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg will host a family bingo night Oct. 22. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. There will be 50/50 drawings, prizes, food and fun. Call 717-761-2964 for more information.

St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster Oct. 22. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity High School. Tickets are $10 in advance or $12 at the door. Tickets include free beer, wine, and soft drinks. For more information, call 717-767-0603 or ccw@stignatiusortanna.org.
The annual Priests’ Continuing Education Workshop will be held Oct. 9-14. During this time, daily Masses will be celebrated by visiting, retired and religious order priests in the following churches:

**Northern Deanery**
- St. Columba, Bloomsburg: M-F, 7:30 a.m.
- Our Lady of Mercy, Shamokin: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Mother Cabrini, Shamokin: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Elysburg: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township: M-F, 7 a.m.
- Holy Angels, Kulpmont: M-F, 8 a.m.
- St. Patrick, Trevorton: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Immaculate Conception, Fairfield: M-F, 8 a.m.
- St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit: M-F, 9 a.m.
- St. Mark the Evangelist, Greenacres: M-F, 9 a.m.

**Franklin Deanery**
- St. Joseph, York: M-T, 6:45 a.m., 8 a.m.
- St. John the Baptist, New Freedom: M-F, 9 a.m.
- York Deanery
  - St. Joseph, York: M-T, 6:45 a.m., 8 a.m.
  - St. John the Baptist, New Freedom: M-F, 9 a.m.

**Northern Lancaster Deanery**
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Elysburg: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Mother Cabrini, Shamokin: M-F, 8 a.m.
- Our Lady of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Elysburg: M-F, 8 a.m.

**Adams Deanery**
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbottstown: M-F, 9 a.m.
- Annunciation, McSherrystown: M-W-F, 8:15 a.m.
  - T-Th, 6:30 a.m.

**Lancaster County Deanery**
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster: M-F, 8:30 a.m.
- St. John Neumann, Lancaster: M-F, 9 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Lancaster: M-F, 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m.
- Lancaster Regional Medical Center: T-W-Th, 12:05 p.m.

**Jewish-Christian Study/Dialogue**
"Sharing Isaiah: Common Prophecies, Contrasting Messages"

- Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9 and 16 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Beth El Temple, Harrisburg
- Convened by the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Project of The Religion and Society Center, and promoted by the Harrisburg Diocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs.
- "Oct. 26 – "Where Are You, God?"
  - Presenters Rabbi Carl Choper and Father James Lease
- Nov. 2 – "Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye"
  - Presenters Rabbi Eric Cynyn and Rev. Brooks Schramm, Ph.D.
- Nov. 9 – "Messiah: God or Man?"
  - Presenters Rev. Deborah Volker and Rabbi Carl Choper
- Nov. 16 – "Good News"
  - Presenters Dr. Andrea Lieber and Father James Podlesny, O.S.B.

Jewish-Christian Study/Dialogue is an ongoing event that invites participants to explore the complex relationship between Judaism and Christianity through the lens of Isaiah’s prophecies. The sessions include discussions, group work, and sometimes readings or prayers. The event is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds, aiming to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the commonalities and differences between the two faith traditions.

**LARC Day of Dialogue**
**Hopes, Facts and Fears: Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**

- October 24 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Presentations by Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton on "History and Background of the Conflict" and "Witness of the Church Today: Exploring the Theology that Informs Peacemaking." Rev. Dr. Chilton is Rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist and Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College.

The day begins with registration from 9-9:30 a.m. followed by the introduction of bishops, and includes Morning Prayer, presentations, small group discussion, floor questions, lunch and Closing Prayer. Cost is $25 for one registration, $22.50 each for two registrations and $20 each for three or more registrations. Register by Oct. 17 by contacting Deacon Charles Clark at 717-657-4804, ext. 266.
Educators on a Mission to Form Saints

The diocese’s annual Education Conference called for Catholic school educators to be on a mission to form saints. Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Patricia McCormack, an educational consultant, adjunct professor and public speaker, addressed the educators on their call to form saints in the classroom.

“Why should a student think that you do not like them?” she asked those present at the annual gathering, held Sept. 29 at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. “As teachers, we should be more about conversion, not compliance – it’s not always about doctrine. We are here to serve. Holiness is the message that convinces without the use of words. Are you willing to be an instrument of redemption or mercy, not retaliation? Have a Gospel attitude, live your talk and those around will also.

Sister Patricia is an adjunct professor at Catholic University in Washington, Immaculata College in Immaculata, Pa., Spalding University in Kentucky, and Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

“What will a student remember you for? That about that. Pray about it. Be spontaneous in your prayer and share Jesus every moment you can. That’s what makes Catholic schools Catholic,” she said.

The conference was highlighted by a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, and featured a variety of workshops and exhibits, including sessions on the mission of Catholic schools, health and wellness, technology and growing enrollment.

Find information on Catholic schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg under the “Catholic Schools” link at www.hbgdiocese.org.

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A link to sign up can be found on the home page of the Diocesan Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org. Sign up today!

2011 Conference Honorees

These educators and school service personnel were honored at the Education Conference for their 20 years of service to Catholic schools:

Anthony Ciucci, Good Shepherd, Camp Hill
Patricia Buckley, St. Joseph, Dallastown
Kelly Maddox, St. Joseph, Dallastown
Patricia Heiland, St. Joseph, Dallastown
Michelle Rametta, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
Marlene Shearer, St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
Robin Butts, St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
Karen Barna, St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
Barbara Lilley, St. Joan of Arc, Hershey
Janice Bisy, St. Leo the Great, Rohrersville
B.J. Meagher, St. Theresa, New Oxford
Vicki Bosso, St. Theresa, New Oxford
Barbara Smith, Immaculate Conception, New Oxford
Shelby Yingler, St. Rose of Lima, Thomasville
Gary Bricker, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Patricia Averill, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Stephen Kosman, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Debra Mihalich, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Anna Nissley, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg
William Grandia, Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown
Jacqueline Cicchetti, Lancaster Catholic High School
Judith Hoffman, Corpus Christi, Chambersburg
Judy Murphy, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg
Naomi Schiding, York Catholic High School

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Middletown won the Monsignor George V. Lentocha Mission Award.
And instead of the embryonic stem-cell research that was once all the rage, the news is in the field of adult stem cells.

Stem-cell research is once again making news in the United States. Congress and the courts. But this time, it’s on the sports pages.

Free-agent wide receiver Terrell Owens, whose foot was once all the rage, the news is in the field of adult stem-cell research.

When his or her own stem cells are injected into a breast cancer.

It remains to be seen how successful those treatments are. But one thing is clear: the administration’s efforts to change the law – in all three branches of the federal government – so that support for authentic marriage is treated as an instance of ‘sexual orientation discrimination,’ will threaten to swamp any genuine legal rights for individuals and individuals within the Catholic community, and in many others as well,” the analysis said.

“Society will soon see that if religious institutions are compelled to end participation in the social service network “due to their duty to maintain their institutional integrity and not compromise on basic moral principles,” the analysis noted that Obama himself had commented on “the indispensable role of both mothers and fathers” in his 2011 proclamations for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, which “appeared to affirm on the president’s part that neither a mom nor a dad is expendable.”

“Quoting from the proclamations, it said, “These stated commitments to policy that supports adoption by same-sex couples.”

Archbishop Dolan told Obama that he should a policy disagreement over the meaning of marriage be treated as a federal offense by federal officials.”

“Stem-cell research is once again making news in Congress and the courts. But this time, it’s on the sports pages too. And instead of the embryonic stem-cell research that was once all the rage, the news is in the field of adult stem-cell research, which does not involve the destruction of human embryos. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, sidelined with a neck injury, reportedly went to an unidentified European country in recent weeks to obtain a treatment involving adult stem cells that is not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States.

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It remains to be seen how successful those treatments will be, but adult stem-cell researcher Theresa Deisher knows that the two football players chose “the clinically superior solution” over research involving stem cells derived from human embryos.

Deisher is working to develop better delivery tech- niques for adult stem-cell therapies. Researchers in Europe and elsewhere “are doing very well with these techniques,” he said. Researchers in Europe and elsewhere “are doing very well with these techniques,” he said.

Deisher believes the Obama administration’s moves to expand federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research violates the Dickey-Wicker amendment, which bars any funds for research that destroys human embryos. She is one of two plaintiffs judged to have standing in a lawsuit against the National Institutes of Health’s revised criteria that permits funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

Although Chief Judge Royce C. Lambeth of U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia initially ruled that the lawsuit was likely to prevail and briefly blocked all NIH funding of embryonic stem-cell research, he was overturned by a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and later dismissed the lawsuit.

In mid-September, attorneys for Deisher and Dr. James Shelley of the Boston Biomedical Research Institute filed notice of their intent to appeal the dismissal. Seeking to achieve a similar goal through a different route is the bipartisan Patients First Act, reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives Sept. 20 by Reps. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., and Dan Lipinski, D-III. The legislation would direct NIH “to prioritize stem-cell research that has the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefits, by directing both basic and clinical research toward what is currently showing benefits in treating patients” – in other words, adult stem-cell research, which has made advances in the treatment of spinal-cord injuries, Type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis and heart disease.

“As public servants, we have the responsibility to consider both the medical and ethical implications of how we use the tools of U.S. research, particularly at a time of budgetary constraints,” Forbes said in a news release.

“The Patients First Act recognizes that the twin goals of scientific advancement and the protection of human life are not mutually exclusive; rather they should be seen as one in the same,” he added. “By setting aside divisive political conflicts and prioritizing research with proven clinical success, we can finally make long-awaited progress in beating dreaded diseases, from diabetes to breast cancer.”

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Pope Says Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Important for Society

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

The Nazi “reign of terror” clearly demonstrated the depths of evil that men are capable of when they deny God and the dignity of all people, he said, Pope Benedict XVI told leaders of Germany’s Jewish community.

Speaking Sept. 22 with the Jewish representatives in a meeting room in the Reichstag, which houses the German parliament, the pope spoke about the need to continue remembering the horror of the Shoah, the importance of continuing Catholic-Jewish dialogue and the need for all believers in God to work together to bring moral values to society.

The Reichstag is a place of “appalling remembrance,” he said, because it was in the parliament building that “the Shoa, the annihilation of our Jewish fellow citizens in Europe, was planned and organized.”

The number of Jews in Germany today is estimated at about 105,000, most of whom immigrated from the former Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War.

The activity of Germany’s 108 Jewish communities is coordinated by the Central Council of Jews in Germany, which was founded in 1950 – a time when the country’s Jewish community numbered only about 15,000 members.

According to the council, there were between 500,000 and 600,000 Jews in Germany in the early 1930s. As the Nazis enacted progressively more restrictive laws against Jews, the Nazis killed an estimated 6 million Jews from Germany and surrounding countries before the end of World War II.

Pope Benedict said, “The Nazi reign of terror was based on a racist myth, part of which was the rejection of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Jesus Christ and all who believe in him.

“The supposedly ‘almighty’ Adolf Hitler was a pagan idol, who wanted to take the place of the biblical God, the creator and father of all men,” the pope said.

The result of the Nazi attempt to replace God was horrific, he said.

“Refusal to heed this one God always makes people heedless of human dignity as well,” he said. “People fall into the terrible images from the concentration camps at the end of the war” showed “what man is capable of when he rejects God, when he loses his face of a person can look like when it denies this God.”

Pope Benedict renewed the church’s commitment to dialogue with the Jews at a time when some Jewish leaders have expressed concerns because of the pope’s outreach to the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X, which questions many of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, particularly regarding relations with other Christians and other religions.

The pope quoted a remark he made in January 2010 when he visited Rome’s main synagogue: with the Second Vatican Council an “irrevocable commitment to pursue the path of dialogue, fraternity and friendship” was made.

During Graumann, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, told the pope that Jews were concerned about the Vatican’s rapprochement with traditionalist Catholics. In a text prepared on Sept. 13, Graumann had not read, he said, the Society of St. Pius X “in our view still stands for fanaticism, fundamentalism, racism and anti-Semitism.”

The pope said that despite the split, Christians must also become increasingly aware of our own past.

The pope listened as a mixed Catholic-Lutheran choir sang hymns in the vaulted chapel house of the former monastery, which has become a memorial to Luther, the founder of the Protestant Reformation.

The pope’s two talks were anticipated in Germany, and before his arrival there was speculation that he would make an important ecumenical announcement or comment. But during the prayer service in the church of the ancient monastery, the pope said he was concerned about an “ecumenical gift” demonstrated by “ecumenical misunderstanding of faith and of ecumenism.”

Progress in Christian unity is not like negotiating a treaty, he said. Ecumenism will never reach a time when “the boiled-over ecumenical annunciation or concession can be said. But during the prayer service in the church of the ancient monastery, the pope said he was concerned about an “ecumenical gift” demonstrated by “ecumenical misunderstanding of faith and of ecumenism.”

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But are they really so small, our failings? “It is time to heal the memories of the murder and the war.”

“In Land of Martin Luther, Pope Prays for Christian Unity

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

Visiting the land of Martin Luther, Pope Benedict XVI prayed for Christian unity and told Lutheran leaders that both secularization and Catholic fundamentalism pose challenges to ecumenism today.

“God is increasingly being driven out of our midst,” said the pope, referring to the Bible, Scripture recites to us seems locked into an ever remote past. Are we to yield to the pressure of secularization and become modern by watering down the faith?” the pope said in a meeting Sept. 23 with Lutherans at the Gemernan Evangelical Church Council.

The encounter in the German city of Erfurt is the pope’s latest joint ecumenical gesture, marked the ecumenical highlight of the pope’s three-day visit to Germany, and then met with the Lutheran leaders in a wing of the former Augustinian monastery where Luther lived until 1511.

The pope listened as a mixed Catholic-Lutheran choir sang hymns in the vaulted chapel house of the former monastery, which has become a memorial to Luther, the founder of the Protestant Reformation.

The pope said this common witness of the Gospel has been made more difficult by the rise of fundamentalist Christian groups that are spreading with “overpowering missionary dynamism, sometimes in frightening ways,” leaving mainstream Christian denominations at a loss.

“Terrible images from the concentration camps at the end of the war” showed “what man is capable of when he rejects God, when he loses his face of a person can look like when it denies this God.”

The pope listened as Lutherans sang hymns in the vaulted chapel house of the former monastery, which has become a memorial to Luther, the founder of the Protestant Reformation.

The pope said that despite the split, Christians still have much that unites them. He said the error of the Reformation was that “for the most part we could only see what divided us.”

Rev. Nikolaus Schneider, head of the Evangelical Church in Germany, welcomed the pope to a talk that also emphasized areas of agreement. At the same time, he said, many Germans – especially those in interdenominational marriages – would like to “partake more freely in eucharistic fellowship.”

His words touched on a sensitive issue in Catholic-Lutheran dialogue. The Catholic Church teaches that the Eucharist generally is to be shared only by those who fully profess the same faith and share Catholic beliefs about the sacraments.

Seated in the front row were German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a Lutheran, and German President Christian Wulff, a Lutheran married to a Lutheran.

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September 21 is the International Day of Peace, and students and faculty of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in New Oxford joined their pastor, Father Charles Persing, in sharing peace with the small town community. After reciting the prayer of St. Francis and singing songs together on the front steps of the church, the students released two doves. The two harbingers of peace bolted from their cage and celebrated their freedom by circling in flight around those gathered before sailing off into the rainy skies.

The students and teachers then walked the short distance into the quaint town square where they visited local businesses and shared a sign of peace in outward fashion to the town’s merchants and customers.

The school has been in existence since 1862, when it was opened by Jesuits as the American Civil War was ripping the country in two. The school has a Web site at icsbvm.org or anyone interested in learning more about the tradition of Catholic education in New Oxford can call 717-624-2061 to speak with the principal, Mrs. Donna Hoffman.

Eighth-graders Christina Photiades and Brandon Schwartz release doves on the steps of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in New Oxford to commemorate the International Day of Peace.

Above: Eighth-grader Jared Weaver leads first-grader Amari Beskid around the town square of New Oxford, where students presented businesses with posters containing messages of peace.

Left: Margaret Stokes joins third-graders in spreading a message of peace in New Oxford.